

OUTLOOK

Group Supported Employment (GSE)

By: Melissa Sexton

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A Newsletter from
Pacific Co. Health &
Human Services
Dept.

Editor:
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Points of interest:

- Group Supported Employment (GSE)
- Interview:
- Bowling Scores
- Upcoming Events

Coming Next Issue:

- Community Access



Wendy Merryman (above) shares about Group Supported Employment (cont. on pg 2).

Would you recommend Group Supported Employment to your friends?

Wendy: Yes I would, it is a good place to work and learn a job. The van picks me up at my house and takes me to work and drops me off after work.

Group Supported Employment or “Supported Employment” is paid employment for persons with developmental disabilities. The individuals that participate in this form of employment may not be able to compete for jobs at or above the minimum wage due to their disabilities and need ongoing support to perform their work. Support is provided to consumers, employers, and/or co-workers through activities like training, information, supervision, and transportation. Group Supported employment is conducted in a variety of settings and work sites in which persons without disabilities are employed.

As used in Washington, “Supported Employment” has **four essential characteristics:**

- 1). It is paid employment of at least 20 hours of work per week.
- 2). It occurs in a setting in which there is **no more** than eight workers with a labeled disability.
- 3). The workers and/or their employers are provided some form of publicly funded, job-related assistance on an ongoing basis (ie. extra training and supervision, job modification, counseling, transportation assistance, or any of a wide variety of other support services).

4). The workers have regular and frequent opportunities to interact with non-disabled persons (other than paid staff) during the course of their workday.

The benefit of the Group Supported Employment program is that it is designed to support individuals with long-term assistance and training for lasting employment.

For questions about Group Supported Employment and opportunities for employment please call DDD Case Manager, Greta McDougal at the DSHS office (360)875-4244 or (360)642-6239.

What is your e-mail?

If you enjoy the *Outlook Newsletter* and would like to be added to our list of readers that also receive it via e-mail, please send us your e-mail address.

We are also developing a separate list for parents/clients what would appreciate e-mail updates on Upcoming Events/Social Recreation activities (ie. like bowling, conferences, etc.)

Please call Melissa Sexton at (360)875-9343 or e-mail mwildhaber@co.pacific.wa.us.

Please let us know which list you want to be added to: Outlook Newsletter or Social Rec Activities list.

Group Supported Employment:

Interview with Wendy Marie Merryman

Janitorial Crew

Where do you live?

One Day at a Time Adult Family Home, South Bend, WA

How long have you worked in Group Supported Employment?

7 years

What is your favorite part of your job?

I like to help wherever I am needed. I like replenishing supplies. I like working days better than nights.

Would you recommend Group Supported Employment to your friends?

Yes I would, it is a good place to work and learn a job. The van picks me up at my house and takes me to work and drops me off after work.

How many people are on the work crew?

5 people.

What skills have you developed while working in Group Supported Employment?

I was trained in janitorial skills in Arizona so I had many of the skills required to do the job such as mopping, cleaning bathrooms, dusting, and vacuuming.

What is your favorite hobby?

Latch hook rug making, bowling, going to the movies, watching football and singing. My favorite song to sing is Amazing Grace. I also like watching Bonanza. I would like to enter a latch hook rug in the fair.

What else would you like to share?

My best friends are Jamie (from work) and Soojin. Soojin and I go out for lunch on my birthday, which is coming up in March. I attend church and enjoy singing. I really like Pastor Mike and Debbie Williams. I plan to do volunteer work some day. Pizza and pop are my favorite foods. I like to camp, clam dig, and fish for anchovies in Westport. I am almost ready to fish without any help. I really like my cat Snow White.

Wendy and Snow White

**Interview & Pictures
by: Judy Jones
Questions by:
Sarah Raaymaker**

Upcoming Conference

What: Infant & Early Childhood Conference

Date: April 28-30, 2010

**Location: Greater Tacoma Convention Center
Tacoma, WA**

To Register: go to www.ieccwa.org

This conference provides high quality, evidence-based workshops, and networking opportunities for families and providers to come together to learn, share, and advocate on behalf of all young children, especially those with developmental delays, and/or other special health care needs.

Parents, foster parents, grandparents, and other relative care givers are encouraged to attend.

Parent/Family Scholarships are available to assist with registration, and in some instances lodging, travel & meals. To be considered for a scholarship, complete the application & registration form on-line (www.ieccwa.org) or mail both forms to the conference registrar.

Scholarships will be awarded on/before April 14th.

Social Rec. Activities



Front (L-R): Janelle Kepford, Chuck Diehl, Carol Dziados
Back (L-R): Dylan Karey, Ellen Schlarbaum, Robin Twining, Kelvin Lindsey, Chris Beavers, and Cathy Nygaard.

**Hilltop Bowl (LB)—
January 11th
Two Highest Scores
Game #1**

Kelvin Lindsey—115
Chuck Diehl—87

Game #2

Chris Beavers—105
Dylan Karey—91

**Next Bowling
Event...March 8th
@ Hilltop Bowl in
Long Beach from
10:00-1:00pm.
RSVP Melissa Sex-
ton at the Health
Dept. if you want to
participate
876-9343.**