



Association for  
Individual Development

Empowering individuals for a better tomorrow since 1961

# **EMPLOYMENT FIRST AND COMMUNITY DAY SERVICES OVERVIEW**

**AID FAMILY COUNCIL  
JUNE 22, 2023**

# Employment First, Employment for All

Nikki Ondyak  
Director, Employment First

# ***Employment First Program***

- Employment Services
- JanAid Training Program
- Procurement and Logistics Program
- Food Skills Training Program

# Employment Philosophy

Belief that every person with a disability is capable of working competitively in the community if the right kind of job and work environment can be found and the appropriate supports are provided.

# Meet the Team!

## Employment Specialists

- Nikki Ondyak: Director
- Tom Coker: Manager
- Anne Jump: Elgin/Aurora
- Amina Hart: Aurora/Elgin
- Aleta Rasmussen: Aurora
- Christian Mbayu: McHenry
- Juanita Wells: Aurora
- Lisa Snyder: Aurora
- Tyler Zimansky: McHenry

## Pathways to Employment

- JanAid: Diane Pillar, Director
- Procurement & Logistics: Michael Kilberry, Director
- Food Skills Training: Anna Barnes, Lead Trainer

# Approach to Employment

## IPS (Individual Placement Services)

**Evidence-based approach to working with individuals living with mental illness in securing employment**

**Principles are applicable to all persons with disabilities**

- Competitive Employment is the Goal
- Zero Exclusion
- Job Seeker Preferences Honored
- Integration of Vocational and Mental Health Treatment services
- Benefits Counseling
- Rapid Job Search
- Employment Specialists Build Relationships with Community Employers
- Job Retention Supports are Time Unlimited

# Employment First

- The goal of employment services is to assist job seekers in securing integrated community employment.
- Employment counselors assist job seekers with all activities associated with obtaining employment:
  - Resume development
  - Interview prep
  - Application completion
  - Job search
  - Job Development
  - Job Coaching
  - Career path development based on interest level and skills



# Department of Rehabilitation Services (DRS):

- We have a contract with DRS to provide community services (Primary Funder)
- All clients in our program are then opened to a DRS counselor to remain in compliance
- Upon being opened to DRS there are consistent meetings to ensure contractual bench marks are being met for both the client and DRS

# Referral Process

- Q will submit a referral (for job placement or job retention) form to Tom Coker
- ES is assigned and will begin working with the client
- ES will keep in contact with the client's Q and set up an initial meeting prior to meeting the client
- ES makes referral to DRS

- McDonald's
- Organic Life Food Service
- Durham School Bus Services
- Kohl's
- Jewel's
- Portillo's
- Chipotle
- Fox Valley Park District
- Lou Malnati's
- Culvers
- Goodwill
- Heritage Woods
- Ross

# JanAid

- Cleaning and Disinfection of AID locations and select external organizations
- Training and development on various skills needed in Janitorial Positions
- Continue to recruit clients as crew members as a path to community employment
- Referrals to JanAid come through Employment First

Diane Pillar  
Jan-Aid Manager

# Food Service Training

Development is in process

- **Goals of the program**
  - Access to consistent level of nutritious meals served through Hot Lunch
  - Skill development of client and staff
- **Hot Lunch Program**
  - Clients work and assist with prep and service (Thompson Center and ETC)
- **Cooking Classes for Clients is only a part of ETC Programming** (*for now*)
- **Staff – Food Handling Course upon hire to all DSP's (August 2023), hands on cooking for DSP's (September 2023)**



Anna Barnes  
Food Skills Trainer Lead

# Procurement and Logistics Program

- Goals of the program
  - Provide healthy pantry staples to Residential, CDS, and Crisis Management Programs
  - Provide basic supplies to Behavioral Health office sites
- Develop employable skills in reading, picking, packing, delivering orders, and sorting
  - 7 Clients working in the program

Michael Kilberry  
Director of Procurement  
and Logistics

# Community Day Services

- Thompson Center
- Keeler Center
- ETC
- STARS
- Bridge

# Thompson Center

Vocation and Program based model

Gardening

Science

Money Management

Eye & Optical Illusions

Women's History

Scavenger Hunt all about nature

Water Day

Red Oak Nature Center

Fire Museum

Dollar Tree

Fabyan Windmill Park





# Bridge

Kendall County Outdoor Education Center

Metra Train to Lisle

Movie outing

Lunch outing

Bowling

Karaoke



# STARS (Eola, Sugar Grove, Batavia Center)

Lunch outing

Cantigny Park

Mini Golf

Movie outing

Picnic in the Park

Shopping

Cougars Game

Swimming at Otter Cove

All STARS sites participated in the Cougars Game!



## Keeler

- Luau party
- Bubble party
- Concert – staff
- Therapy dog visit (Fox Valley Therapy)
- Memorial Day BBQ
- Baking class
- Hairstyle day
- Spirit Week Event for 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Friday Fun Day (themed every week)
- Crafts
- Task bins
- Dance party in the gym





# Elgin Training Center (ETC)

Clients are participating in the regular activity rotating groups – educational, arts and crafts and games, IT, computer based learning and SMART Board interaction, vocational skills learning and physical exercise (indoor and outdoor)



Elgin Rec Center (walking path, swim, gym)  
Habitat for Humanity Re-Store  
Feed My Starving Children  
Greater Elgin Food Bank  
Elgin Police Station  
Peck Farm



Peck Farm  
Elgin Fire Department  
Elgin Police Department  
Hot Lunch Program

