



Tuesday, February 25, 2020 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

INTRODUCTION TO CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT

Presenter: Janet Stevely, Senior Associate – Griffin-Hammis Associates

Janet is a Senior Consultant with Griffin-Hammis Associates working on the LEAD Center Customized Employment Initiative, the Entrepreneurship Bootcamp for Veterans with Disabilities, and various other projects around customized employment and benefits planning. Since 1997, Janet has operated Workable Solutions, LLC, a consulting firm based in Ashland, Oregon which serves as an Employment Network under Social Security's Ticket to Work Program. She is a former special education teacher/transition specialist, and has worked on state and national technical assistance projects around employment and transition services. Janet is well versed in micro-enterprise development and an expert in optimizing public benefits having helped numerous individuals achieve their employment goals through Plans to Achieve Self Support (PASS).

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

HOW YOUTH CAN GO TO WORK, KEEP SSI, OTHER BENEFITS...AND LIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT!

Presenter: Michael Dalto, Senior Associate – Griffin-Hammis Associates

Michael Dalto is a big, old benefits geek. He's been helping people understand and use work incentives for Social Security and other benefit programs for 30 years. He has trained and assisted thousands of people with disabilities, family members and professionals to use safety nets that help ensure people get ahead financially when they work, and that protect vital benefits. He created a state benefits planning certification in Maryland, supported VR agencies in Kentucky and Minnesota to assist people they serve to work their way off SSDI, developed curriculum for Virginia Commonwealth University's national certification for benefits planners, helped create tiered benefits planning models in Michigan and Missouri, and a host of other projects. He has consulted with Griffin-Hammis Associates since 2018.

Tuesday, April 28, 2020 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

ABLE ACCOUNTS: A GREAT WAY TO SAVE MONEY AND KEEP SSI AND OTHER BENEFITS

Presenter: Michael Dalto, Senior Associate – Griffin-Hammis Associates

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

AFFORDABLE FUTURES: PLANNING FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING WITHIN A YOUTH'S BUDGET

Presenter: Michael Dalto, Senior Associate – Griffin-Hammis Associates

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT: DISCOVERY

Presenter: Bob Niemiec, Senior Associate – Griffin-Hammis Associates

Bob Niemiec is a Senior Associate with Griffin-Hammis Associates. Bob served as the Director of the Minnesota Employment Training and Technical Assistance Center (MNTAT) and prior to joining GHA in 2009, was the Director of Employment and Community Supports for Community Involvement Programs in Minneapolis, Minnesota where he led the transformation of a traditional day program into a high-quality community employment service. Bob has provided training and consultation services in 46 states and 2 Canadian provinces as well as assisting in the planning and facilitation of Employment First events in 12 states.

Bob was a mentor for the Wisconsin Medicaid Infrastructure Grant (MIG) in their CRP Rebalancing Project and with T-TAP, a project funded by the US Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy. In these roles, Bob worked with Community Rehabilitation Programs to increase integrated employment outcomes for people with disabilities and to help manage organizational change efforts.

A graduate of Indiana University, Bob has been in the field of employment for persons with disabilities for over forty years serving in various roles from direct service to executive director. Bob has been the Chair of the Minnesota State Rehabilitation Council and a member of the Minnesota Governor's Workforce Development Council. He is a Past-President of APSE: The Association of People Supporting Employment First, a founding member and former President of Minnesota APSE, former President of the APSE Foundation, a member of the Editorial Board of The Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation, and a founding member of the Minnesota Employment First Coalition.

Wednesday, July 22, 2020 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT: CULTIVATING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Presenter: Marsie Hartman, Senior Associate – Griffin-Hammis Associates

Marsie Frawley is a Senior Associate at Griffin-Hammis Associates. She is the co-founder of Self Employment Resource Network. Marsie is the author of "Ready for Business Guide: Self Employment for People with Disabilities". She provides training to families, students, professionals and advocates in the area of Customized Employment; Self Employment; Transition Planning and Social Security Administration.

