

**December 16, 2020** *(all times listed as Eastern)*

9:30 – 10:45

**Surviving to Thriving: Adapting Employment Supports to the Virtual World**

Ashley Taylor, OVR and Katie Wolf Whaley, UK-HDI facilitating, Panel features:
Haley Andes, Build Inclusion; Rebecca Forbis, Golden Gate Bridges; Sara Johnson, Center for Accessible Living; Corrine Miller, Helen Keller National Center; Ashley Huff, Path Forward Kentucky; Amber Vence, Finck Supported Living

2020 has brought about changes to almost everything, including the most basic ways we provide supports. This opening session will feature providers from across Kentucky discussing some of the technological, innovative and creative ways they maintained the provision of quality employment services remotely. It hasn’t always been an easy transition but much has been learned since March! This panel will share specific resources everyone can tap into and strategies for application to the different phases of service.

11:00-12:15 Concurrent Sessions:

**Distance Leading: Empowering Your Remote Team to Make the Right Calls**Jessica Short, Rutgers University Boggs Center
Effectively leading a remote workforce is one of the struggles of managing a community-based employment support program. While this is not a new struggle, the current pandemic has created an even greater need for remote management and creative leadership. Essential to success is skilled, motivated, and empowered Employment Support Professionals. This presentation explores techniques that we can adapt from other industries to create strong teams that can work efficiently while being empowered to make effective decisions in the field.

**Supporting Value in the Workplace: How Social Role Valorization Strengthens Employment First**Hope Leet Dittmeier and Merry Reid Shaffer, Mattingly Edge
When Employment Providers operate without an explicit theory of practice, old habits and history reign. Practices remain stagnant and often ineffective. Social Role Valorization (SRV) theory can lead Employment Specialists to a new level of curiosity, inquiry and analysis of supported employment practices, ultimately improving outcomes. SRV affords employment practitioners a deeper understanding of principles embedded in best practice. This presentation will offer a basic review of some of the SRV principles and themes that are especially relevant to supported employment work. Discussion will include examples of ways to implement the theory in practice.

**How to Successfully Move Through the Waiver Supported Employment Maze**Jeff White, Kentucky Division of Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
Explore the process to obtain prior authorization for Supported Employment Services using Medicaid waiver funding, the outcomes that are expected for each service definition, and some strategies that might be helpful.

**Be a Change Agent: Shifting Culture Mindsets**Sonia Osman, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce and Ashley McCarty, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
During this session you will learn to understand better how Substance Use Disorder (SUD) could be impacting your workforce. You will compare your current policies and practices to today’s emerging opportunities in the areas of workplace hiring, treatment, recovery, and prevention. Learn how maintaining a drug-free workplace while supporting a recovery friendly culture is not just possible; it can net positive results to the bottom line for your organization.

12:15 – 1:00 Lunch Break

1:00 – 2:15 Concurrent Sessions:

**Hot Topics: VR Supported Employment Fees & In-Person Services**
Ron O’Hair, Kentucky OVR and Jonathan White, Kentucky OVR
This session will provide an overview of the recent changes to the VR Supported Employment Service Fee Memorandum and how to appropriately navigate through VR and alternative payment sources. The process and appropriateness for the delivery of in-person vs. virtual services will be explored. Q & A will be available at the end of the session.

**Successful Reentry is Public Safety: An Introduction** Jarvis Livingston, KY Department of Corrections
This session will consist of understanding the trends that leads to lowering Kentucky's recidivism rates as it relates to assisted support services of employment through the Commonwealth of Kentucky Department of Corrections: Division of Reentry Services.

**Natural Supports: Getting Out of the Way**Sandy Block, Indiana University Center on Community Living and Careers
This session addresses the imbalance between use of natural supports versus use of job coaching personnel in the workplace. Despite early promise, natural support development and use is characterized by inconsistency, discrepant definition and lack of understanding around its characteristics and implementation. The challenge is one of reinventing the job coach role while engaging in employer partnerships. This presentation is useful to all attendees who interface with employers, gather information about workplaces and provide individualized job supports. Natural Supports – Getting Out of The Way will expose attendees to strategies promoting partnership development needed for natural supports.

**My Journey with IPS**
Carolyn Japley
I’d love to share my experience with IPS SE and how I benefited from the support they offered. I learned with the support of my support specialist helped. With the support of my ES I gained new insights about myself which not only led me to finding a job, but helped me in defining my career path.

2:30 – 3:45 Concurrent Sessions

**Unpacking CIE: A Public Policy Roadmap to Achieving Employment First**Julie Christiansen, APSE
How can we use existing policy to achieve competitive, integrated employment for people with disabilities? In what ways does existing policy create barriers to success? And what policy changes do we need to advocate for to achieve our goals? In this session, we will unpack existing and proposed legislation and policies as we chart a course forward in 2021 and beyond.

**Understanding Implicit Bias**
Patrick Carrington, Kentucky Court of Justice
Implicit bias is something that we all experience in life but not everyone is aware of it. The issue with this is that our implicit biases can have a significant impact on the decisions we make each and every day. In this training participants will gain an understanding of what implicit bias is, how implicit biases are acquired over time, and what steps can be taken to reduce them.
*This session is approved for 1.25 CRC Ethics Credit*

**50 Ways to Engage Employers**Paula Johnson, Project SEARCH and Cindy Burns, Project SEARCH
Fifty strategies will be shared that include: Advisory groups, job fairs, networking sites such as LinkedIn, memberships in community organizations, complimentary workplace analyses, to name just a few. Successful strategies will be shared that were collected from over 50 organizations across the US and the United Kingdom. This interactive training session will assist participants to create a work plan that can be implemented immediately.

**Just Tessa Things**Tessa Wilkerson, Mclean County Schools, Megan Coleman, Independence Place, Leslie Burton, Kentucky OVR
Hello everyone! My name is Tessa Wilkerson. During this presentation, I will be discussing obstacles that I have had to overcome throughout my life and how I have not let these obstacles or my disability define who I am. I live with a form of muscular dystrophy called Spinal Muscular Atrophy type 2. Thanks to OVR, I was able to go to college, earn my bachelor’s degree in social work, buy my own vehicle, get a job helping others with disabilities, move to a full time position with my local school district, and much more. Even though I have a disability, I am not my disability! I will be joined by my OVR counselor, Leslie Burton and my employment specialist, Megan Coleman.

4:00 – 5:00 Closing Session
**Happy Within: Self-Discovery & Positivity in a Global Pandemic**
Dr. Chrissy Whiting-Madison, Rogers State University
As the current global pandemic continues, many people are discovering new struggles and challenges they never knew affected them before. Some find ways to overcome, while others struggle to remain positive or regain their positivity. Join Dr. Whiting-Madison, as she discusses some of her own self-discovery in this pandemic along with ideas of how to overcome your own struggles.

**This conference will offer 6 hours of continuing education:**

6 hours of Supported Employment Training for OVR.

6 hours pre-approved for CRC credit; 1.25 for Ethics (Understanding Implicit Bias)

6 hours pre-approved CESP credit

Certificates will be emailed after the conference. Zoom reports will be used for purposes of “signing in” to sessions.