TAKING CHARGE OF ADHD DURING THE JOB SEARCH

CAREER CHOICES
- Just as everyone else, some jobs may be more suited to you than others.
- Select a career path that is most appropriate for any ADHD-related challenges, and seek out accommodations.
- There is no prescriptive list of careers that are “best” for those with ADD.
- An ADHD friendly occupation can: Facilitate autonomy; provide for active engagement & movement; provide a variety of duties which allow creative contribution (Levine, 1995).

ENVIRONMENTAL DISTRACTIONS
- Reduce interruptions
  - Use headphones
  - Use a fan or white-noise machine
  - Don’t set up your email so that you are not notified whenever a new message arrives
  - Work on a clear surface
  - Turn off your internet connectivity when not necessary
  - Post a door sign saying “Busy”

INTERNAL DISTRACTIONS
- Creative realizations: Your “ah ha!” moments can divert you. Write it down instead.
- Intrusive realizations: You remember a forgotten task.
- Day-dreaming: Make your job search interesting, make connections.

IMPULSIVITY
- Making impulsive commitments: Don’t give an automatic “yes” to an employer. Say: “I’d like to work with you, but let me get back to you in a couple of days.”
- Impulsively promising more than you can deliver. Talk about your accomplishments, without over-promising on all aspects of the job.

HYPERFOCUSING
- By being in a state of intense focus
  - Cue yourself
  - Plan hyperfocused moments
  - Get to the boring stuff first

HYPERACTIVITY
- “Fidget” intentionally
  - Take brief exercise breaks
  - Do at least one half hour of aerobic daily.
  - Consider two part-time jobs to increase variety

NEED FOR STIMULATION
- Get assistance or training for your organization skills
  - Find work with a high degree of variety
  - Choose work with a minimum of paperwork

TIME MANAGEMENT
- Plan to arrive early
- Don’t give in to the “just-one-more-thing”, Write it down and act on it later.
- You need time to get ready before “it’s time to go”

MEMORY DIFFICULTIES
- Use your smartphone to record notes
- Don’t write notes on scraps of paper
- Take notes during meetings
- Avoid interruptions; close your door and send calls to voicemail
- Use a voice recorder
- Develop a reminder system on your phone for tasks or events.
- Use visual prompts like sticky notes

Reference