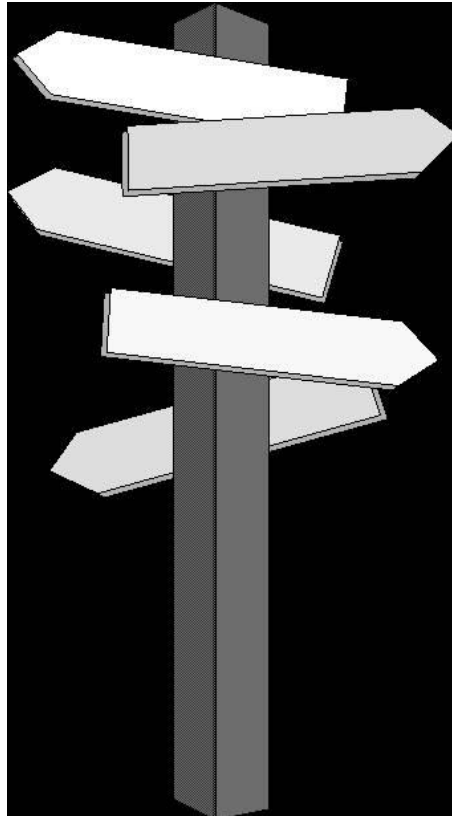


Helena Transition Handbook



**A Handbook
for students with disabilities and their parents to
assist in planning for life after graduation**

2011 Edition

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Information for this handbook compiled by Heidi Foreman * Spring 2011

Sources: information sent from providers via email as well as info taken from provider web sites for those providers who did not directly provide updated information

Special thanks to those who contributed, or coordinated a contribution of information:

Marie Amudson

Pete Sesselman

Lori Idland

Greg Olson

Connie Leveque

Diane Ziemann

Diana Tavary

Stormie Hoy

Cindy Yarberry

Susan Pesta

Parents & Transition

Now that your child is a teenager and nearing the time when he or she will leave specialized services of the school system and enter the adult community, you and your child should begin preparing for the transition. All young people face the challenge of making a number of choices about careers, living arrangements, social life, and vocational goals. For individuals with disabilities, these important decisions are frequently complicated by the need to deal with the community acceptance of persons with disabilities, and the need to become familiar with an array of services that are designed to assist adults with disabilities.

As the parents of a child with disabilities you are probably familiar with the services in the school system and other services mandated under Public Law 94-142. As you think about your child leaving school, you need to be aware that your child will be entering a different system of services which do not have the set of guarantees that are part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Adult services have different entrance requirements and methods of operation, depending on the services your son or daughter will be seeking. It is very important for you as a parent to learn about the adult services alternatives and what you can expect to obtain for your child.



*Eligibility for adult services
differs from that used in public
education*

Who qualifies for what?

Special education services in the public school system are provided for children who have a disability in one of the following areas: (TBI) Traumatic Brain Injury, deaf, deaf-blind, hard of hearing, cognitively delayed, orthopedically impaired, other health impaired, seriously emotionally disturbed, specific learning disability, speech impaired, and visually impaired.

Adult services do not use the same classification system or eligibility standards

mandated for individuals of school age. For specific information about your child's disability and the services for which he or she is likely to be eligible, talk with his/her special education or resource case manager. The teacher probably has some ideas about what adult services would be the most appropriate for your child, or they can refer you to specific individuals in our service system who can help you.

The rest of this manual will give you some basic information about the Disability Services Division and the services available in the Helena area. Do not hesitate to call or visit with the representatives from these services identified in the following pages. There are many knowledgeable people who are ready and willing to assist you and your child in the transition.



Department of Public Health and Human Services

Most adult services available to persons with disabilities are funded by the Developmental Disabilities Program (DDP) and Montana Vocational Rehabilitation, also known as "Voc-Rehab" or "VR." Both of these are a part of the larger state agency Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS).

Developmental Services Division

In July 2009, the Disability Services Division (DSD) of the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) was restructured under the Medicaid and Health Services Branch of DPHHS. In January 2010, the name was changed to Developmental Services Division.

Services are now provided through two primary programs: the **Developmental Disabilities Program** and the **Children's Mental Health Bureau**.

The **Developmental Disabilities Program** contracts with private, non-profit corporations to provide services across the lifespan for individuals who have developmental disabilities and their families. The focus of the program is to tailor care to the individual and provide it in as natural environment as possible.

