



ADA TODAY

Newsletter

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May 2014

Mayor Vincent C. Gray Launches '500 Families. 100 Days. Quality DC Housing Now' Campaign

Effort Aims to Move Families out of DC General Shelter into Better, More Permanent Housing

Mayor Vincent C. Gray joined the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness (TCP), The Transitional Housing Corporation (THC) and the Coalition for Non-Profit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED) today for the official launch of the "500 Families. 100 Days. Quality DC Housing Now" campaign. The effort is a key part of the Mayor's Crisis Response Plan to address the demand for housing for homeless families by increasing the stock of affordable housing rental units that landlords and developers make available.

"Although the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget my administration submitted to the Council plans for an additional \$100 million investment in affordable housing to build on the historic \$187 million commitment we made in the last two years, we are focused on moving our families out of shelter and into stable housing as quickly as possible," said Mayor Gray.

Through the campaign, the Department of Human Services (DHS), in collaboration with TCP and THC, has launched an aggressive initiative to identify 500 apartments for formerly homeless families in 100 days. Mayor Gray met with the Apartment and Office Building Association in the first week of the campaign, which began on April 1, to advocate for housing on behalf of homeless families. He continued his appeal today with a larger group of landlords and non-profit interest groups.

"We are encouraged by the initial results of the outreach efforts of the '500 Families. 100 Days.' campaign," said DHS Director David Berns. "In these first two weeks, 27 families were able to exit from shelter, and we have been in touch with many new landlords interested in more information."

Landlords or developers with available, affordable apartments who are interested in more information about the campaign may write to housethehomeless@dc.gov

DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities - Parent Survey

The DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities (DCCPD) serves as an advisory body to the Mayor as well as other agencies serving people with disabilities. In the coming year, the Commission will focus on outreach to the disability community including children with disabilities.

We have created a short survey geared towards families. Your participation in this survey will help guide our planning and outreach programs in the future. The survey takes less than five minutes to complete.

Please feel free to distribute the survey widely especially to schools, families with children and adults with disabilities, and children's programs. Click here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FWQ9Q6B>. For further information contact Christina R. Mitchell, Special Assistant for the DC Commission on Persons with Disabilities at 202-481-3877 or at www.odr.dc.gov



May is Mental Health Month. In recognition of Mental Health Month, the Office of Disability Rights participated in the 6th Annual Mental Health Summit sponsored by The Campbell Center (formerly "The Ida Mae Campbell Wellness Center"). This year's theme was "Tools for a Mentally Healthier Workplace", featuring dynamic keynote speaker Sharon Wise of The House of Sharon.

La Sarmiento & Sharon Wise

This year's focus was empowering peer providers to create integrated health programs to promote system transformation by giving practical tools and innovative. With leading experts in attendance such as Randy Killings, Rainbow Heights LGBT Center; Mary-Beth Ault, Fairfax CSB and Van Michael, Black Transmen, Inc., the event worked to make workplaces a "trauma-informed safe work space" and offered prevention techniques.

The event was filled with excellent panelist, exhibitors, and a dynamic keynote that ended to the soothing mediation from La Sarmiento of the Insight Mediation Community of Washington. We are definitely looking forward to working with Iden Campbell and The Campbell Center on more events in the near future.



Exhibitor Table

Local News and Information



Welcome to EOP's STEM Diversity Career Expo that brings industry and government together with members of minority groups, women and people with disabilities in the SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, and MATHEMATICS (STEM) career disciplines.

May 30, 2014 ~ 10:00AM - 3:00PM ~ Ronald Reagan Building ~ 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20004

- » [Attendee Information and Registration](#)
- » [Exhibitor Information and Registration](#)

DC Assistive Technology Center Visit Experience

By Dr. Lynda Hill, Howard University Instructor

"The DC Assistive Technology office hosted a group of students from the Occupational Therapy (OT) Master's program at Howard University. The OT students were studying assistive technology, and through the guidance of ULS AT staff, Kaz Ross and Robert Brown they were able to have hands-on experience with a wide range of both low- and high-tech devices. Clearly the most popular item the students wanted to work with was the eye gaze technology, and they discovered how focused and disciplined a user has to be to operate it successfully. The students also learned about the realities and challenges persons with disabilities face regarding access to and funding for the often costly devices that will increase their functional capabilities. As future occupational therapists, the students need to know and keep current with the technology available that will help their clients' ability to function as independently as possible in their preferred activities at home, work, and in the community. It is through collaboration with practitioners such as Kaz and Robert at the DC AT Program that the students benefit from real life and hands on experiences."

