Transition and Employment

Kaitlyn Richardson

Director, Employment Programs

Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities



Employment First in NYS

Report & Recommendations released by Gov. Cuomo - 2014

- Belief that employment is attainable for all
- Need to assess for and train towards least restrictive employment options

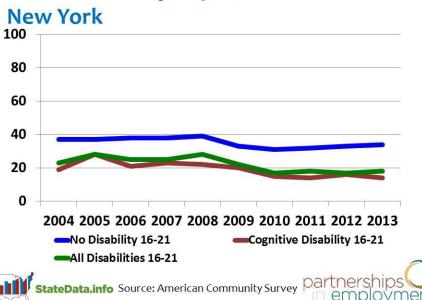
Integrated, competitive employment as <u>Gold Standard</u>:

- 20+ hours per week at prevailing wage
- Fully integrated within work environment, utilizing natural support

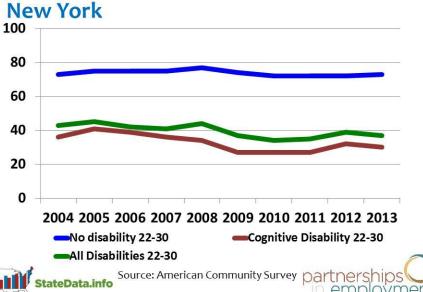


Addressing the employment gap

Percent Employed 18-21



Percent Employed 22-30









Challenges and barriers

- Lack of education and training
- Inadequate transportation options
- Need for accommodations on the worksite
- Attitudinal factors and stigma
- Low expectations



Barriers to Employment – ASD Specific

- 1. Interviewing skills
- 2. Ability to manage change
- 3. Social difficulties with supervisors or coworkers
- 4. Behavioral difficulties
- 5. Anxiety of stress about work

(Muzra, 2016)



General Strategies to Ensure Success

- Environment Modification
- Increased Structure
- Visual Supports
- Task Analyze
- Provide Feedback Immediately & Frequently
- Reinforce Positive Behavior



School = Entitlement

Adult = Eligibility



Adult Systems

OPWDD - Office for People With Developmental Disabilities

- Help people with developmental disabilities live richer lives.
 - Related to employment services, OPWDD uses person-centered planning to help identify skills and interests through a number of different services.

OMH - Office of Mental Health

• Multi-faceted mental health system. Programs include various inpatient and outpatient programs, emergency, community support, residential and family care programs.



Vocational Rehabilitation

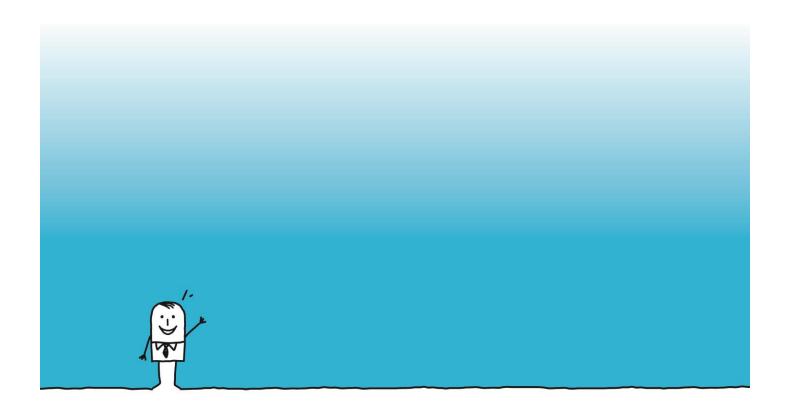
ACCES-VR – Adult Career and Continuing Education Services – Vocational Rehabilitation

- Assists individuals with disabilities to achieve and maintain employment and to support independent living through training, education, rehabilitation, and career development.
- School staff can help decide when you should apply to ACCES-VR and help with the application process. You can start using services as early as your junior year in high school.

NYSCB - New York State Commission for the Blind

• Enhance employability, to maximize independence and to assist in the development of the capacities and strengths of people who are legally blind.





MyPathNY.org









Project SEARCH

- Provide employability skills training to people with significant disabilities through on-site emersion in a business.
- Provide supports to the business to encourage the hiring of individuals with disabilities
- One year program
- 9-12 participants variety of disabilities
- Instructor and job coaches/developers
- Rotations through training site placements with continual feedback
- Outcome of employment



Project SEARCH in the Rochester area

Wegmans

- BOCES 1, Lifetime Assistance, ACCES-VR, OPWDD
- High school transition

URMC

- BOCES 2, Arc of Monroe, ACCES-VR, OPWDD
- High school transition

City of Rochester

- Rochester City School District, Arc of Monroe, ACCES-VR, OPWDD
- High school transition

Del Monte Hotel Group

- Arc of Monroe, ACCES-VR, OPWDD
- Adult program





Your questions

Contact Information:

Kaitlyn Richardson

Director, Employment Programs

Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities

University of Rochester Medical Center

(585) 276-6449

Kaitlyn_Richardson@urmc.rochester.edu

