



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Equal opportunity employment for people with Mental Health disabilities was the focus of Resource Partnership 2007 Annual Meeting: Opening Doors to Opportunity.

Natick, Massachusetts, November 8, 2007 – On November 7, 2007, Resource Partnership brought together leaders and field experts at their Annual meeting: Opening Doors to Opportunity, to share best practices and strategies on how to successfully employ people with mental health disabilities. Nearly 100 representatives from leading companies in Massachusetts, including John Hancock, Deloitte & Touché, Citizens Bank, Comcast, Rasky Baerlein Strategic Communications, Raytheon Defense Systems, Network Health and Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital, attended the breakfast session, hosted by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts.

Keynote speaker Dr. Kyle Nash, who has lived and worked with severe clinical depression, anxiety disorder, and bipolar spectrum disorder since she was a teenager, shared eye opening insights on what it is like to live and work with a hidden disability.

Special guest Jean Flatly McGuire Ph.D., Assistant Secretary for Disability Policies and Programs for the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, addressed the importance of employment of people with disabilities not only because of the imminent shortage of the population in Massachusetts, but also because it will improve the lives of people with disabilities, decrease poverty and improve the overall economy in the state. Dr. McGuire outreached to employers to work together to successfully accomplish this mission.

A panel of experts, including Laurie Martinelli, PHM, J.D., Executive Director of NAMI of Massachusetts, Anne Whitman, Ph.D., President of the Jonathan O. Cole, M.D. Mental Health Consumer Resource Center and Kimberly Bisset, Ed. D. Employment and Training Manager at Boston University's Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, discussed three main subject matters: stereotypes of people with mental health disabilities, disclosing a disability to an employer, and reasonable accommodations. The expert panelists educated attendees on how employers can accommodate and successfully retain employees.

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts, Deloitte and Touche LLP, John Hancock Financial Services, Inc., Rasky Baerlein Strategic Communications, Inc., Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems and The TJX Companies, Inc. sponsored the event.

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About Resource Partnership:



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Resource Partnership is a statewide non-profit employer-managed membership organization committed to improving the quality of life of persons with disabilities by uniting employers, rehabilitation and referral agencies, and people with disabilities. Since 1978, Resource Partnership has assisted more than 3,000 individuals with varying disabilities find and experience success at all levels of employment and in a wide range of industries and occupations.

For more information or requests to interview the speakers, please call Natalya Kosnitsky toll-free at 1.877.YES.WORK, ext. 16.

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