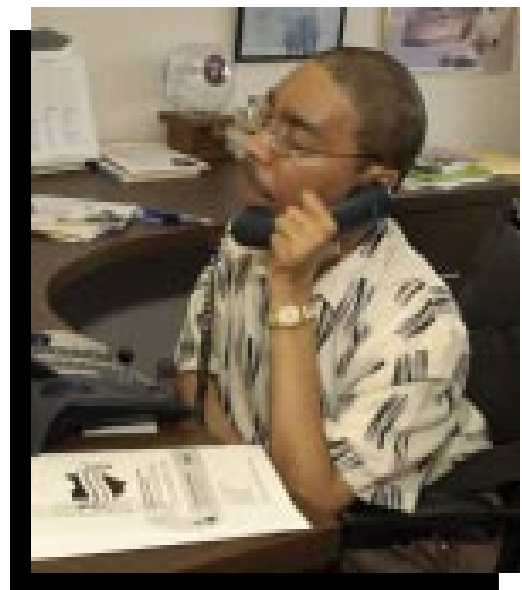
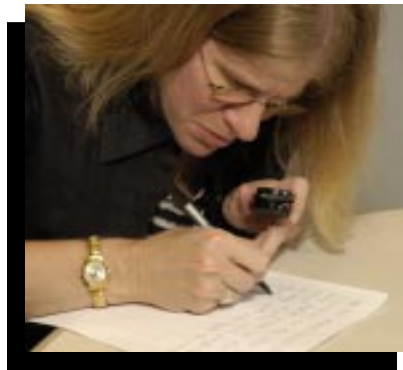


You are invited to an open forum  
for Ohioans with disabilities...

## **Developing Successful Employment Opportunities**

Tuesday, August 18, 2009

10 am – 4 pm  
Hyatt Regency Hotel  
350 N. High Street  
Columbus OH 43215



*In April 2009, the U.S. Department of Labor listed people with disabilities in the labor force at only 22.8% as compared to 70.9% for people without disabilities. Surveys have shown over and over again that individuals with disabilities want to work. However, the current opportunities and services to support people with disabilities in gaining employment are not working.*

**Now is the time to hear from people with disabilities themselves about how to make positive change.**

This forum will provide an opportunity to inform policymakers about personal work experiences.

People with disabilities, their families, friends and people who serve them are encouraged to attend this open forum and share their employment experiences, successes, barriers, frustrations and suggestions.

**Register today!** Come and give your personal testimony. Make your voice heard.

Hosted by:

**Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council • Ohio Statewide Independent Living Council  
Ohio Governor's Council on People with Disabilities**



**Free and open to the public.** Come prepared to provide oral (not more than five minutes) or written testimony, or to support those who are presenting at the hearing.

All testimony will be recorded and a summary will be prepared. The final report will include recommendations to improve gainful employment for people with all types of disabilities. It will be shared with people who can make a difference—service providers, legislators, government officials, employers and others.



## AGENDA

- 9-10 Registration
- 10:00 Welcome  
Introduction of Special Guests:
  - Governor's Employment & Disability Group
  - Directors of State Agencies
- 10:10 Opening Message:
  - Amy McGee, Executive Assistant for Health & Human Services, Governor Strickland's Office
- 10:30 Keynote Presentation by new Administrator of the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission
  - Michael Rench
- 11:00 Open Forum (begins)
- 12:00 Lunch  
Medicaid Buy-In Presentation
- 1:15 Open Forum (continues)
- 3:30 Wrap-up & Closing

**Registration is required** for people planning to attend in person. A limited amount of financial assistance is available for people to attend. To register and/or request assistance, complete and return the Registration Form attached.

If you would like to tell your employment story but are unable to attend, please fill out a Registration Form and send it along with your story. You may email, fax or mail your story by August 24 to:

AXIS Center                      Fax: 614-262-8124  
249 E. Cooke Rd.              Email: [axiscenter@aol.com](mailto:axiscenter@aol.com)  
Columbus OH 43214

**Parking** is available in lots around the Hyatt or in the underground garage. Rates range from \$12-15 a day.

**Questions?** Contact:  
AXIS Center, 614-263-8076, [axiscenter@aol.com](mailto:axiscenter@aol.com)

# REGISTRATION FORM

## Developing Successful Employment Opportunities

Complete a form for each person registering.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/state/zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please list accommodations, including diet, that you will need to participate in the forum:

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**Financial assistance:** A limited amount of funding will be reimbursed on a first-come basis to assist people in coming to the forum. Please indicate the estimated amount you will need. You will be notified before the conference about approval of your request.

\_\_\_\_\_ miles at \$.45/mi. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Attendant: \_\_\_\_\_ hours at \$12/hr. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Testimony tips:

If you will be telling your employment story in person, make some notes to bring with you, or practice with a friend or family member ahead of time. Keep your story short. Talk about the most important things. You will have only five minutes to speak. Don't be nervous. You'll be talking to people who want to listen to you.

If you are submitting your story in writing, type it or write it clearly on a blank sheet of paper. Put your name at the top of the page and send a Registration Form with your story.

### I will:

- Attend the forum.
  - Submit my story, but I will not be able to attend.
- 

### Age:

- 16-25
- 26-45
- 46-65
- over 65

### Gender:

- Male
- Female

### Ethnic background:

- African American
- Asian
- Caucasian
- Hispanic
- Native American
- Pacific Islander

### I am:

- Person with a disability
- Family member
- Support person/attendant
- Service provider
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### I am currently:

- Employed full time
- Employed part time
- Employed in the community
- Unemployed
- Looking for a job
- Retired
- Receiving disability benefits

### Level of education:

- Some high school
- High school graduate
- Technical school graduate
- Some college
- College graduate
- Currently enrolled in: \_\_\_\_\_