

Hello,

My name is Karen Flippo and I am the State Team Liaison for the 2011 Alliance for Full Participation. In August 2007, representatives of the national organizations sponsoring the 2005 Alliance for Full Participation met to fully review the events leading up to, during, and after the Summit. The sponsors recognized that although the meeting was successful in many ways, we still have a long way to go in achieving full inclusion particularly in regard to employment. Many of the original sponsoring agencies decided to move forward with planning a 2011 Alliance for Full Participation meeting and several new organizations have signed on. The current list of sponsors is:

- American Association on Intellectual and Development Disabilities(AAIDD)
- American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)
- Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
- Autism Society of America (ASA)
- Council of State Administrators or Vocational Rehabilitation
- National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD)
- National Alliance for Director Support Professionals (NADSP)
- The Arc of United States
- The National Association of State Directors of Development al Disabilities Services (NASDDDS)
- United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)
- TASH
- The Council on Quality and Leadership
- Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)

One of the first things we did was to develop a statement that will serve as our mission for the 2011 event. This statement and the values contained in it will shape our discussions, actions, and activities related to the Alliance's work over the next three years and beyond.

**Individuals with developmental disabilities want to work in competitive employment earning commensurate wages and benefits with opportunities to advance in their careers and contribute to society like all other Americans. They want to be able to live the life they choose and fulfill their individual dreams in the pursuit of happiness.**

**In order to have equal access to employment, education must make transition from school to work a priority rather than an add-on and the adult service system must work to remove barriers and support individuals in real jobs for real pay.**

Leading up to, during and following the 2011 Summit, AFP will provide state teams with resources to help assess=20their current employment practices, determine areas that they would like to focus on for improvement, and create an

action plan for achieving these goals. AFP will provide access to best practices throughout the country and help state teams build a network of others dedicated to achieving the vision of fully integrated employment.

1. Is the team still meeting?
2. If so, who is the team leader and what is her or his contact information?
3. If the team is no longer meeting, what were the reasons for discontinuing the meetings?
4. What were the successes of the state team?
5. What were the challenges the team faced in working toward an inclusive agenda?

We are planning to have our first state team teleconference in December. At that time we will discuss some of the ideas brought forth for sharing information via technology from now until 2011, talk about preliminary assessments of community and employment, and begin to establish ways that state teams can shape the program and events for the 2011 event. The date for the teleconference will be finalized next week and I will provide information about the call once a date and time are established. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Best regards,

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