



*Seeking Employment, Equality and Community for
People with Developmental Disabilities*

SEEC E-News

June 2022 | Issue Forty-four

What's Up with Services?!

A Monthly Update on Re-envisioning SEEC Services Post Pandemic

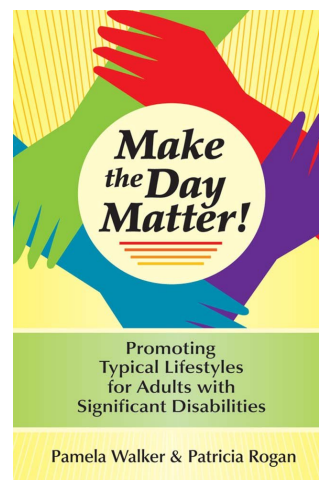
By Sherry Beamer, Director of Services



The book “Make the Day Matter!” has influenced SEEC’s work for many years and provides context to define our re-envisioning services work. The book introduces us to the concept of competencies and seeing people we support as valuable contributors. Competence is described as having the opportunity to perform activities that are meaningful and useful and building one’s repertoire of skills and abilities to gain independence. The book, published in 2007, still provides a conceptual framework for disability service providers based on normalization principles that includes:

- Community presence
- Choice
- Community participation
- Respect
- Competence

The United States continues to struggle to provide services intertwining the concept of contributions to achieve a meaningful life. Our colleagues at the Institute for Community Inclusion at the University of Massachusetts Boston have prepared a Community Life Engagement Toolkit in response. SEEC provided data to inform the document. SEEC is using the toolkit along with the philosophy of recognizing people’s contribution for in-person supports in Community Engagement. In addition, SEEC leadership is exploring with staff outside expertise that will assist us to enhance our strategies for the outcome of competence for the people we work for. We will keep you updated on this work, and the plan for Re-envision Group’s next steps.



Reading references and recommendations:

- **“Make the Day Matter!” by Pat Rogan with Pamela Walker**

- **“Twenty-two Cents an Hour: Disability Rights and the Fight to End Subminimum Wages” 2022** by our colleague **Doug Crandall** that provides history and current context to the concept of normal economic standard (Doug has written many fun fiction works you may enjoy as well)

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SEEC Innovations

Innovation is in SEEC’s DNA. SEEC has profoundly impacted how support is provided to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Maryland and beyond. Today as the world evolves, SEEC is proud to make sure the people we support are empowered and belong. Over the past few years, SEEC has developed new ways to provide services and updated its processes to be more efficient.



Last week, SEEC shared its recent innovations with its partners from the Department of Disabilities and the Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA). Carol A. Beatty, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Disabilities, Bernard Simons, Deputy Secretary of Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA) and Onesta Duke, Southern Maryland Regional Director of Developmental Disabilities Administration (DDA), came to SEEC on June 6th and learned about person-centered volunteerism, problem-solving, the wellness pilot, the DSP I pilot, and the Moving Out program. More details about the different topics presented during the DDA visits will be shared during the weekly staff and monthly family call, starting on Wednesday, July 1st with the Moving Out presentation on the Family Call.

SEEC's Expertise Recognized at National Level

20th Anniversary of the College of Direct Support/Elsevier Learning Platform

SEEC is a leader in the country in creating career pathways and training for DSPs. This work is recognized at the national level at the 20th Anniversary of the College of Direct Support/Elsevier learning platform. Our DSP II leaders and



training team members, Ric Andrews and Anna Oldham as well as DSP II graduates Sam Opaluwa and Marie Bonnet were interviewed by Jerry Smith, Communications Director for UMN Institute on Community to talk about their experience and inspire others.

2022 National APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment) Conference

The APSE conference’s selection process for presentations is very competitive and we are thrilled to announce that SEEC was selected to give not one, but two presentations! The first presentation is about DSP training and career pathways and the other is about behavioral support for people having a job in the community. We have a great video we are debuting at APSE that we look forward to sharing in the weeks ahead. Pictured here are our colleagues in attendance in Denver, CO this week!



SEEC FACT:

What is 7,759 miles?

1. Approximately the distance a bird would have to travel to fly from Silver Spring to Shanghai.
2. The total number of miles recorded by SEEC’s staff in 2021 in the well-traveled platform.
3. The total number of miles reimbursed by SEEC to staff in May 2022

If you choose 3, you are right! That is a lot of miles and represents well what it means for SEEC to provide community-based support!

Summer is Here: Welcome Interns!

As part of SEEC’s innovative work, we aspire to create a pipeline for future workers. To that end, this summer SEEC once again is hosting a formal internship program to provide opportunities for students to learn more about the disability sector and related career opportunities. The program offers various internships in many of SEEC’s departments as well as mentorship and a robust lunch and learn series.

We are excited to welcome ten students to SEEC this summer for an immersive learning and professional development experience! Nine college students will be working with the

following departments:

- Human Resources (1)
- Knowledge Management (1)
- Supported Living (1)
- Partnerships (1)
- IT (2)
- Employment Outreach (1)
- Project SEARCH (2)

Additionally, we will have one student from Montgomery County Public Schools who will be hosted at SEEC for Summer RISE, a program for rising MCPS juniors and seniors to participate in a career-based learning opportunity during the summer.

We look forward to sharing more information about our interns in future newsletters!

Work and Thrive: New Jobs and Work Anniversaries

In the era of the great resignation, SEEC is excited to celebrate work anniversaries and new contracts signed! A big congratulations from the Employment Services, Project SEARCH and Employer Outreach Teams to everyone supported by SEEC starting a new job or reaching a work anniversary and those that support them! You are living, working and thriving and we celebrate your successes every day!



Telling Stories of Resilience

People with intellectual and developmental disabilities have stories to tell; stories that give us an opportunity as supporters of inclusion and diversity to learn about their experiences, challenges, and successes. Storytelling is what makes us human and helps us make profound connections with others. At SEEC, our person-centered approach makes us passionate about the stories of the people we support and having a team of staff to help tell those stories helps bring them to life. **For Nate Torres, who recently joined SEEC as a Communications Multi-Media Assistant after his summer 2021 internship, telling the stories of the people we support is an opportunity to shine a light on individuals so often dismissed. He is excited to share with others the work happening here at SEEC while increasing the recognition around SEEC's innovations in the field.**

Nate worked earlier this year with Ava, Devaughn, and Sam to share short stories about their lives in the community. These videos have been shared with SEEC's supporters and have inspired people to learn more about our mission, staff, and the people SEEC supports. Stay tuned for new releases on SEEC's YouTube channel (Follow us and get updated for new videos):

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChcwQ8DSKcAhH_wJRCkqUmg/videos

Mark Your Calendars!



MOVING OUT

VIRTUAL INFO SESSION

6:00 P.M. | WEDNESDAY
JUNE 29, 2022

6:00 P.M. | WEDNESDAY
JULY 6, 2022

REGISTER



QUESTIONS?

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