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Senate Select Committee
on
Autism & Related Disorders



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INFORMATIONAL HEARING

*Vocational Training & Employment for Individuals
with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) & Related Disorders:
Challenges & Innovative Solutions*

August 5th 2014
Tuesday 10AM – Noon;
Capitol Building Room 112

Agenda

- 1) Welcoming Comments: Sen. Steinberg & Committee Members
(10:00-10:10 AM)
- 2) First Panel. *Overview of Current Employment Status for
Individuals with ASD*: Santi Rogers; Michal Clark; Catherine
Blakemore. Mark Polit to provide technical assistance. (10:10-10:35 AM)
 - a. Current data & statistics on employment for individuals with ASD.
 - b. Overview of budget, resources, & fiscal issues.
 - c. Overview of “employment first” policy.
 - d. Existing employment models: Integrated employment, supported
employment, and “sheltered workshop.”

- e. Regulatory considerations
- f. The impact of federal laws and guidelines.
- g. Other issues.

3) Second Panel. *Current Employment Programs – Opportunities, Challenges, Resources, & Supports*: Joe Xavier; Jennifer Bianchi; Sue North; Tom Heinz. Jim Shorter to provide technical assistance.
(10:35-11:00 AM)

- a. Unique aspects of employment supports for individuals with ASD.
- b. Employment models for individuals with ASD who require intensive services (wrap-around employment services).
- c. Behavioral challenges for individuals with ASD.
- d. Sensory & environmental issues related to employment supports for ASD.
- e. Current bills and legislation.
- f. Fiscal and Economic implications.
- g. Gaps, challenges & barriers to employment
- h. Educational and career technical educational programs.
- i. Other issues.

4) Third Panel. *Innovative Approaches & Best Practices – The Promise of a Brighter Future*: Olivia Raynor; Cindy Burton; Josh Debbs. Sara Murphy & Zach Clark to provide technical assistance.
(11:00-11:25 AM)

- a. Examples of successful programs.
- b. Project Search and other effective models.

- c. Employer & Industry perspectives.
- d. Micro-enterprises.
- e. Lessons learned from other states.
- f. The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014.
- g. Other issues.

5) Public Comments: (11:25-11:40 AM)

6) Discussion & Closing Remarks: Sen. Steinberg & Committee Members
(11:40-12:00 PM)

7) Adjournment: (12:00 PM)