

## Co-Presenters:

**Vickay Gross:** Vickay is coordinator/advocate for Protection & Advocacy for Beneficiaries of Social Security Program. Her role is to assist beneficiaries of SSI and SSDI to address barriers to employment such as inadequate or inappropriate training and employment supports, transition for students with disabilities, reasonable accommodation in the workplace and education and training on work incentives and employment rights.

**Terry Peterson:** Terry is the Community Work Incentives Coordinator through Rehab Services, Inc. in Minot. Terry has a diverse work history with recent focus on creative work incentive usage for people with disabilities.

## Panel Members:

**Darcy Severson:** Darcy is an employment coordinator with Pride, Inc. She specializes in assisting people with disabilities to find a successful career path. Darcy was nominated and chosen as professional of the year by the ARC of Bismarck in 2006.

**Tom Schiwal:** Tom is the Director of Vocational Rehabilitation Consulting and Services for the Bismarck Region. Tom previously was a Vocational Rehabilitation Consultant for the Bismarck and Devils Lake Region.

**Jeannie Pedersen:** Jeannie is the Peer Program Coordinator with Dakota Center for Independent Living. Jeannie is a board member and long time advocate of the Bis-Man Transit

**Tom Alexander:** Tom is the Project Director on the Comprehensive Employment Services grant with NDCPD. He also is a current board member for the Association of Persons in Supported Employment.

North Dakota  
Developmental Disabilities  
Network

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# Employment Issues and Disability Summit

Sponsored by the



NORTH DAKOTA  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES NETWORK

May 20, 2009

9:00am-3:00pm, Central

*Best Western Doublewood Inn*

*Bismarck ND*



## About the Sponsor

This summit is the third in a series of summits sponsored by the North Dakota Developmental Disabilities Network (NDDDN). This network is a unique partnership serving individuals with developmental disabilities throughout ND who believe the American Dream belongs to everyone.

The network consists of 3 collaborative entities: The Protection and Advocacy Project (P&A); ND Center for Persons with Disabilities (NDCPD); and the ND State Council on Developmental Disabilities (NDSCDD). Together, they form a network striving to assure that individuals with developmental disabilities and their families participate in the design of and have access to culturally competent community services, individualized supports, and other forms of assistance that promote self-determination, independence, productivity and integration and inclusion in all facets of community life.



## About this Event

NDDDN will be hosting a series of multifaceted summits designed to achieve a wide range of outcomes. The ***Employment Issues and Disability Summit***, is the third in a series of monthly multifaceted summits. The expected outcomes will be to:

- provide a venue where persons with employment issues and disabilities can come together to discuss employment and disability issues and provide input on the challenges surrounding them.
- create a list of actionable tasks that may help to provide direction to NDDDN for future projects.
- gather insight on how members of NDDDN could possibly address these issues.

The NDDDN helps individuals with disabilities achieve increased independence and an excellent quality of life.

Ms. Vickay Gross and Mr. Terry Peterson are the co- keynote speakers. Ms. Gross will be discussing the Rehab Act while Mr. Peterson will discuss benefit planning

Panel members: Ms. Darcy Severson, Mr. Tom Schiwal, Jeannie Pedersen and Tom Alexander will discuss issues of employment and disability representing the agencies in attendance.

## Agenda

8:30	Registration
9:00	Welcome, Opening Remarks
9:15	Introductions, Agency Backgrounds, Purpose
10:10	Break
10:30	Co-Presenters: Vickay Gross & Terry Peterson/Q&A
11:30	Lunch (On Your Own)
1:00	“Topical Speed Dating”
1:50	Break
2:00	Panelists: Darcy Severson, Tom Schiwal, Jeannie Pedersen, Tom Alexander/Q&A
2:45	Topical “Top 3,” Wrap-Up, Thank you, Session Evaluation

## Who Should Attend

This summit is planned for individuals with disabilities, family members, employment service providers, Vocational Rehabilitation specialists, case managers, and anyone interested in employment issues for people with disabilities.

## Registration Process

There is no registration fee for this summit. A registration table will be located at the summit entrance. If you have questions, please call toll free 1-800-233-1737 and ask for Chad DeCoteau.

