# Technology Throughout the Employment Process: A Webinar Series Technology Strategies for Employment Professionals



This webinar is offered by the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Developmental Services.

## Instructors



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# Agenda

- Review importance of assistive technology for people with disabilities
- Consider ways to engage with stakeholders virtually, using best practices
- Discuss uses of technology across the different stages of the employment process
- Build familiarity with high, low, and no technology options for self-management and independence
- Learn practical strategies and applications for assistive technology in the workplace
- Identify relevant assistive technology resources
- Question and Answer session (optional)

# **Domains of Technology**

There are many domains of technology. The domains we will primarily cover today are:

#### **Assistive Technology**

Any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

#### **Educational Technology**

A combination of computer hardware, software, and educational practices that facilitate learning.

#### Virtual Meeting Technology

Technology that enables people in different physical locations to use their mobile or internet connected devices to meet and communicate in the same virtual room; can be referred to as a component of telehealth in some settings. Assistive technology (AT) is a mediator for people with intellectual disabilities to attain not just their rights but also, the highest possible quality of life and sense of participation and belonging in society.

> Leaving No-One Behind: Using Assistive Technology to Enhance Community Living for People with Intellectual Disability, Owuor, Larkan & MacLachlan, 2017

# Importance of Assistive Technology







# Assistive Technology as a Catalyst for Social Inclusion



Leaving No-One Behind: Using Assistive Technology to Enhance Community Living for People with Intellectual Disability, Owuor, Larkan & MacLachlan, 2017

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Use of technology *enables, enhances* or *extends* the functional capabilities of people with IDD, potentially resulting in more positive employment-related outcomes

## **The Employment Process**



# When does technology make sense?



# Does the job seeker and/or employment professional have:

- a reliable way to communicate?
- avenues for collaboration with the individual's support network?
- access to accessible materials to facilitate the planning and exploration processes?
- physical, cognitive, or other barriers that restrict participation?

# The Person-Centered Plan Template

A more accessible version of a Person-Centered Plan developed in Microsoft Publisher

https://www.c-q-l.org/resources/guides/person-centered-plan-template/



# **Pathful Explore**

https://pathful.com/explore

#### Formerly Virtual Job Shadow

Welcome to Pathful. Virtual Job Shadow(R) and Nepris are now merged and part of Pathful. Virtual Job Shadow(R) is now Pathful Explore,

×



## **O\*NET**

#### https://www.onetonline.org/



## When does technology make sense?



# Does the job seeker and/or employment professional have:

- a reliable way to express opinions?
- ways to demonstrate strengths and capabilities in meaningful ways?
- an understanding of physical or environmental accommodations needed?
- strategies for new skill development that work in other areas of life?
- the ability to meet in-person?

# Self-Advocacy Online

#### http://selfadvocacyonline.org/

Explore videos related to self-advocacy and employment



## Social Media Networking for Employment Specialists & Job Seekers



## Video Resumes

WHAT: A short video created by a jobseeker, sharing pertinent information about skills and experiences, and often footage of them performing certain job tasks.

WHEN: Job seekers wanting to highlight valuable performance-based work skills and/or soughtafter personality traits should consider supplementing their traditional resume with a video resume.

WHY: Video resumes can be powerful tools to demonstrate a job seeker's skills, attributes,

personality, and work ethic to prospective employers.

# **More About Video Resumes**

When creating a video resume, ask these questions:

- . Is It Useful?
- . Is It Professional?
- . Has It Been Reviewed?

#### DO...

- Ensure job seeker dresses and acts professionally
- Confirm the space remains well-lit and tidy with no distractions
- Help create a pitch expressing what value the job seeker would bring
- Use visuals showcasing the job seeker's skills and talents
- Keep it brief

#### Don't...

- Link the video resume to social media platforms
- Expect the video resume to replace a traditional resume
- Forget to show the video and ask for feedback prior to using it

Common Ways Assistive Technology Can Support Employment





#### **Communication Supports**

+	Conversations	R.	ம் 🥒 🔅						Quick Talk	
Hello! Pro	loquo4Text pr		Hello! Proloquo4Text provides me a voice so I					Patier	nce	Understand
How are you? Today		can speak. What would you like to talk about?					Help	?	Please	
My name is David. Today							Excuse	e me	Thank you	
							Welco	me	How are you?	
							Not g	bod	You?	
							Firv	e	Expressions	
					•		$\otimes$			
A			1		ls		The		You	
Q	w	E	R	т	Y	U	1	0	Р	•
A	S	D	F	G	н	J	•	<	L	return
+	z	x	С	v	в	N	м	I.	?	•
.7123		Q							.7123	

Proloquo4Text iPad Screenshot

2 Task Instruction Examples



Task instructions with digital pictures

#### Reminder Examples

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# Lists Work I!! Refill straws 1. Check both straw containers. 2. If they are getting low, get more straws. 3. Put straws into containers.