The **Montana Developmental Center** is administered by the Developmental Disabilities Program and is the State's only residential facility for individuals with developmental disabilities that provides 24-hour care for those with the most severe behaviors or severe self help deficits.

Developmental Disabilities Program

Our mission statement is:

"The Developmental Disabilities Program supports choices and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities in their communities."

Over the years, our view of people with disabilities and the help society offers to these individuals and their families has changed dramatically from one of paternal institutionalization to one of supported self-determination.

An emphasis on human dignity and a conviction that each person is unique and capable of growth are the cornerstone beliefs of Montana's Developmental Disabilities Program. But developmental disabilities such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and autism place significant obstacles in the way of individual growth and development. Montana's focus for providing services to persons with developmental disabilities calls for self-determination and individual participation in life's decisions about where to work, how to play, and where to live. It also calls for community settings and integration with non-disabled people. These changes in service philosophy are a result of many factors including a growing concern for the rights of individuals, the effectiveness of advocacy groups, and the notable successes of people with developmental disabilities living and working in Montana's communities.

For more information about DDP services check out:

[Guide to Success: Navigating Montana's Developmental Disabilities Program](#)

A guide to understanding the developmental disability service system.

(A publication of Montana's Parent Center)

To download the electronic version of this guide, and view other resources, please visit:

<http://www.pluk.org/ddpguide>

If you are interested in learning more about services and eligibility, contact one of our offices for more information.

Our Central Office administrative staff are located in Helena.

Developmental Disabilities Program

111 Sanders Suite 305

PO Box 4210

Helena, MT 59604-4210

1-406-444-2995 (voice/TDD)

1-406-444-0230 (fax)

Region IV Offices:

Developmental Disabilities Program

3075 North Montana

PO Box 202957

Helena, MT 59620

(406) 444-1714

(406) 444-0826 FAX

Developmental Disabilities Program
300 N Wilson Ave Ste 3001
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 587-6066 Voice
(406) 586-8924 FAX

Developmental Disabilities Program
700 Casey Ste A
Butte, MT 59701
(406) 496-4922
(406) 782-8728 FAX

Montana Vocational Rehabilitation Services For Youth with Disabilities

www.dphhs.mt.gov/vocrehab/vrs/index.shtml

Who?

Our mission is to promote work and independence for Montana's youth with disabilities. Montana Voc Rehab provides a wide range of services to help eligible youth prepare for, get and keep jobs.

What?

The types of services provided are based on what you need to get and keep a job. Services **MAY** include some of the following.

- **Evaluation Services** – Medical, psychological, and vocational evaluations may be used to determine your rehabilitation needs, limitations, interests and abilities.
- **Career Counseling and Guidance Services** – Using the evaluation information, you and your counselor will develop an Individualized Plan for Employment (IPE) outlining the services you require to get and keep a job.
- **Medical or Psychological Services** – These services may be available on a limited basis should you need them to get and keep a job.
- **Training** – Vocational Rehabilitation may coordinate and help fund such services as on-the-job training, job coaching, business/trade school, college or other vocational programs if you need them to qualify for employment.

- **Job Development and Placement Services** – Vocational Rehabilitation will provide assistance to help you with your job search. Assistance may include help completing a job application and help to preparing for a job interview.
- **Rehabilitation Technology** – You and your counselor may identify and obtain adaptive aids or equipment necessary to help you get or keep a job. For example, computer adaptations, workstations, modifications, etc.
- **Post Employment Services** – Once you are employed, support services related to your disability may be provided to help you keep your job.
- **Referrals** – Vocational Rehabilitation can coordinate with other programs and services to increase your opportunities for employment.

For some Vocational Rehabilitation services, you must meet financial criteria.

How?

You are eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation if you meet all three of the following criteria:

1. You have a physical or mental disability
2. Your disability prevents you from getting or keeping a job
3. You want to work and you need VR services to help you get or keep a job.

Where?

To gather more information or to apply, contact the Vocational Rehabilitation office nearest you.

