

HOT TOPICS

LOQW Seeks CARF Accreditation

Learning Opportunities/Quality Works, Inc. Receives Dates for upcoming Accreditation Survey from CARF International

The dates and schedule of events for LOQW's upcoming CARF survey has been confirmed by Team Coordinator and Administrative Surveyor Paula McElwee (McElwee and Associates) of Fresno, CA. The survey is scheduled for February 22 – 24, 2012. Ms. McElwee will be joined by two Program Surveyors to complete this comprehensive review of LOQW and the products and services the organization offers. Christine Camene (Paraquad, Inc., St. Louis MO) focusing on Community Services, Benefits Planning, and Community Service Coordination along with Paul Herrer, focusing on Employment Services and Employment Service Coordination round out the team.

LOQW is seeking continued accreditation in Community Integration, Community Employment Services, Job Development, Job Supports, Job-Site Training, and Employment Services Coordination. LOQW is also seeking accreditation in two new services, Comprehensive Benefits Planning and Community Service Coordination.

For more information on CARF and the upcoming survey please visit www.loqw.com, click on *What's New*, and look for the Press Release or contact the LOQW Administrative Offices in Monroe City at 573-735-4282.



Outgoing Board President Recognized

Learning Opportunities/Quality Works, Inc. Board of Directors Recognizes Outgoing Board President Joe McNeill for Service

Connie Ketsenburg, Board President, and Wendy Hays, Executive Director, along with the Board of Directors of LOQW recognized Joe McNeill for his

service to the organization at the Board's regular meeting on February 2, 2012. Mr. McNeill just completed a 2 year term as Board President, serving the organization in this capacity during the 2010 and 2011 calendar years. To view the full article, please visit www.loqw.com and click on *What's New*.



Connie Ketsenburg & Joe McNeil

Learning Opportunities/ Quality Works, Inc.

(LOQW) is a leader in providing community skills training, employment services, and service coordination in Northeast Missouri.

The Mission...

***Support, Advocacy, &
Connection to Resources***

The Leadership...

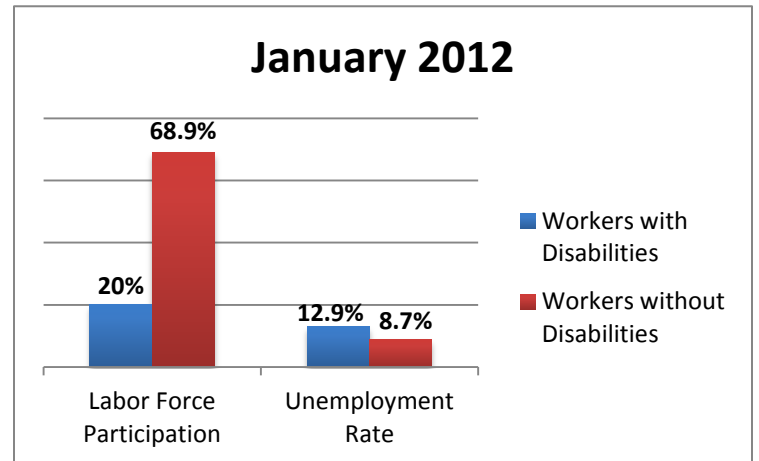
***Connie Ketsenburg,
Board President
Wendy Hays,
Executive Director***

With offices located in Monroe City, Hannibal, Shelbina, Macon, and Kirksville; LOQW is well positioned to meet the needs of customers throughout Northeast Missouri. LOQW serves individuals, families, job seekers, and employers in Marion, Monroe, Ralls, Shelby, Macon, Adair, Lewis, Clark, Knox, Scotland, Schuyler, Putnam, Sullivan, and Randolph Counties.



January Disability Employment Statistics Released

The first disability employment statistics for 2012 have been released. The difference in overall labor force participation (between people with disabilities and people without disabilities) is staggering. Labor force participation for people with disabilities was 20.0%, compared to 68.9% for people without disabilities, while the unemployment rate for people with disabilities was 12.9%, compared to 8.7% for people without disabilities. Among younger youth age 16-19, the employment rate was 15.0% for those with disabilities, compared to 23.6% for those with no disabilities. For older youth age 20-24, the employment rate was 26.7% for those with disabilities, compared to 61.0% for those with no disabilities.



Credible, consistent data on the employment status of people with disabilities is critical to shaping disability employment policy. ODEP, the US Dept. of Labor's Office of Disability Employment Policy is our most reliable source for this type of information. It is important that front line personnel have a basic understanding of this information. To learn more about these statistics please visit ODEP online at <http://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/DisabilityEmploymentStatistics.htm>.

Empower MO (www.empowermo.org)

The Missouri Planning Council for Developmental Disabilities continues to promote two on-line training modules. These Free interactive curriculums contain two training modules which provide helpful information about employing people with disabilities.



The 1st Module: Diversity in Employment & Disability Awareness: is a general overview of common misconceptions, myths, and stereotypes concerning people with disabilities.

The 2nd Module: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) & Reasonable Accommodations will address issues related to recruitment, interviewing, reasonable accommodations, and universally-designed work environments.

The Missouri Planning Council firmly believes that people with disabilities represent a huge untapped business resource and that hiring a person with a disability is a winning proposition for both employee and employer. The Council can also supply materials to be used in making presentations to businesses or community leaders, contact Chaz Nickolaus at 1-800-500-7878 or cnickolaus@mpcdd.com.

Learning the skills today...

for the opportunities of tomorrow.

Learning Opportunities/Quality Works, Inc.
201 North Locust Street, P. O. Box 254, Monroe City, Missouri 63456
Phone: 573-735-4282 | Fax: 573-735-2580
www.loqw.com

