

## News from the South Dakota Department of Human Services

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### In this issue:

- South Dakota Gathering for Person Centered Practices
- Shared Living Update
- National Family Caregivers Month
- National Council on Disability's Report on Guardianship
- HOPE Waiver
- Business Specialist Column



### South Dakota Gathering for Person Centered Practices

The South Dakota Gathering for Person Centered Practices was held October 4th & 5th in Oacoma; 30 teams totaling just over 100 people attended. Teams chose from pre-determined topics and were led through a planning process using both Charting the LifeCourse and person centered principles throughout the day and a half event. Sessions focused in-depth on a specific person-centered tool, skill, or a principle of the Charting the LifeCourse framework. Sessions ended with teams sharing their action plan for continued work on their topics that ranged from people with disabilities and families planning for personal life goals to department staff working on innovating service and support delivery. Teams were highly engaged ; multiple self-advocates and their family members provided positive feedback about information they gained, and the time provided to talk about their "good life".



Pictured Above: Person Centered Trainers & Mentors at the South Dakota Gathering

### Shared Living Update

Steadfast Consulting, Inc. provided training in four locations for CHOICES Case Managers and Family Support 360 Coordinators the week of October 29<sup>th</sup>. Trainings augmented Case Manager and Family Support Coordinator communication skills. Training objectives included providing families with information about being a host home provider for their own adult family member and the pros or cons of being a contracted provider. To date, ten Community Support Providers have confirmed interest in becoming Shared Living providers.

### National Family Caregivers Month

President Trump honored family caregivers by proclaiming November as National Family Caregivers Month. The declaration pays tribute to the millions of Americans across our Nation who selflessly care for family members who are chronically ill, elderly, or who have a disability. To learn more, visit the Caregiver Action Network's website at: <https://caregiveraction.org/>.

### National Council on Disability Report on Guardianship

In March 2018, the National Council on Disability (NCD) released a report exploring guardianship in the context of disability law and policy. The report examines the treatment of individuals with disabilities within the legal system that establishes guardianships and the use of alternatives to guardianship such as supported decision-making. NCD offers recommendations that align the use of guardianships, decision-making alternatives, and the Americans with Disabilities Act with a focus on the integration mandate. To view the full report, please [click here](#).

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### **Home & Community Based Options & Person Centered Excellence (HOPE) Waiver**

Medicaid waivers provide long term care services to people in their homes and communities who would otherwise be in an institution, nursing home, or hospital. The HOPE Waiver offers an array of services for adults, age 65 and older -- and adults age 18 and older -- with a qualifying disability. The HOPE waiver is a Medicaid Program funded by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and operated by the Division of Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS). CMS requires each state to re-apply for funding every 5 years, when changes are made to services, or if there are changes to the way LTSS monitors the quality of services. CMS requires an amendment request to be submitted for approval whenever a state proposes changes to its Medicaid waivers. In spring of 2018, LTSS submitted a HOPE Waiver amendment request. The request was to add community living homes and structured family caregiving homes as residential living options. Two waiver support services, community transition coordination and community transition supports, were also requested to help individuals transition from nursing facilities or other institutional situations, to less restrictive community settings. CMS approved the waiver amendments that went into effect August 1, 2018. For more information on the HOPE waiver, please visit <https://dhs.sd.gov/ltss/titlexix.aspx>.

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### **Business Specialist Column**

Have you heard about the Division of Rehabilitation's Ability for Hire initiative? If you haven't, it is primarily designed to promote business awareness regarding the benefits of recruiting, hiring, and retaining employees with disabilities through South Dakota's Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) program. VR recognizes the importance of partnering with businesses to offer technical assistance and solutions for recruiting, hiring, retaining, or advancing employees with disabilities. VR can partner with businesses or employers through the following services:

- Employer Support Services
- Hiring & Retention Services
- Qualified Candidate Recruitment
- Disability Etiquette & Awareness Training
- ADA Resources
- Job Site Evaluations
- Reasonable Accommodation Education
- Tax Incentive Information

The services are not limited to this list; VR can also customize assistance and support specific to a business' needs. It is not just about a business hiring employees with disabilities being the right thing to do, it's about the benefits to a business' bottom line. What are some of those benefits? Research has shown that people with disabilities have equal or higher job performance rates, have higher job retention rates, are experienced problem-solvers with an ability to adapt, bring unique perspectives and experiences to the workplace, and create a favorable impression of businesses. You can visit the website at: [www.abilityforhire.com](http://www.abilityforhire.com). There you can find our business resource guide, testimonials from businesses, articles that offer technical assistance and other resources for businesses. Feel free to contact our business specialist for individualized support at (833) 668-9598 or by email at [kimberly.ludwig@state.sd.us](mailto:kimberly.ludwig@state.sd.us).

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