

Transition News

Special points of interest:

- * Health Insurance for All
- * Florida Youth Leadership Forum
- * ODEP releases new fact sheets for parents, youth, and employers
- * Free Cell Phones
- * 18 Agencies Meet on Jobs for PWD
- * US Census Releases Data on Americans with Disabilities
- * Starbucks—Information Disability Posters
- * Interactive website for parents and youth in transition

New Fact Sheets That Provide Disability Employment Information for Parents, Youth and Employers

Creating a Path to Employment: Tips for Parents with Children with Disabilities
http://www.dol.gov/odep/documents/creating_path_to_Employment.pdf

Essential Skills to Getting a Job: What Young People with Disabilities Need to Know
http://www.dol.gov/odep/documents/essential_job_skills.pdf

Shaping Tomorrow's Workforce: Including Talents of Young People with Disabilities
<http://www.dol.gov/odep/documents/shap->

Health Insurance for All Through Blue Cross Blue Shield: <http://www.bcbsfl.com>

Applications Now Open for the Florida Youth Leadership Forum

Wed Jan 21, 2009 6:00 pm

The application process is now open for first-time delegates to the Florida Youth Leadership Forum. The YLF is an annual career and leadership training program that is both educational and motivational. Sponsored annually by The Able Trust, the YLF brings together rising high school juniors and seniors each summer to spend a long weekend in Tallahassee learning about community and academic resources, disability history, career options and personal leadership. They also take part in social activities which enable them to network, learn from each other and build friendships that will last a lifetime.

The YLF is one of three youth

programs of The Able Trust that works to reduce the drop-out rate of youth with disabilities and improve their participation in employment related activities. These programs focus on building self-esteem, developing personal leadership skills and preparing young adults with disabilities for life beyond high school.

Applications will not be accepted if not postmarked by January 31, 2009. For an application:

<http://www.abletrust.org/ylf/2009YLFDelegateApplication2.pdf>

more information:

<http://www.abletrust.org/ylf/>

Free Cellphone and Minutes for Income Eligible Floridians

Mon Jan 19, 2009 5:56 pm
SafeLink Wireless is a government supported program that provides a free cell phone and airtime each month for income-eligible customers.

Through their Lifeline Service you will receive free cellular

service, a free cell phone, and free minutes every month.

For more information:

<https://www.safelinkwireless.com/EnrollmentPublic/Home.aspx>



Sharing Information That Matters

Starbucks Offers Disability Info Posters

What US consumer group is 54 million people strong and has \$1 Trillion in spending power? Starbucks has a poster campaign designed to educate their staff and others on a few basic disability facts such as the question above.

You can download the pdf file from the Washington Business Leadership Network.

The pdf file has spaces in the title, so use this url address:

<http://wsbln.org/07%20Poster%20Campaign%20sm.pdf>

We're on the Web:

<http://www.hscj.ufl.edu/peds/aut/>



New Work Group of 18 Agencies Meet on Jobs for PWD

Mon Jan 19, 2009 6:23 pm

A U.S. Department of Labor-led interagency work group to increase the number of people with disabilities in the federal workforce was formed this month as part of a continuing commitment to encouraging opportunities for workers with disabilities. The initiative was established by Disability Employment Policy Assistant Secretary of Labor Neil Romano, resulting in 18 federal agencies sending representatives to the initial working meeting.

The 40 attendees participated in discussions and heard presentations on comprehensive centralized accommodations funding programs; tools for recruiting, hiring, retaining and advancing people with disabilities in the federal workforce; and leadership and innovative practices in federal employment for people with disabilities.

For more information: <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/odep/odep20090062.htm>

US Census Releases Data on Americans with Disabilities

Mon Jan 12, 2009 3:01 pm
About one in five U.S. residents - 19 percent - reported some level of disability in 2005, according to a U.S. Census Bureau report released December 18. These 54.4 million Americans are roughly equal to the combined total populations of California and Florida. Both the number and percentage of people with disabilities were higher than in 2002, the last time the Census Bureau collected such information. At that time, 51.2 million, or 18 percent, reported a disability.

Among those with a disability, 35 million, or 12 percent of the population, were classified as having a severe disability. Among people 25 to 64 with a se-

vere disability, 27 percent were in poverty, compared with 12 percent for people with a nonsevere disability and 9 percent for those without a disability. Median monthly earnings were \$1,458 for people with a severe disability, \$2,250 for people with a nonsevere disability and \$2,539 for those with no disability.

Nearly half (46 percent) of people age 21 to 64 with a disability were employed, compared with 84 percent of people in this age group without a disability. Among those with disabilities, 31 percent with severe disabilities and 75 percent with nonsevere disabilities were employed.

A portion of people with disabilities -- 11 million age 6 and older -- needed personal

assistance with everyday activities. These activities include such tasks as getting around inside the home, taking a bath or shower, preparing meals and performing light housework.

For more information:

[http://
bb.flsupportedemployment.com/
phpBB3/viewtopic.php?](http://bb.flsupportedemployment.com/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?)

CBS Evening News Runs Feature Story on Supported Employment

On January 4, CBS Evening News ran a two minute feature story on the promise of supported employment for people with mental illness. Narrated by medical correspondent Dr. Jon LaPook, the story cites how supported employment "not only dramatically lowers unemployment, but also fosters self-respect."

[http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/01/04/
eveningnews/main4697774.shtml](http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/01/04/eveningnews/main4697774.shtml)