

Vocational Support

Presented by Ali Ramos, LMSW

ABOUT ME



HISTORY

- BORN WITH SPINAL MUSCULAR ATROPHY II
- RECEIVE PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT SERVICES
- WENT TO SCHOOL FOR GRAPHIC DESIGN AND SOCIAL WORK
- DIFFICULTY ATTAINING JOBS
- VIRTUAL WORK MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE FOR MY TYPE OF DISABILITY (NOT APPLICABLE TO ALL)

RELATIONAL SUPPORT

- Identify the “who”
 - Family, partners, spouses, friends, previous coworkers
- Identify the “what”
 - Realistically identify what the goal is for employment
- Identify the “when”
 - When do things need to be done (resume building, interview appropriate attire, interview preparation).
- Make lists for clarity

CHOICES

“My client with a TBI really wanted to be a nurse. Her rehabilitation counselor refused to approve her goal because they thought her cognitive impairments would make course work, particularly math and science, too difficult. My client was very frustrated and discouraged. I convinced the counselor to fund one prerequisite class at community college, the textbook, and transportation.

My client bombed out of the class. She couldn't do the math, especially at a rapid pace. I asked what she liked about nursing. She loved physically caring for people. I suggested a CNA Certification. She did great and loved her job.”

Lesson: Let disabled people make the same poor choices that non-disabled people make. Let us learn our limitations. Family can encourage us to try things.

ORGANIZATIONS

- PILC – PILC.ORG | 806-374-1400
 - Ticket to Work Program
 - May be able to keep Medicaid/Medicare
 - ILS to purchase assistive devices
 - Mobility aids
 - Ramps
 - Vehicle modifications
 - Prosthetics
 - Career Readiness Training
 - Resume building
 - Mock interviews

ORGANIZATIONS

- WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION -
wspanhandle.com/vocational-rehabilitation | 806-350-7171
 - Assistive Technology
 - Vocational Counseling
 - Self-Advocacy Assistance
 - Training and Education Assistance
 - Youth Preparation

ORGANIZATIONS

- JOB ACCOMMODATION NETWORK – askjan.org | 800-526-7234
 - Employers and their representatives seeking guidance on practical ways to engage in the interactive process, provide job accommodation solutions, and comply with Title I of the ADA;
 - Individuals with medical conditions and disabilities seeking information about job accommodation solutions, employment rights under the ADA, and self-employment and entrepreneurship opportunities; and
 - Family members and rehabilitation, medical, educational, and other professionals in their effort to support successful employment outcomes for individuals with medical conditions and disabilities.



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