Butte Regional Office
 Vocational Rehabilitation
 700 Casey Street, Suite B
 Butte, MT 59701
 1-888-279-7531 (toll-free consumer line)
 (406) 496-4925 (voice/TTY)
 (406) 782-8728 (fax)

Bozeman Vocational Rehabilitation Office
 220 West Lamme, Suite 1E
 Bozeman, MT 59715
 1-877-296-1759 (toll-free consumer line)
 (406) 587-0601
 (406) 587-7863 (fax)

Helena Vocational Rehabilitation Office
 3075 North Montana Avenue Suite 106
 Helena, MT 59601
 1-877-296-1757 (toll-free consumer line)

(406) 444-1710 (voice/TTY)
(406) 444-9659 (fax)

Career Training Institute

Career Training Institute (CTI), a private, non-profit organization, was founded in May 1983 to meet the employment needs of women in the community. In response to the demands of a changing workforce, CTI's services have since expanded to include all adults, youth, and business enterprises. The Business Resource Center at CTI opened in June 1998 as part of an effort to match workforce development with enterprise development. CTI has earned state-wide recognition as an agency with skilled staff able to deliver quality, customer-focused employment, training, and business resource services.

Career Training Institute is moving toward the future with a focus on strengthening partnerships within the community and across the state of Montana. A Network of resources enables CTI to provide activities to meet the demands of the modern workplace.

Vision Statement

Individuals and businesses in our community have the skills and resources necessary to succeed and significantly contribute to a strong economy.

Mission Statement

Career Training Institute and the Business Resource Center provide individualized services, invaluable resources, and innovative opportunities for training, employment, and enterprise development, to meet the changing needs of our community.

Workforce Investment Act Youth Employment and Training

Federally-funded assistance program that provides eligible participants with the tools and support for completing high school or GED requirements and/or obtaining marketable skills and training to secure long-term employment. Participants must be 14-21 years of age, meet income guidelines, and reside in Lewis & Clark, Broadwater or Jefferson Counties.

Available Opportunities:

- Professional Case Management
- Basic Skills Testing
- Career Counseling
- GED
- Tutoring
- Work Experience
- Job Search Assistance
- Preparation for Secondary Education
- Referral to Adult Basic Education
- Advocacy and Referrals to Appropriate Community Resources
- Participant-Related Supportive Services Based on Need and Availability
- Job Retention and Follow-up Services

For more information or to see if you qualify please contact Lisa Newman at 406.433.0800 ext 30

Youth Experiencing Security & Success (YE\$\$)

YE\$\$ is an economic security demonstration program for youth age 16-30 in Broadwater, Jefferson and Lewis & Clark Counties who meet eligibility criteria:

- 1) Parenting adults over the age of 18 who are not receiving TANF cash assistance whose household gross income is at or below 185% Federal Poverty Level; **or**
- 2) Anyone age 16-18 or up to 19 if still in High School (receiving TANF or not) whose household income is at or below 185% of Federal Poverty Level.

YE\$\$ will help each youth establish an economic security plan that will lead to training or employment opportunities. A mix of services and resources including financial literacy (budgeting, savings, credit issues), paid work experience, occupational skill training, and job search assistance will be available. In addition, youth may participate in setting up an Individual Development Account, a match savings program where CTI matches each contribution 2:1(\$2 to every \$1 put in savings account) up to \$1,000.

For more information or to find out if you qualify please contact Stacy Clement at 406.443.0800 ext 28.

Contact Info:

Career Training Institute
347 N Last Chance
Helena, MT 59601
Phone: 406.443.0800
Fax: 406.442.2745
Toll Free: 1800.254.6607
Email: Frontdesk@ctibrc.org

Disability Rights Montana

Disability Rights Montana protects and advocates for the human, legal and civil rights of Montanans with disabilities while advancing dignity, equality and self-determination.

Disability Rights Montana was established in 1977 and is a civil rights organization protecting the human, civil and legal rights of Montanans with disabilities through legally-based advocacy. Each state and territory is mandated by law to have a designated independent Protection and Advocacy (P&A) system for people with disabilities. Disability Rights Montana is Montana's protection and advocacy system.

Disability Rights Montana provides:

Information and Referral: We provide information regarding the rights of people with disabilities and provide suggestions on how to handle their situation. We offer referrals to other organizations or programs when we are not able to resolve their concerns.

Individual Advocacy: We can negotiate on an individual's behalf to resolve problems such as denial of services, discrimination, abuse and neglect, or we can support their own self-advocacy efforts.

Legal Representation: We provide legal representation to people and groups who are eligible for our services if their issues fall within our program area priorities. Our legal staff may also give technical assistance to private attorneys working on disability issues.