4. Pick up and throw away any straws that fell out. Today, 12:00 PM, Daily

....

Apple iOs Reminders App

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#### Time Management Strategies





Smart or Vibrating Watch

Visual Timer



#### 6 Behavior Management Examples



#### Apple iOs Settings, Focus feature



#### Navigation Supports



Victor Reader Trek (Talking GPS)





Pictello (app for using personalized text and photos to create stories or event sequences)



#### Accessibility Tool Examples



Flexible Device Holder with Clamp



Reach Tool/Grabber



Type Aid - Computer Keyboard Aid





#### AT3 Center

https://at3center.net/



Common Ways Educational Technology Can Support Employment



#### Exploration

2 New skill development



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- Expanding on existing learning
- Video modeling



- Fading
- Setting Expectations



#### For individuals with ID, use of Portable electronic assistive technology results in:

- Increased independence and correct responding to work-related tasks
- Reduction in the level of external prompting required for participants to successfully complete tasks

From: Portable Electronic Assistive Technology to Improve Vocational Task Completion in Young Adults with an Intellectual Disability: A Review of the Literature, Collins & Collet-Klingenbert, 2016

# **Video Modeling**

#### **Basic Video Modeling:**

Employee reviews video examples before engaging in tasks.

#### Simultaneous Video Modeling:

Video of task being performed is played one time from beginning to end; individual follows along to complete tasks.

#### **Continuous Video Modeling:**

Video is played on a loop.

#### Video Prompting or Cueing:

While performing task, individual watches short video segments of each step needed to complete task. After performing each step, moves on to next video clip.



# **More Uses for Video**

#### **Error Correction Video Feedback:**

When individual makes error, they review video of task being performed correctly.

**Video Feedback:** Individual is videotaped as they engage in tasks, then evaluates their performance.

**Video Stories:** Filming an individual telling a story about their routines at work or in the community, which they regularly view.



# When does technology make sense?

Does the job seeker and/or employment professional have:

- a reliable way to stay connected?

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Follow-

Up

Supports

- avenues to seek help on-the-job and with the employment specialist?
- strategies for self-management and self-monitoring that work in other areas of life?
- the ability to accept feedback?
- effective plans for maintaining technology?

Common Ways Virtual Meeting Technology Can Support Employment







Connect with employer





Facilitates responsiveness and flexibility

# Best Practices for Online Meetings

- Keep meeting goal in mind when scheduling and choosing whom to invite
- Have clear service objective(s); set and distribute agenda ahead of time
- Select appropriate platform (Zoom, Teams, WebEx, Skype)
- Consider cybersecurity; check privacy settings
- Use both audio (headphones and external microphone) and video, when possible
- Place light source to the front or side avoid backlighting
- Understand your audience (access, ease of use with the tech, accessibility needs, etc.)
- Create room for all attendees to participate (round robin, roll call, chat, polls, whiteboards, breakout rooms)
- Use participants' names

# **Online Meeting Etiquette**

#### Do

- ✓ Mute when not talking
- Silence background noises such as phones, email notifications, etc.
- Minimize open tabs on your screen and other background distractions
- Look at the camera rather than your screen
- State your name before you speak

#### Do Not

 $\bigcirc$  Talk over people

 $\bigotimes$  Multitask

 $\bigotimes$  Have sidebar conversations



# Guidelines for Conducting Online Meetings

- Treat everyone's time as valuable
- Be prepared (technology, settings, assistance)
- Send a calendar invite with meeting login information; consider time zones
- ✓ Use an agenda, shared in advance
- Consider utilizing a facilitator and/or note taker
- ✓ Have a roll call/introductions; state who is in the meeting space
- Take notes to be distributed after the meeting
- Summarize meeting content and outcomes
- Clarify action items and next steps, including responsibilities and deadlines
- Consider using surveys to collect feedback and input

# Engaging with Stakeholders Virtually

- Keep a strong focus on core values
- Understand individual's technology access, knowledge, skill level
- Respect individual's preferences (communication method, device type, meeting length)
- Allow time to connect prior to diving into agenda items
- State a clear meeting purpose and direction, though remain flexible
- Maintain privacy and confidentiality; demonstrate positive regard
- Utilize active listening principles to ensure all feel heard and understood
- Create space for multiple perspectives
- Provide multiple avenues for participation
- Pay attention to non-verbal communication
- Encourage brainstorming, idea sharing, and collaboration
- Summarize, check-in regularly, follow-up
- Use humor (when appropriate)
- Abide by state/funder guidance on remote support provision
# **Emerging Technologies**

