
Assistant Commissioner for the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services Named Rehabilitation Partner of the Year

Washington, D.C. – Joe Ashley, Assistant Commissioner for the Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (DRS) was honored by ServiceSource at its 24th Annual Service Excellence Awards Program held on Thursday, October 8, 2009 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC. Joe Ashley was named *Rehabilitation Partner of the Year* at the awards banquet, which was attended by more than 500 individuals including ServiceSource employees, community and government partners and friends and family.

Bruce Patterson, ServiceSource Chief Operating Officer, presented the award to Mr. Ashley in recognition of more than a decade of collaboration on and commitment to programs and services for Virginians with disabilities.

“We have had the good fortune to work with Joe for more than a decade, and we’ve always known him as the ‘idea guy,’” said Patterson. “He’s always got something cooking and when we don’t know how to quite put all the pieces together, we call Joe and he has an amazing ability to bring ideas and partners together to serve persons with disabilities; always in a unique and innovative way.”

Some of the numerous projects Joe Ashley has collaborated with ServiceSource on have included a Telecommuting Pilot in the 1990’s, where Ashley’s leadership helped to employ more than ten people with significant physical disabilities who were unable to leave their homes. Another strategic partnership resulted in thousands of Virginians with disabilities and their families receiving benefits from the vastly underutilized section 1619B of the social security act. An important component of this project was to allow people with disabilities to earn significant wages without impacting their benefits, such as healthcare.

In the past year, Ashley’s leadership helped secure continued funding for the Disability Program Navigator, which is a vital resource for hundreds of individuals with disabilities seeking employment in the local community. Additionally, Joe put together a program where employees in ServiceSource’s Precision Images Division work to scan documents for the DRS. This contract not only provides employment for employees of ServiceSource, but also allows DRS to reduce the size of their storage requirements, thereby enhancing efficiency.

ServiceSource is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization with a mission to provide individuals with disabilities an exceptional service delivery experience through innovative and valued employment, training, rehabilitation and support services. ServiceSource is part of the ServiceSource Network, comprised of four affiliate offices, covering nine states and the District of Columbia. Collectively, the ServiceSource Network employs more than 1,300 people with disabilities and serves more than 10,000.



Bruce Patterson (left) presents Joe Ashley with the Rehabilitation Partner of the Year Award