Systems Advocacy: In collaboration with others, we work for systemic changes that affect people with disabilities, in order to improve their quality of life.

Education and Training: We educate others across the state about the legal rights of people with disabilities through presentations to groups and organizations, participation on committees and task forces, technical assistance and educational booklets. Our staff is experienced in many disability-related areas ranging from the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Montana Human Rights Act, The Rehabilitation Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), to self-advocacy, and disability awareness and etiquette.

What is PABSS? The Protection and Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security (PABSS) program was established under the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act (TWWIIA) of 1999. The purpose of this program, which is funded by the Social Security Administration (SSA), is to protect the legal rights of a Social Security beneficiary in their efforts to work. The PABSS program can help with:

- Access to and disputes with community service providers
- Special education and transition
- Health care
- Disability benefits and work incentives
- Rights and conditions of employment
- Vocational rehabilitation and preparation
- Rights, responsibilities and reasonable accommodations under the ADA
- Wage and hour issues
- Transportation
- Housing
- Assistance removing barriers to a beneficiary's obtaining or returning to work

What is CAP? The Client Assistance Program was set up by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to protect the rights of individuals. The Rehabilitation Act sets the rules regarding rights and responsibilities and decides who can get rehabilitation services. Agencies in Montana that receive federal money through the Rehabilitation Acts are the programs for which CAP can

provide services. These programs include Montana Vocational Rehabilitation, four independent living centers, and any services under the Rehabilitation Act.

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) is a Disability Rights Montana program that helps people with disabilities who have concerns about agencies in Montana that provide vocational rehabilitation or independent living services. The type of help provided may be information and referral, advice and counseling, mediation and negotiation, advocacy, representation in an administrative appeal, or legal services. The Client Assistance Program can help with:

- Information about agencies and program that help people with disabilities
- Information about rehabilitation agencies and independent living programs and how to get services from them
- Solve programs between rehabilitation agencies and their clients
- Represents clients during an appeal process
- Represents clients of rehabilitation agencies in court
- Teaches people how to become their own advocate. This is one of CAP's most important services.

How to request assistance: To get help from Disability Rights Montana, call and talk with one of our advocates. You can also fill out a Request for Service form on our website. Our office is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Disability Rights Montana
1022 Chestnut Street
Helena, MT 59601
Voice/TDD: 406-449-2344
Toll Free: 800-245-4743
Fax: 406-449-2418
advocate@disabilityrightsmt.org
www.disabilityrightsmt.org

Family Outreach

Family Outreach is a private non-profit agency providing home-based education and support services to individuals throughout Southwestern Montana who have disabilities or developmental delays.

The focus of our program is to teach families and friends how to teach skills to children and adults with special needs. In addition, the families and friends often request education regarding the disability and information about resources and services available.

Family Outreach staff work hard to ensure that children and adults in the Family Outreach program have the same opportunities that all Montanans have in education, in the

community, in friendships, and in life. Adult Services

FAMILY OUTREACH'S SUPPORTED LIVING PROGRAM promotes and supports the life-style choices of adults with developmental disabilities as they live interdependently in the community. The individual may need occasional assistance or 24 hour assistance. The Individual is encouraged to make choices, learn from experience, be an active member of the community, and stand up for themselves. Family Outreach offers a wide range of services from which consumers can choose to meet their own specific needs. Individuals assist in the development of their own plan based on what they want and need, and their life goals.

SUPPORTED LIVING IS:

- a new residential option
- for adults with developmental disabilities
- provides assistance with daily activities such as:
- shopping,
- food preparation
- housekeeping
- medications
- transportation
- provides support with transitions and lifestyle decisions
- provides assistance with health and safety

SUPPORTED LIVING OPTIONS:

- living alone in an apartment
- living with roommates - disabled or non-disabled
- living in a family or foster family setting
- living in an apartment which provides congregate meals

There may be a waiting list for Supported Living services as this is not an entitlement program. For more information about our adult services please contact Bobbie Janacaro in Helena (bjanacaro@familyoutreach.org).

Helena Industries, Inc.

Helena Industries, a private non-profit corporation, began providing services in 1970. They provide a variety of community and facility- based services to assist persons with all types of disabilities to find and maintain appropriate employment. In addition, they provide case management services for persons with developmental disabilities in southwest and central Montana

COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES

Montana Career Development Services

Montana Career Development Services is a division of Helena Industries, Inc., and offers the following services:

Job Placement Services - involves assisting persons with all types of disabilities to find employment. There is a limited follow-along following the placement into a position. The emphasis is matching the right job with the right person. In an average year Helena Industries finds jobs for approximately 50 people and work with 25 – 30 new employers.

