



THE FOCUS

December 2020 Vol. 10 No. 13

Board Talk

To Our dear Oregon APSE members and friends:

"It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness"
~Chinese proverb

We continue facing numerous challenges and dramatic changes with the coronavirus pandemic: a time of hardship and loss and yet a time to realize anew that creativity and persistence are always what has created change. As a field, we have looked at the impossible; and with great resolve, moved to make it possible.

Meticulous innovation is what was needed for supported employment to succeed. Thus, we must not forget that our gifted solutions and beliefs continue to pivot us towards that innovation. The beauty of what we have learned over the last thirty years (and the past 9 months in particular), allows us to endure and to apply what we already know.

"All belong, and all can work!"

We are not alone. In talking to providers from Oregon and other states, here are some small practical things we can do now to support supported employees and ourselves through the long haul:

- ◆ **Time to light the candles, we know how to light.**
We must reach out through phone, text, Zoom, email, snail mail or through a visit with a huge poster to the home of the job seeker or quarantined worker.
 - ◇ Social Stories are helpful.
 - ◇ Phone calls from others with encouraging words.
 - ◇ Sending postcards or email/text videos to stay connected.

- ◆ **Let people know -We are with them. We are all together in this. We will prevail.**
Remind people they will return to work. Teach and

[Continued on page 2](#)

About Oregon APSE

Our mission is to promote equitable, integrated employment of people with disabilities that recognizes their contributions as community members.

We represent the Oregon chapter of the national Association of People Supporting EmploymentFirst. [APSE](#) is the only national organization with an exclusive focus on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

As of September 2020, we have 68 members!

[Join Oregon APSE](#)

We look forward to joining with like-minded Oregonians!

To become a member, click on the "Join" link or email:

oregonapse@gmail.com



Check out our website

www.oregonapse.org

Board Talk continued...

practice new tasks.

- ◇ Write a Social Story about handwashing or how work is suspended for now. (Good News - **we don't have to teach handshaking anymore!**)
- ◇ Practice new and old tasks – enlist parents and residential providers.
- ◇ Send a recipe or task challenge a week for job seekers at home to make or do.
- ◇ Make videos of new tasks.
- ◇ Take virtual tours of different occupations.

◆ **Rejoice that some employers have already assisted people with disabilities to do the job from home or in the workplace.**

Remember new ways of Job Coaching are happening (safely job coaching from a distance) but it does not throw out everything we have learned.

- ◇ Call employers -collect information about what the new work world landscape post-COVID could look like and what is needed.

◆ **We need to learn what people are doing, how they are doing it, and how our job seekers can be part of it.**

Remind people the job search just looks different.

- ◇ Collect information about what job seekers can do from family, friends, and support workers.
- ◇ Ask family and support workers to film everyday tasks and activities that can be used in video resumes.
- ◇ Host a job search group by Zoom.
- ◇ Send a video a week to watch, “How to deal with difficult people,” “How to interact with customers,” “How to fold a t-shirt,” “How to use cash register,” etc.

Employment Specialists use this time for acquiring skills and training.

- ◇ People have been doing a great job taking care of each other. Keep this up – We are in this together.
- ◇ Partner with School Districts – ask to make a presentation about people with disabilities in the workplace as part of whatever curriculum the school is giving to transition-age students.
- ◇ Start Discovery by interviewing key people who know and like the person by phone.
- ◇ Keep engaging your partners – VR, stakeholders, community groups.

**Think about where contributions can be made and how others are doing them.
Remember our common vision of Equity, Believing and Being Strong!!**

Debra McLean, compiled in 2020

~

The Focus will look different in 2021. We're going to have articles come out more frequently and we'll compile them to post on our web page. Send us your thoughts or ideas...

oregonapse@gmail.com

Pacific NW Employment Forum 2020

As you know the Oregon and Washington APSE chapter membership were given the challenge and pulled together a fabulous, engaging, and timely forum. The passion and turmoil of the social and political landscape were mirrored in our very successful **PNWEF 2020 Vision: Keeping the Focus** September 29th to October 7th.

To celebrate the 30-year anniversary, Barry Whaley opened the Forum with an emotional presentation of the history of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Equally compelling, national speakers addressed systemic racial injustice and the effect of COVID-19 on the very vital work we do as well as addressing this year's unique challenges for job coaching, job development and the role of employers. Inspiring, informative, and thought-provoking, these topics were accessible during a two-week online forum.

A big kudos to all the people who shifted both the focus and medium to participate, get information out, get information to our membership, and make this possible. **Thank you!**

Let's keep on connecting
– Join **APSE Hour** monthly
1st Wednesday of each month from
4pm to 5pm

Oregon APSE Governing Board

Nicholas Von Pless, President

Michelle Furman,
Co-Vice-President

Erin Cochrun-Weston,
Co-Vice-President

Toni Smith, Secretary

Paula Johnson, Treasurer

Emily Harris, Social Media
Coordinator

Tara Asai, At Large

John DeRosa, At Large

Roberta Dunn, At Large

Ryan Farrow, At Large

Liz Fox, At Large

Debra McLean, At Large

Lisa Ochs, At Large

Dan Peccia, At Large

Ryley Newport, At Large

C.J Webb, At Large



Job Coaching Training
January 7, 2021
[Register here...](#)
\$25 for APSE member, \$40 for others