

CREATING PATHWAYS TO CAREERS

In addition to the Academy’s robust vocational training program, we also partner with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to offer job placement services. But we are far from the only ones in town to offer job placement. This week, DVR held a Vendor Fair. This was an opportunity for local agencies that provide job placement to set up tables and meet with the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors; to explain what we do, and how we distinguish ourselves from other vendors.

Our Employment Director, Jodi-lee Weiss, attended. She had the opportunity to explain to the counselors that one thing that sets us apart from other vendors is the depth of our relationships with those whom we serve. At the Academy, once a member is ready for job placement, they have likely been volunteering with us for many months. This means that we have really gotten to know them. We’ve worked side by side in the teams on good days and not-so-good days. We see their strengths and know where we can help them to improve. We often know their families or other support system and can gain invaluable insight to create a plan for success.

In addition to meeting some of the newer counselors, Jodi-lee enjoyed meeting the other vendors and learning about their programs. Each program offered something a little bit different, but what we have in common: we are all committed to making a difference in the lives of people with disabilities.



Jodi-lee Weiss shares Academy information with counselors of DVR.

WELCOME Jason Sulimay



Jason Sulimay

Hi, My name is Jason Sulimay. I am a new member here at the Academy at Glengary. I have been a member of the program for three weeks, this being the third week. Before becoming a member at the Academy I was a member of many mental health and job transitional programs.

I developed a mental illness during my first part of college, the college being Tallahassee Community College. My problem being depression and mania before therapy, then after therapy, I felt better. Basically, I stopped partying in college and then I became very focused on attaining a College Degree. As a final result, I attained a Bachelor of Arts in Business with a focus in Spanish.

So far I have enjoyed my time here as a member of the Academy. I attend the program two days a week. I have been very busy during my time here. In the past I have lived in St. Petersburg but I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I have attended Tallahassee Community College, Hillsborough College, then St. Petersburg College. I finished school at University of South Florida.

BEING PROACTIVE



Breakfast Greeting: As part of our precautionary measures to reduce the spread of germs, we are sharing heart signs rather than handshakes.

Wellness

From peanut butter to flavored yogurt, added sugar can be found in the most unexpected products.

Did you know that a diet rich in added sugar may increase your risk for depression, cancer, obesity, type 2 diabetes and acne, just to name a few? And since many people rely on quick, processed foods for meals and snacks, it makes up a large proportion of their daily caloric intake.

Lisa Hillje was surprised to learn that there can be 12 teaspoons of sugar in some low-fat yogurts, that's more than eight teaspoons of sugar in a coke. Carolyn Robinson could not believe her eyes when 25 teaspoons of sugar were added into a large coffee to demonstrate how much sugar is in some of the most popular flavored beverages.



(left to right) Carolyn Robinson, Lori Wiest, Lisa Hillje, Isabelle DeMartine and Patty Haltinner.

NAMI IN THE HOUSE

This past week, the Academy opened its doors to the Sarasota-Manatee chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) for its annual meeting. This well attended meeting celebrated the resurgence of NAMI over the past several years. The vibrancy of a mental health system is often dependent on the strength of the local NAMI chapter. Our Sarasota-Manatee NAMI is growing by leaps and bounds, thanks to a dedicated Board of Directors, enthusiastic volunteers, competent staff, and the leadership of Executive Director, Colleen Thayer. Keep up the great work!



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UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday, March 16

Telephone Training - 8 a.m.

Tuesday, March 17

Tour Guide Training - 8 a.m.

Wednesday, March 18

Menu Planning - 11:45 a.m.

Wellness Wednesday - 3 p.m.

Thursday, March 19

Customer Service Training - 8 a.m.

Employment Workshop - 8:15 a.m.

Newsroom Meeting - 11:30 a.m.

Friday, March 20

Welcome Desk Training - 8 a.m.

ONGOING

Breakfast is served:

Monday-Thursday, from 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.

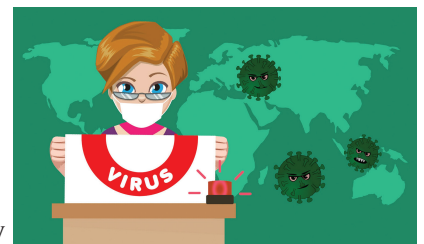
Friday Buffet, 8:45 a.m.



The Academy values our partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). NAMI provides support, education, awareness and advocacy to individuals with mental illness and their families. Learn more through their Peer to Peer and Family to Family classes. Visit namisarasotacounty.org for more.

SAFETY FIRST

Academy members and staff have banded together to face the challenges posed by COVID-19 concerns. We have ramped up efforts to ensure cleanliness in our facility while implementing strategies to protect ourselves and others. This pro-active approach has strengthened our sense of community and interdependence. We are stronger together.



By adopting a unified response to COVID-19, we have lessened anxieties at the Academy and decreased the likelihood that members will isolate at home. Social isolation, too often a consequence of mental health issues, can complicate the recovery process. Fortunately, attendance at the Academy remains high. We are taking the necessary precautionary measures to ensure that our doors remain open for members and staff.

