

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Community Services



PUBLIC SAFETY

"Ensuring a Safe
Harford"

EDUCATION

"Preparing Now,
Building for the Future"

EFFICIENCY IN GOVERNMENT

"Governing Smarter"

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

"Growing and Sustaining
Harford's Prosperity"

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

"Protecting Our
Environment"

QUALITY LIVING

"Safeguarding What is
Important to Harford
County Citizens"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 4, 2010

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TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING NOTICE

Invitation to the 21st Century Workplace How to setup a Telework Program

(Bel Air, Md) - - The next meeting of the Harford County Transportation Management Association (TMA) on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 am at the HEAT Center, Room 201, 1201 Technology Drive in Aberdeen for this informative seminar on how to set up a telework program, presented by The Telecommuting Advantage Group. The Maryland Department of Transportation, Telework Baltimore, Baltimore Metropolitan Council and Harford County Commuter Assistance is providing this free "nuts and bolts" seminar that will show businesses and agencies how to establish a telework program at their workplace.

Seminar attendees will receive free samples of policies, teleworker/employer agreements, teleworker assessments, and a workplace safety checklist; everything an employer would need to set-up a program. Come and find out how this seminar will help your organization reap the benefits of teleworking.

The TMA meeting is open and free to the public; **registration is required**. To register for this free seminar go to www.harfordcountymd.gov/services (Harford County Department of Community Services webpage) and click on "Telework Seminar: An Invitation to the 21st Century Workplace." Breakfast will be provided; please be sure to register by January 19, 2010 so that we have an accurate count.

"Teleworking" is the new buzzword that seems to be replacing the term telecommuting--what most people have called working from home or from remote locations. The concept of teleworking or telecommuting is also gaining a wider acceptance from employers and employees alike, according to a recent study released by the International Telework Association and Council (ITAC). The study concluded that telework can save employers money, provide workers more flexibility, and improve productivity.

(more)

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While the term telecommuting focuses almost exclusively on the commuting aspect, the term telework is a wider concept that includes distance learning, e-commerce, telemedicine, etc., with its focus on where and how we work in today's high-tech atmosphere, according to ITAC President John Edwards.

The ITAC nationwide survey found that telework options help employees to better manage their work and personal lives. The study also revealed that productivity is the same or higher for teleworkers and that working from home is an employment incentive.

According to the report, employers that encouraged telework saved nearly \$2,100 per teleworker per year in costs related to absenteeism. Surveyed employers also reported productivity gains of approximately \$1,850 for each teleworker per year.

"Telework is increasingly being recognized not as a luxury but as a necessary component of the evolving structure of modern work essential for helping employees to better balance work and home life," the report states. "The research findings suggest that substantial savings are realized by employers that facilitate telework."

Employers with a telework program in place find that there is a higher retention rate of their employees, a higher degree of loyalty, and up to a forty percent higher productivity level in work output. Cornell University Center for Advanced Human Resources Studies attribute this increase to more time spent doing actual work. Employees experience no commute time, fewer distractions, and demonstrate the willingness to work longer hours. More and more businesses are realizing these bottom-line benefits from a structured telework program.

Other telework advantages are more global. This practice can reduce the amount of pollution because of the lower number of vehicles travelling on the road as well as alleviate traffic congestion.

Join the Department of Community Services on Tuesday, January 26 for this free and informative seminar and walk away with the tools needed to start a telework program in your workplace.

Members of the Transportation Management Association are advocates for convenient, effective and efficient transportation system and transportation alternatives to meet the needs of Harford County citizens, businesses, and government. For more information, contact Pat Fielder, Rideshare Coordinator, at 410-638-3069.