

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Partnership for Hope

CMS has approved the state's request to add Pulaski County to Partnership for Hope with an effective date of December 1, 2012. This brings total participation to 96 counties plus the City of St. Louis. As of February 17, 2013, Division of DD has enrolled 2,019 individuals in Partnership for Hope.

Kudos to Jeff Dunn

Contributed by Stacey Law, Employment Coordinator—Albany Regional Office



Chad Higdon, Field Representative for Congressman Sam Graves, met with Jeff Dunn at Albany Regional Office in St. Joseph, MO on October 30, 2012. Jeff is a worker with a disability that has a job in a community-based business, where he works side-by-side with other employees without disabilities, with the same expectations, responsibilities and pay as other employees.

In 2011, Jeff was told about a position with the Albany Regional Office as a Advocacy Specialist. Jeff interviewed for the job and was hired in

November 2011. Some of his job duties are educating individuals with disabilities about their rights and responsibilities as a Missourian with a disability; assisting with trainings; individual education plan advocacy and assistance; working with People First groups and promoting awareness to community members, employers, service providers and families.

Jeff gave Chad Higdon and others a tour of his office. He then talked about a Project Stir class that is being held at UCP which will soon be having a graduating class with two more trainers who will be able to expand the training even more in surrounding communities. Jeff outlined the idea behind Project Stir and the importance of individuals' rights & those responsibilities that come with those rights and how to advocate for themselves. Others shared that several individuals who attended the Project Stir class were very quiet at first, but have now taken on an active participation in the group, are voicing their opinions and ideas, and are now preferring to attend the class instead of other previously scheduled activities.

Jeff feels that his role as an Advocacy Specialist is a “Job that is very fulfilling.” Jeff talked about People First groups in NW Missouri and other groups that are forming from Project Stir that Jeff will mentor and assist in developing throughout the NW area.

“As a co-worker of Jeff’s, I have seen his work with individuals and groups in NW Missouri on advocating for their independence and their individual rights. I feel that Jeff has been a great addition to the Albany Regional Office in his knowledge and caring attitude for everyone that he meets and his willingness to help others. He participates in various groups within the NW area and Albany Regional Office and is always available to anyone (family, consumers or groups) who would like for him to advocate or speak to them individually or in a group. Way to go Jeff! As Jeff would say, he is always “stirring the pot” with his ideas regarding how to get the word out about advocacy in our area,” stated Sue Ballentine.

IN FULL SWING

Dental Services through Partnership for Hope

As of early February, 12 adults have received dental services through Partnership for Hope totaling \$14,235. Recruitment activities with dentists continue statewide. At this time contracts are in place with the following dentists and dental clinics: Dr. John M Le, (Friendly Dentistry) North Kansas City; Truman Medical Center, Lakewood (east KC area); ACCESS Family Care, Joplin; Northeast Missouri Health Council, Kirksville; Advocates for a Healthy Community Inc, Springfield; Dr. Benny J. Bell, Doniphan; Cross Trails Medical Center, Cape Girardeau; and Crider Health Center, Wentzville. Discussions are underway with several more community health center dental clinics indicating interest in serving Partnership for Hope waiver participants. Updates will be provided as additional dental contracts are issued.

RESOURCES

Save the Date

The 2013 Real Voices, Real Choices Consumer Conference will be held on August 18-20, 2013 at Tan-Tar-A. As additional information becomes available, you will find it on the DMH website at <http://dmh.mo.gov/constituentservices/ConsumerConference.htm>.