Supported Employment - provides on-site assistance with training and ongoing support for individuals who are placed on jobs in the community. The emphasis is providing the needed amount of assistance up to and including 1:1 at any time a person is on the job. Approximately 60 – 75 persons receive supported employment services annually.

Janitorial Services

Helena Industries operates a **Custodial Service** for large office buildings and businesses, which provides an excellent employment opportunity at a competitive wage. Approximately 25 part and full time persons are employed in this service.

FACILITY BASED SERVICES

Work Services

Work Services provide an environment where someone can adjust to the routine and challenges of employment while building work-related and interpersonal skills. Through the use of the Personal Support Planning process each person directs the development and implementation of their vocational plan. This service provides training and related supports to help a person reach their vocational potential. Approximately 85 persons receive these services each day.

The goals of the Work Services program are achieved in one of the following three production areas:

The **Wood Products Division** produces a number of products including pallets, survey stakes and lath that are sold to local businesses, and a variety of state and federal agency customers, shipping boxes for various government agencies, as well as a line of storage sheds that are sold to the general public.

The **Mail Center** assembles, collates and mails promotional and informational materials for a variety of state agencies, associations and businesses.

Benchmark Manufacturing is a textile manufacturing plant that produces products such as backpacks and briefcases. Many of these products are purchased by the federal government for use by the US Forest Service or branches of the US military.

Work 1st is a program for persons with more significant physical, mobility or behavioral needs. The emphasis in this program is on a small staff ratio, generally 2:1 and a focus on work and the skills needed to work effectively and successfully.

Case Management Services

Helena Industries Case Management provides comprehensive case management services to approximately 650 persons with developmental disabilities in southwest and central Montana. These services are provided through our offices in Great Falls, Butte, Anaconda and Bozeman.

The Developmental Disabilities Program and the Vocational Rehabilitation Program of the Department of Public Health and Human Services are the primary referring agencies for the services Helena Industries provides.

Contact the Director of Programs at 442-8632 for more information or a tour of Helena Industries services and facilities. Our facilities are located at 1325 Helena Avenue.

Montana Independent Living Project

This program is often referred to as MILP. MILP receives funding primarily from the U.S. Department of Education and some State of Montana monies from the Department of Public Health and Human Services. Services obtained through the Montana Independent Living Project may be short term or long term based on the need of the individual. The focus of this Center of Independent Living (CIL) is to assist persons with disabilities to be able to live independently in the community of their choice. The philosophy of independent

living is based on informed decision making and choice. MILP employees can provide a wide variety of services to people with disabilities, including clients of Vocational Rehabilitation. Services available through MILP include the following: assessment of and training in independent living skills, self advocacy training, self directed job search, ADA consultation and support for accessibility and employment issues, information and referral on housing, recreation and recreational opportunities, arranging senior companion matches. MILP also has a self directed personal care program, with MILP acting as the fiscal agent, for individuals wishing to direct their own personal assistance services.

MILP provides services to people with disabilities in 14 southwest Montana counties. MILP can be contacted in Helena at 442-5755. The Helena MILP office is located at 34 North Last Chance Gulch, Suite 500. Out of town callers can reach MILP at 800-735-6457. MILP offices are also located in Butte, Bozeman and Dillon.

PEERS, Unlimited

PEERS, Unlimited is a private, non-profit, United Way Agency. The services of PEERS, Unlimited are unique to the Helena area. Services include:

Social Club

Provides a weekly recreation/social opportunity for adults with developmental disabilities in Helena. Social Club operates each Thursday evening from September to June, 6:30 – 8:00, at

First Lutheran Church (2231 Broadway). Activities include dances, bingo, crafts, holiday celebrations and monthly community outings. A calendar of events is available.

Adult Advocacy

Involves matching mature, competent adult volunteers in one to one relationships with people who have developmental disabilities to share experiences, build relationships and help integrate their friend into the community. Advocates are strong, independent people who take time for a phone call, a cup of coffee, shopping trip or a movie. An advocate offers suggestions and reassurance when the going gets tough. In a word, an advocate is a “friend.” PEERS currently has over 50 individuals waiting for an advocate.