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

TOOLS FOR THE WORK WORLD: SOFT SKILLS

Presenter: Pearl Colbert, Clinical Supervisor & Social Skills Lead – ESSC

L. Pearl Colbert is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She attended California State University Dominguez Hills, graduating in 2011 with a Bachelor's Degree in psychology. During her undergraduate experience she worked as a teacher's assistant and tutor to students with developmental disabilities. She then pursued a Master's Degree with an emphasis in marriage and family therapy from Pepperdine University. During graduate school, she began working in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA), as a behavior therapist with young children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). It was through this work that she found her passion for working with children and families affected by ASD. She completed both her MFT hours and BCBA hours concurrently, and is now dual licensed as a marriage and family therapist (LMFT) as well as a board certified behavior analyst (BCBA). As a LMFT, she worked primarily with children and adolescents, designing intervention programs to increase quality of life in the home and school settings. She also counseled teens whose primary issues were drug addiction, LGBTQ issues, life stressors (e.g., gang involvement, abuse, etc.), depression, as well as many other mood and personality disorders. She worked with teens trying to get back into school and manage their interpersonal conflict with friends and family. Additionally, she has worked with parents, couples, and young adults experiencing a variety of daily life issues, as well as dealing with traumas of the past. Pearl joined ESSC in August 2018 and currently runs a social skills program for those affected by Autism Spectrum Disorder and provides parent/caregiver training to their families.

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 10:00am to 12:00pm

CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT: THE ROLE OF SOCIAL CAPITAL

Presenter: Doug Crandell, Senior Associate – Griffin-Hammis Associates

Doug Crandell has managed, staffed and directed community mental health and disability programs at the provider level for 25 years. He has been the Project Director for a number of demonstration grants funded through the U.S. Dept. of Labor, the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Social Security Administration. He directed Georgia's Medicaid Infrastructure funded by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

He is a Senior Consultant with Griffin-Hammis Associates and on the faculty of the Institute on Human Development and Disability at the University of Georgia. For the last four years, Doug has provided training and technical assistance to Georgia's supported providers through a joint effort with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. He is a Subject Matter Expert (SME) with the Office of Disability Employment Policy in D.C. and is currently working with several states to restructure their employment supports to include evidence-based supported employment, customized employment, and self-employment.

Doug works in collaboration with New Mexico's UCEDD to deliver training and technical assistance under the state's Partners for Employment Initiative. Georgia was recently awarded a Disability Employment Initiative grant, which Doug will collaborate on with the Georgia Dept. of Economic Development as well as the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency, Georgia

Tech, and others. As an author, Doug has published 7 books and is a regular contributor to the venerable SUN Magazine, where he publishes essays on labor, health, and disability.

Thursday, October 29, 2020 1:00pm to 3:00pm

FACILITATING EMPLOYMENT: SELF-DETERMINATION & SELF-ADVOCACY

Presenter: Julie McComas, Senior Associate – Griffin-Hammis Associates

Julie McComas has been providing individualized and customized support to people with disabilities since the early 1990s. Most recently, her work has included providing innovative direct support for job seekers and workers, as well as training and technical assistance to employers, providers, and government organizations. Julie's background in public service includes extensive work in Social Security law and policy, along with leadership in vocational rehabilitation projects and programs. She has experience in microenterprise development, organizational change leadership, adult and transition education, person-centered planning, and customized long term supports for work success.

Thursday, November 5, 2020 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

CUSTOMIZED EMPLOYMENT FIDELITY

Presenter: Stephen Hall Ph.D., Director of Employment Policy and Research– Griffin-Hammis Associates

Stephen Hall Ph.D. is the Director of Employment Policy and Research with Griffin-Hammis Associates. Stephen has a Ph.D. in Disability Policy and Adult Education from the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Supported Employment and Workplace Supports at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Stephen has strong relationships with state and federal government leaders, universities, and provider and advocacy organizations. He is a former Commissioner of Behavioral Health, State Director of Developmental Disabilities, and CEO of two Community Provider Organizations. Dr. Hall was a Subject Matter Expert with the Office of Disability and Employment Policy. He was a member of the National Association of Developmental Disabilities Directors, President-elect, and Chair of the Research Committee for seven years.

Stephen has been a presenter or keynote speaker at national conferences, state conferences, and town hall meetings. His interview with *Governing* was published in January 2013. *Using Research Evidence to Inform Public Policy* was co-authored with Charles Mosely and others and was published in the *Journal of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* in October 2013. He has received numerous Governor appointments to Boards and Commissions and awards for his work. In 2012, Stephen received a state award for his partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation to ensure the employment of persons with disabilities. He received an award and was recognized by a United States Senator for Ethical Leadership in 2013.

All webinars will be recorded and posted.