

"The Back Page" October 2007

Suggestion Of The Month

KENNETH KYBURZ

Kenny made the suggestion to have a mirror placed in the restroom off of the staff lounge in the Logansport facility.

So What's Up With That?

Don says that we will get one put up! Thanks!



Winamac Employee Of The Month

RAY RUSSELL

Ray exemplified the Peak Community Services' Mission Statement (Creating Opportunities//Supporting Success)by supporting the consumers at the Main Street SGL home in their desire to learn how to ride a bike. Ray took it upon himself to schedule the time and put in the effort that allowed the consumers to be successful in their bike riding endeavor. Thank you Ray.



Winamac Consumer Of The Month

OWEN REAKER

Owen has taken to the new Winamac Work Services schedule very well. He has become an active participant in all of the habilitation groups and has increased his production in the vocational area. Good job Owen.



Advocating for the ADA Restoration Act

Seventeen years ago President George H.W. Bush signed into law the Americans with Disabilities Act. Since that time, the Supreme Court has consistently chipped away at the power of that landmark legislation. For example, more than 96% of employment cases brought under the ADA are dismissed on summary judgment because the complainants are required to demonstrate that they fall within the laws protection as very narrowly defined by the Court. In other words, the Court has set itself up as the determiner of whether or not the person is disabled.



In almost all cases, the Court never hears the argument that the person has experienced discrimination on the basis of their disability. People with diabetes (employers refused to allow employees to take insulin injections on company time or treat low blood sugar episodes arguing they interfere with work), heart conditions (employers refused to make accommodations for individuals taking specialized treatments or recovering from by-pass surgery), cancer (employers refused to allow time for treatment), and intellectual disabilities (employers claimed accommodations for reading and other academic limitations could not be made in jobs for which those skills were not requirements) have had their cases dismissed because the court considered them "too functional" to have a disability.

Congress is presently considering action on the ADA Restoration Act requiring refocusing on whether or not the person has suffered discrimination because of their disability rather than whether or not the Court considers the person disabled. Indiana Representatives Mark Souder, Julia Carson, and Peter Visclosky are amongst the 181 co-sponsors of HR 3195.

Please join with me in advocating for the passage of this important legislation.

Don

PEAK Community Services

New Employees

Larri Bartik

Heather Swartzell

Akisha Booker

Debra Waggoner

Laura Simpson

PEAK SUMMIT SCHEDULE

Tuesday, October 16

(Crosswinds Church, Logansport)

8:00 - 8:30 Breakfast

8:30 - 9:00 Speed Introductions

9:00 - 10:30 John Steinbach - Motivation

10:45 - 11:30 Don Weikle, Peak ED

11:30 - 12:00 Staff Years of Services Presentation

12:00 - 1:00 Staff Appreciation Luncheon

1:00 - 3:00 Education for Conflict Resolution

Wednesday, October 17

(Logansport Multi-Purpose Room)

8:30 - 10:00 Kelly Hartman - Positive Behavioral Support

10:30 - 12:00 Kelly Hartman - Advanced PBS

1:00 - 3:00 Consumer Rights - IPAS

Thursday, October 18

(Logansport Multi-Purpose Room)

8:30 - 9:30 Psychotropic Medications (Four County)

9:30 - 10:00 Adam Alter - Internet Technology

10:30 - 11:30 Kathi Thompson - Peak Community Services Foundation

11:30 - 12:00 Confidentiality - TBA

1:00 - 3:00 Creating a Meaningful Day - Judy Sides