Crisis Advocacy

Provides trained volunteers to assist persons with developmental disabilities during crisis/emergency situations. Volunteers are available 24 hours per day.

Junior Advocacy/ *PEERS PALS*

Exists to increase disability awareness within school settings. PEERS PALS provides opportunities for children with and without disabilities to learn more about each other and to develop friendships that might not otherwise occur on their own. This program helps students who are non-disabled to become more aware of differences between people and to be more understanding and accepting of those with disabilities.

There are currently over 150 PEERS PALS involved in area elementary, middle and high schools.

PEERS always welcomes and encourages volunteers in any or all of our programs. No time commitment is required, only the desire to interact with persons with disabilities who will enrich your lives considerably!

If you would like more information, please contact Diane Ziemann at 439-5487.



Parents, Let's Unite for Kids

516 N 32nd St, Billings MT 59101-6003

800-222-7585 * 406/255-0540

406/255-0523 (-fax-) * E-mail: info@pluk.org *Serving Montana children and families since 1984*

Who Are We?

PLUK is a private, nonprofit organization formed in 1984 by parents of children with special needs in the state of Montana for the purpose of information, support, training and assistance to aid their children at home, school and as adults.

PLUK is an organization of parents and other caring individuals who serve families and individuals with disabilities of any age and at no cost.

PLUK was founded by parents who felt strongly that parents of children with disabilities need to band together to give each other information and support. It seemed foolish for each new parent to try to learn all over again what other parents already know and would willingly share. It also seemed important for parents to lend each other support because of the healing that takes place when people who share a common problem can work together to find solutions.

We are people with disabilities, parents, professionals, relatives, and friends who want to ensure that persons with disabilities participate in the community and have access to high quality educational, medical and rehabilitation services.

We are members of a statewide group that supports families in their desire to help people with disabilities lead productive lives.

What We Do

We become as well informed as possible about best practices in the fields of education, medicine, the law, human services, rehabilitation and technology so that we can insure that our family members and friends with disabilities have access to high quality services.

We willingly share information and emotional support with each other so that together we are stronger in our efforts to meet the challenges of disabilities and illnesses.

Values We Share

- Full integration and participation of children and adults with disabilities at school, work, and in the community.
- Support for families so that they can nurture their children in the home.
- Empowerment of families and individuals with disabilities to make decisions about their lives.

- Individualization of services to meet the unique needs of individuals with disabilities.
 - Access for persons with disabilities to education and technology needed to participate fully in community life.
 - Age appropriate activities for children and adults with disabilities.
 - High expectations for individuals who are challenged by disability or illness.
 - Collaborative efforts among parents, professionals and people with disabilities.
 - Use of language about people with disabilities which is respectful and recognizes their dignity and rights as full citizens.
-

Where are we?

The PLUK office, library and computer lab are located on 32nd street in downtown Billings.

We also have a local PLUK family support consultant: Diana Tavary

Contact Us!

We may be contacted by phone, TDD, fax, e-mail and in person. We also have a network of family support consultants in most of the major cities in the state serving all remote areas.

Our Helena Area a local PLUK family support consultant is

Diana Tavary
diana.tavary@pluk.org

516 N 32nd St
Billings MT 59101
406/255-0540
406/255-0523 (fax)
800-222-7585 (toll free)
plukinfo@pluk.org

Spring Meadow Resources

Spring Meadow Resources, Inc., formerly known as Tri-County D.D. Inc., began providing services to adults with developmental disabilities in the Helena area in 1975.

Growing from a two person company in 1975 to its' current status of approximately 100 employees and about the same number of adults in its' services, Spring Meadow Resources is one of the largest non-profit 501(3)(c) companies in the state of Montana. Spring Meadow Resources owns and operates all but one of its' residential facilities. That one is owned by

another non-profit company who came to Spring Meadow Resources asking us to operate a home under our licensing and contracts.

Spring Meadow Resources provides residential services through several different residential facilities. Most are named after the street on which they are located. These include Brass Apartments offering seven accessible apartments to higher functioning individuals who live on their own with minor assistance in supported living services, Hudson—a home for senior adults with medical issues, Lake—a home for six adults with more intensive needs, Motor—a home for eight ambulatory adults, Oregon—an eight resident home and an attached rental, Tamarack—serving eight seniors, and Waukesha which houses a home serving adults and four apartments for adults, all of whom work in the community.

