

**Questions and Answers from April 7, 2015
“Addressing Barriers to Employment” Webinar**

Isaac:

Q: Are you going to college?

A: No. I don't plan to.

Q: How long how have you been out of school?

A: I graduated in 2010.

Q: How long does it take you to prepare a presentation using technology?

A: First I make a list of what I want to talk about. That is it for the day. I just think then. Next, I start writing under each part. Then I go back and listen to see if I have all I want. About one hour of writing is about ten minutes of talking. That is not prepping or reviewing or practicing.

Q: Did you have your business prior to graduating from high school?

A: No. I did not do public speaking in high school. I spoke for Special Olympics but that was it. I did my first public speaking job for myself in 2011, one year after I graduated. School and speech therapy did not work.

Q: Do you ever use a portfolio?

A: I send my portfolio out when I am working on a presentation job as a public speaker. Mine shows my presentations and what I could talk about.

Mathalia:

Q: How many days and hours do you work in a week (at all your jobs)?

A: I work at the Writing Center on Wednesdays for 2 hours and at the Bean and Boutique Mondays and Thursdays for 3- 5 hours total. I also make and sell pot holders at stores in Missoula and sometimes at summer markets.

Q: Did you start with a job coach to learn your job? How long was it before you were able to start working on your own?

A: Yes, I started with a job coach until I learned to do the job – it wasn't for very long. The job coach had observed me (conducted Discovery) before I started the job. I don't need to do quality checks anymore because I am very accurate. I need a way to interrupt to ask for help, so I use my pink

power card. I need coworkers to check in with me when they share my personal space.

Q: What is your favorite part of your job?

A: Being independent.

Everyone:

Q: Have you ever utilized "video modeling" with an iPad? If so, do you feel it was successful? How did you come up with funding to purchase the iPad?

A: None of today's presenters have used video modeling with an iPad. However, Mathalia and her mom (Jan) used photos and an application called "Book Creator." According to Jan, "An iPad is not at all necessary--- we just took some photos, put them in a book and read the book a couple of times. This can be done electronically or the old-fashioned way with making a scrapbook."

Kim:

Q: Can you please display the transition website again for slides and handouts?

A: Our training web page can be found at:

<http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/transition/trainingcalend.asp>

On this page, you can find webinar recordings, handouts and slides going back to 2006 on a variety of transition-related topics. In the April 7th evaluations, several audience members asked for more training on topics such as job coaching, transition preparation, and promoting community employment for youth...our archives include sessions addressing all of these and more.

In addition, our website houses extensive information about Customized Employment. We invite audience members to visit <http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/transition/careerplanning.asp> to learn more.

Q: Where can we find out more details about how many hours people are working, how they found their jobs, who provides necessary supports, etc.?

A: Since 2009, we have been capturing and sharing Emerging Leader stories that often include these kinds of details. Visit our website at http://ruralinstitute.umt.edu/transition/EL_stories.asp to read the stories.