Apps for Diverse Learners

Written by Kazuko Ross



For younger children:

Picture the Sentence: is an iPad app designed to practice listening skills and understand key parts of a sentence such as the subject, verb, and object, as well as spatial concepts, pronouns and prepositions. In addition, the program allows players to practice arranging the parts of a section to form a whole sentence. The app provides optional visual supports that help children/users form mental pictures. This app offers three difficulty levels and the Sandtimer setting for auditory memory practice. Using the text only feature also allows children to practice basic reading comprehension skills. This enables parents and teachers to track and save their progress, while the reinforcer game will motivate children to work on learning. The full version app is \$9.99; there is a Lite version available for 99 cents, but it is limited to the subject-verb-object sentence structures. YouTube video: [Picture the Sentence](#)



For College Students:

Do you want an all-in-one assistive technology tool to fit your busy schedule in college? The AppWriter app is a product from LingApps Studio focusing on cloud solutions and speech-and-language solutions. AppWriter supports multiple platforms, such as Android and IOS, Mac, Windows, Google Docs, and Google Chrome browser. The features include text to speech, word prediction, phonetic spelling, scan document, crop picture and voice to text on your mobile tablet device. The user profile in the app will be then synced between your desktop and mobile devices. The user can add words to the user dictionary, adjust the phonetic spelling contexts, and choose between different reading strategies, and promptly share any documents via e-mail, Send SMS, Facebook, Twitter, etc. (Price \$29.99) YouTube Video: [AppWriter US](#)

Federal News

EEOC Sues AutoZone for Fourth Time for Violating Americans with Disabilities Act

Federal Agency Charges Giant Auto Parts Retailer Failed to Accommodate Disability-Related Absences of Employees, Retaliated Against Employee for Protesting

CHICAGO - AutoZone, Inc. violated federal law when it implemented a nationwide attendance policy that failed to accommodate certain disability-related absences, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) charged in its fourth disability lawsuit in recent years against the giant auto parts retailer which the agency filed here today.

According to the EEOC's complaint, from 2009 till at least 2011, AutoZone assessed employees nationwide "points" for absences, without permitting any general exception for disability-related absences. Twelve points resulted in an employee's termination. As a result, qualified employees with disabilities with even modest numbers of disability-related absences were fired, the complaint alleges. This included, for example, an Ottawa, Ill. employee with Type 2 diabetes who had to leave work early occasionally because of insulin reactions and who was fired because of the resulting attendance points. The complaint also claims that another employee was discharged in retaliation for objecting to the attendance policy and filing a charge with the EEOC.

The EEOC brought the suit under Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which prohibits disability discrimination in employment, and under Title V of the ADA, which bars retaliation for reporting such discrimination. The EEOC filed suit after first attempting to reach a pre-litigation settlement through its conciliation process. The case, (*EEOC v. AutoZone, Inc.*, Civil Action No. 14-cv- 3855) was filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, and was designated and assigned to U.S. District Judge Marovich. The government's litigation effort will be led by EEOC Supervisory Trial Attorney Gregory Gochanour and Trial Attorney Justin Mulaire. Click here for full article: <http://www.eeoc.gov/eeoc/newsroom/release/5-9-14a.cfm>

EEOC Seeks Public Input on Regulations Requiring Federal Agencies to Be 'Model Employers' of Individuals with Disabilities

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) announced today that it is inviting public input on potential revisions to the regulations implementing Section 501 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, a law that governs employment of individuals with disabilities by the federal government.

Current Section 501 regulations prohibit employment discrimination based on disability and explain the standards for determining whether discrimination has occurred. The regulations also impose a separate obligation on federal agencies to be "model employers" of individuals with disabilities, but do not explain what federal agencies must do to comply with this obligation.

The Commission is proposing to revise its regulations to include a more detailed explanation of the model employer obligation. Before it publishes a proposed regulation, however, the Commission is issuing an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) that seeks comments from members of the public on what the amended regulations should say.

The EEOC welcomes input from federal agencies, individuals, employers, advocacy groups, agency stakeholders, and other interested parties. The Commission is specifically seeking answers to seven questions listed in the announcement, such as what barriers exist to the hiring, retention, and

advancement of individuals with disabilities in the federal government, what regulatory requirements could eliminate these barriers, and whether numerical goals should be established for the employment of people with disabilities by the federal government. The ANPRM is now available on the Federal Register website at <https://www.federalregister.gov/a/2014-11233>. Responses to the ANPRM must be submitted by 5:00 pm EDT on Monday, July 14, 2014.

U.S. Access Board Vacancy Announcement: General Counsel

The U.S. Access Board is accepting applications for the position of General Counsel. James J. Raggio, who has served as the Access Board's General Counsel for over 25 years, plans to retire from government in July.

The [vacancy announcement](#) for this position is available on the USAJobs.gov website. Applications are due May 21, 2014. For further information, contact Tanya Johnston at johnston@access-board.gov, (202) 272-0004 (voice), or (202) 272-0059 (TTY).



Click above to view positions

For Information about ODR's Newsletter call 202-724-5055 or visit the web at odr.dc.gov.



441 4th Street NW
Suite 729 North
Washington DC 20001

Phone: (202) 724 - 5055

Fax: (202) 727 -9484

E-mail:

ODR.Complaints@dc.gov

Visit us on the web: <http://odr.dc.gov>

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the District Office of Disability Rights (ODR) is to ensure that the programs, services, benefits, activities and facilities operated or funded by the District of Columbia are fully accessible to, and useable by people with disabilities. ODR is committed to inclusion, community-based services, and self-determination for people with disabilities. ODR is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the City's obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as other disability rights laws.