Spring Meadow Resources offers supported living services to those adults who live in their own homes in the community, but need assistance to remain in their homes. This assistance may be in the form of transportation to SMR events, assistance with housework, cooking, banking, medication administration, and other day-to-day living skills.

The Spring Meadow Resources' Day Program, informally known as CAP (Creative Activities Program), has at least thirty-five adults in the program. Those attending usually are retired, unable to work, or do not wish to work. SMR changed it from a senior program to an open to all ages program as well. 18 years and up. Activities in the community and at the Day Program provide purpose and interest to those who participate in this weekday program. They are open from 8am-3pm for adults needing services. They have many activities such as sewing club, history class, health lessons, music, arts and crafts, gardening and fishing on our own private handicap accessible fishing pond located behind the main office.

Recreation is a big part of Spring Meadow Resources. Situated on approximately 30+ acres, the main office and day program operate here. The rear of the property is a large meadow bounded by a creek to the west. An acre-sized pond offers boating, fishing, and other water focused activities. The Pond area has campsites for tents and wheeled units, picnic tables, a golf course, potable water and power, and an accessible portapotty during the warmer months. Not only do those we serve use the Pond, but other service providers use the facilities for their own clients. Spring Meadow Resources leads recreation efforts in out-of-town and out-of-state vacations as well. Clients and direct care staff have traveled to Hawaii, the Oregon coast, Yellowstone, and other recreation destinations in the past year.

Spring Meadow Resources group homes are licensed annually through inspections and recommendations for improvement through various local, county, and state regulations. We contract annually for services with DPHHS through the Developmental Disability Division.

University of Montana Helena College of Technology (UM-Helena)

The University of Montana Helena College of Technology (UM-Helena) is a comprehensive two-year college in Montana offering a variety of certificates and degrees. In addition to technical degrees, the college offers Associate of Arts and Associate of Science transfer degrees.

Prospective students need to have finished high school or have obtained their GED to apply to the college. There is helpful admissions and financial aid information located on

the college's web site, www.umhelen.edu. Students with disabilities should contact the Director of Disability Services if they are interested in receiving any accommodations while they are at the college. Documentation will support the student's request for accommodations, and the student may find that accommodations at the college level differ a bit from what they received in high school. The college strives to provide access to both the physical facilities as well as the academic programs offered by the school.

Students need to take a COMPASS test for math and English placement at UM-Helena or present ACT/SAT scores or the MUSWA (Montana University System Writing Assessment) for placement. Transfer credits for math and English may also be accepted so that placement scores are not necessary.

For information about disability services, students may call:

Director of Disability Services

Cindy Yarberry

444-6897

or visit her web page at <http://umhelen.edu/current/disability/default.aspx> for more information. The sooner the student begins the process of seeking accommodations before school begins, the easier the transition into college.

West Mont Habilitation Services, Inc.

West Mont currently operates 10-residential facilities and provides vocational assistance and employment services to over 100 individuals with disabilities on a daily basis. Services include:

Independent/Supported Residential Services

West Mont provides assistance and training with personal care, medication management, meal planning and cooking, shopping, and social /community activities in safe and secure group homes and apartments. West Mont staff is on site 24-hours day 7-days a week.

Employment Services

Supported Employment- West Mont's philosophy is that anyone can work. Clients are given the opportunity to develop basic vocational and life skills. West Mont works with local employers to match client job skills and abilities with the right job. To ensure successful placement, West Mont teaches new skills, provides on the job assistance and training, customized employment and on-going support.

Vocational and Sheltered work opportunities include a commercial ice business, labeling of Farm in the Dell Salsa, shredding of documents, preparation of mailings, floral design, janitorial and clerical work. Services are based on an individual's interest, abilities, and available openings. Clients are given the opportunity to develop basic vocational and life skills including on-site structured training, support and supervision, basic job readiness classes, pre-community employment opportunities and life skills training in social, recreational and self-help.

Respite Care

Melodee House provides a "Home Away From Home" with respite care for up to eight overnight guests with special needs. Services include 24-hour staff, assistance with all personal care needs, medication assistance, and fun activities. **Melodee House** operates without governmental funding, relying on private resources and charitable giving to support operating costs and the scholarship fund for services.

For more information contact West Mont at 406-447-3100 or stop by the West Mont office located at 2708 Bozeman Ave. Helena, MT.

Visit the web site at www.westmont.org

