Employer Symposium Write up:

On October 20, 2011 the Disability Coalition of the Golden Crescent hosted its 5th annual Employer Symposium that was followed by a Job Fair the same day and in the same location for the first time. This year’s Symposium was titled Increasing Opportunities through Awareness and featured a Regional Health and Human Services Coordinator Isabel Segovia. Ms. Segovia was introduced by Jeremy Martin, Disability Coalition Treasurer and D.A.R.S. Division for Rehabilitative Services Area Manager, and was very energetic while she updated Employers about the Americans with Disabilities Act and the changes that were made in the American’s with Disabilities Act Amendments Act. After speaking Ms. Segovia fielded questions from the audience pertaining to when workers are covered by the ADA, and how to be sure your company is in compliance related to Employment of Individuals with Disabilities. One Question asked by a US Government Worker about the Federal Government’s Disability Employment Initiative and the difference between a “Targeted Disability List” and other Disabilities, but that was outside of the ADA or ADAA and would need to be answered by Federal Govt. Experts.

Following the Employer Symposium, Employers and Service Providers attended a Networking luncheon provided and prepared by the Disability Coalition. At the beginning lunch Jeremy Martin presented the first Disability Coalition Employment Award to Whataburger. Megan Tuttle, our Disability Coalition President, accepted the award in Whataburger’s absence and will be presenting it to them at their workplace. Special Thanks to Jeremy Martin for making the stew for the event, thanks to all the other Disability Coalition members who brought other items for the Symposium.

After the Networking Luncheon, a Job Fair targeting Individuals with Disabilities was held since the employers had just been prepared. There were 14 total Job Seekers that were a mixture of students, walk-ins, and others with disabilities that were currently looking for employment. The Employers who were present at this first Job Fair were Citizen’s Medical Center, DeTar Hospital, the City of Victoria, Spherion Inc., Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent, the Gulf Bend Center, U.S.D.A. Rural Development, Dept. of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services- Div. for Blind Services, Disabled American Veterans, and Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission.

Total Attendance: 45: 14 Job Seekers at Job Fair, 31 Employers and Service Providers for Employer Symposium, lunch, and Job Fair