- Virtual Reality
  - Example: <u>https://floreovr.com/</u>
- Augmented Reality
  - Example: <u>https://www.holopundits.com/</u>
- Wearable
  - Example: <u>https://strapsco.com/wearable-tech-for-people-with-disability/</u>
- Video Task Analysis

# Accessibility allows us to tap into everyone's potential.

-Debra Ruh

# A Word from Jennifer Petersen

# Indicators an AT assessment is appropriate?

- Lack of reliable communication system
- Not able to generalize skill(s) from home/other environment without equipment
- Former use of technology in educational or vocational environment
- Change in disability
- Per DDS Technology Forward Initiative:
  - "Supportive Technology should be considered when authorizing services for a person with disabilities, before utilizing direct support professional services to assist a person in an area that they could potentially be self-sufficient with appropriate assistive technology."

## Department of Developmental Services:

https://www.mass.gov/supportive-technology

#### Supportive Technology Information about assistive technology and remote supports and monitoring Through the Technology Forward Initiative, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) will promote and develop the use of Supportive Technology as an opportunity for more inclusive and independent lives for people with disabilities. Supportive Technology is the use of Assistive Technology (AT) exclusively or in combination with Remote Supports & Monitoring (RSM) to support individuals to maximize their potential. What you need to know More on Remote Supports & More on Assistive Technology & Providers > Providers > Collapse all Additional Resources (8) -DDS Use of Technology that Monitors or Tracks Guidance 2022 > Technology Forward Report (July 2021) + DDS Technology Forward Initiative April 2021 (English, PPTX 1.93 MB) POF Supportive Technology Services Description (English, PDF 264.81 KB) PDF Remote Support and Monitoring Qualified Provider List (English, PDF 117.55 KB) PDE DDS Choosing Remote Supports Flyer Individual (English, PDF 220.22 KB) POF AT Qualified Provider List (English, PDF 171.74 KB) PDF DDS Supportive Technology Quick Reference Guide (English, PDF 606.94 KB)

## Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission:

https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mrc-il-assistive-technology-program



### Mass MATCH

https://www.massmatch.org/index.php



#### What's New? 🝣

visitors can shop for used equipment or advertise what they are no longer using.

The Weight and Seating Independence Project is now statewide!



#### **Event Calendar**

Browse upcoming events

**Get Inspired!** 

Keith Jones demonstrates his AT for work



#### MassMATCH Community Blog 🔝

Subscribe to Posts | View Blog

Posted: Monday, August 17, 2020, 3:11 pm Wheelchair User? PCA? Join Us to Learn about Skin Protection!

Three Upcoming Skin Protection and Pressure Mapping

## National Assistive Technology Resources

<u>ASKJan</u>

**Closing the Gap: Computer Technology in Special Education** 

and Rehabilitation

**Rehabilitation Engineering And Assistive Technology** 

Society Of North America (RESNA)

**Assistive Technology Industry Association** 

Northeast ADA Center

## MA Assistive Technology Resources

MassMATCH MRC AT-IL Program MA DESE AT Accessibility CAST DDS Learning AT Assessment and Resources DDS AT Services and Provider List Affordable Connectivity Program How to Apply for Discounted Communication Services

## **Remote Services Resources**

Using Technology to Provide Quality Remote Services	<ul> <li><u>https://covid19.communityinclusion.org/pdf/TO36_COVI</u></li> <li><u>D_F.pdf</u></li> </ul>
Person Centered Planning Template	<ul> <li>https://www.c-q-l.org/resources/guides/person- centered-plan-template/</li> </ul>
Career Planning Tools	<ul> <li>https://employmentfirstma.org/pages/quality- employment-practices.html#cp</li> <li>https://www.onetonline.org/</li> </ul>
Virtual Discovery Resources	<ul> <li>https://www.griffinhammis.com/wp- content/uploads/2020/04/GHA-Virtual-CE-Discovery- Service-Delivery-Guidance.pdf</li> <li>https://pathful.com/explore</li> </ul>
Video Resume Creation Tool	• <u>https://biteable.com/</u>
Advocacy	<ul> <li>http://selfadvocacyonline.org/</li> </ul>

## **ICI** Covid Publications

### https://covid19.communityinclusion.org/



## In Summary

For employment, the goal is to creatively utilize available technology resources to:

- teach and learn skills more efficiently
- rapidly increase independence and decrease reliance on support staff
- expand provision of services in terms of number and location of potential employees

# Thank you!

Survey:

https://umassboston.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\_6EhSwr bTG3273YG

Stick Around for Q & A Session (optional)