



**Mission Statement:** To maximize career success for people with disabilities as the trusted resource network for regional business.

**Three Key Strategies:**

- 1) **Four Network Meetings a Year** - Southern Minnesota Disability Employment Network (SMDEN). These network meetings will provide an avenue for employers, job placement professionals, non-profit professionals, and educators to learn, partner, and collaborate together...all in an effort to grow competitive employment opportunities for people with disabilities and put all available skills to work.
  - a. **2019 SMDEN Dates:**
    - i. February 27 – Disability-Friendly Culture and Etiquette  
*Identify a performance expectation of success for all personnel*
    - ii. April 24 – Second Annual Reverse Job Fair  
*Tap into a diverse workforce of candidates ready to transition to work*
    - iii. June 26 – If We Knew Then What We Know Now: An Interactive Discussion on Discovering Talent  
*Visual Resumes, Job Shadowing, Internships, Career Pathways, and Accommodations*
    - iv. August 21 – Inclusive Job Descriptions: Attracting The Right Talent  
*Learn how to revise or create an inclusive job description*
  - b. All meetings are from: 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - c. Location: Wood Lake Meeting Center, 210 Wood Lake Drive SE, Rochester
- 2) **Annual Job and Resource Fair - Career Connections** is a career fair and education event. This event will allow employers, educators, job placement coaches, and applicants to connect face-to-face and discuss job opportunities. This event will take place in October 2019 with the program beginning at 9:00 a.m.
- 3) **Marketing** - The goal is to increase overall business engagement and build trusted resource content with MaxAbility. Using social media and email newsletters to connect employers with disability employment resources, our outreach will support hiring differently. Future plans include building a MaxAbility Ambassador tool-kit for employment professionals to interact with hiring managers and business owners and developing website content.

The MaxAbility mission is connected to the Minnesota Olmstead Plan: Embraces the Olmstead decision as a key component of achieving a Better Minnesota for all Minnesotans and strives to ensure that Minnesotans with disabilities will have the opportunity, both now and in the future, to live close to their families and friends, live more independently, engage in productive employment, and participate in community life. This includes:

- The opportunity and freedom for meaningful choice, self-determination, and increased quality of life through: opportunities for economic self-sufficiency and employment options, choices of living location and situation, and having supports needed to allow for these choices;
- Systemic change supports self-determination, through revised policies and practices across state government and the ongoing identification and development of opportunities beyond the choices available today;
- Readily available information about rights, options, risks, and benefits of these options, as well as the ability to revisit choices over time.

**To Join MaxAbility and/or a MaxAbility subcommittee, contact:**

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