

Casey and Matt VR Transcript

Casey: Tell me about the whole situation with being hooked up with DVR. Why did you guys even get on the waiting list, what was your mom thinking?

Matt: Just because she wanted me, eventually we knew it would be good for me to get a job and start working and just to, just to get my life going from the hospitalizations and just being through all the, um, you know the rough time in my life so it would be good to, you know, just move forward.

Casey: and you've wanted a job for awhile....

Matt: yeah and a job that I'd enjoy doing, you know I could go to... you know it's easy to go to any Mcdonald's and get hired there but I wanted to go to, like a job where I wouldn't be...be awful, because I've had those jobs before where I'd go and I'd do that...you know the work that just... and then I usually end up just...you know... relapsing and it just never worked out so I'm just...um, now I am just trying to get a job that I like and will be enjoyable and stuff.

Casey: So part of it is you weren't stable before and now you are feeling more stable...

Matt: yeah...

Casey: after hospitalization, and part of it is you were working normal jobs and now you are looking for more of a career...

Matt: right, exactly....

Casey: Okay

Matt: More motivation.

Casey: Good, you have more motivation for that,

Matt: Yeah

Casey: Good.

Casey: So what things have you thought about potentially? As ideas for you, like good work environments, good experiences you've had, what jobs you've been interested in?

Matt: When I used to volunteer, or had an internship at the radio stations like Clear Channel and Citidel doing promotion work with them, umm, I just love music a lot and my um just getting in the radio station and starting from there and then working up 'til my dream job will be ultimately to be a program director or music director, selecting the songs that is played on the air at radio stations, so I would be pretty good at that.

Casey: So, the ultimate job for you is to be doing something with music like that...

Matt: yeah...

Casey: being involved with a programming piece...

Matt: mm hmm...

Casey: and you've actually had a job in that field before...

Matt: yeah...

Matt: Yeah, it was an internship kinda. I wasn't getting paid for it, but I was, I was going around setting up booths and setting up stands for businesses who'd pay for the station to come out and promote what they were selling and stuff like that.

Casey: and just getting exposed to that kind of career in general.

Matt: Yeah and just getting in there and then meeting people and networking and all that stuff....

Casey: So what were some of the things that worked out really well for you in that whole job experience, or volunteer experience?

Matt: I really liked going to places and the atmosphere of umm...like kinda I always liked kinda the backstage thing about things and getting tickets and handing tickets to your friends or being able to just....I liked the perks of being in the radio thing. I like being able to go to a show here, get tickets here, just be active all the time just go out and experience new things and ..uh...uh... and meeting people is fun talking to people, talking to people about music. um...All of that was fun so...

Casey: So there's part of it is you...just the music field in general, you have a calling to be involved in the music field, and there's part of it that you get to interact with people, you were able to help friends out and hook them up with you know different promotional things...

Matt: yeah....

Casey: and interact with the public too, and that's something you really like to do...

Matt: yeah, oh yeah, I love talking to people, yeah.

Casey: Those are two great skills.

Casey: Other things you really liked about that volunteer position.

Matt: Umm...I liked...I liked being a part of...I don't know, when I was a kid I always had, I always liked this thing about like, like the people that have the backstage passes or something, I don't know what it is, it seems kind of funny. The whole, like, setting stuff up and...it'd just kind of hard to describe but umm, I liked...I just loved the whole...it's kind of action, it's entertainment, it's fun listening to music, your talking to people, your at different places all the time, umm...

Casey: So, even being around the music scene, I mean like, with bands and even setting up for music events...

Matt: yeah...

Casey: And all the emotion of it, I mean there's a whole spectrum of things that you'd like to...that you really enjoy about being involved in kind of the music scene...

Matt: yeah...

Casey: Live performance like that....

Matt: yeah the whole thing...the whole thing.

Casey: So you've got a lot of options open to you. The one that is ideal for you, that you could see, is doing radio programming, to really set up the music play lists and all that.

Matt: Yeah, or even be getting into producing, record producing and listening to bands and saying "hey, you know, that band would make it to the top or be you know be good." Or being a scout or something for bands or producing, I don't know. It could just be huge. I would love to do that, I'd love to do that too.

Casey: This is great because you have so many ideas and so many options in such a really large field I mean it's entertainment, music is the area of entertainment that you really like, but there's a lot around production ...

Matt: mmm hmm....

Casey: and public relations, there's all sorts of things around that, that would interest you....

Casey: What were the things that weren't working as well in that volunteer position? What were some of the things that either made it a struggle for you or why it started to go downhill...

Matt: Umm, having to go to stations where you're doing music, you are doing a particular station with the music you don't really like to hear, cause you are sitting there

and listening to the radio station with a certain kind of music that you don't really enjoy or umm, I don't know it was I mean if...It was mainly two, like I...I would have kept doing it, but I just... I started kind of kind of...you know meds kind of quit working so I just kind of started decompensating and then kind of...the radio thing just kind of went away with it, yeah cause I couldn't really keep up with it so...

Casey: So one of the things that happens when you are working is you know that when your working your recovery program and really staying on top of your medication you're more successful...

Matt: Oh yeah...I can pretty much do anything...I mean I can...yeah...

Casey: So that is going to be important in whatever job your in. You really care about...

Matt: Yeah, oh yeah, that's number one.

Casey: Okay, awesome.

Casey: Was there anything else about that job that seemed to be a struggle or was it mostly around...

Matt: No, it was pretty, pretty, pretty easy going, pretty good, never really a problem. Maybe sometimes cold weather but other than that I mean you just dress warm. Everything was all, was all, it was all good. I liked it.

Casey: And you felt good about yourself while you were involved in that.

Matt: oh yeah...

Casey: and you could see yourself in that for a career...

Matt: mmm hmm...

Casey: if that's something that paid the bills and...

Matt: yeah...

Casey: be involved in that industry...

Matt: mmm hmm.....

....Break....

Casey: You've had your experiences with VR. It seems like it hasn't been incredibly helpful so far for you. I guess what I am wondering is what *would* be helpful for you if vocational rehabilitation services could help you, with either job placement with

education, any of that type of stuff what do you think would be most beneficial for what vocational rehabilitation has to offer?

Matt: Well probably job placement and educational.

Casey: What educational? When you talk about education...

Matt: Like college. Well, help, helping paying for school. That would be one thing. But job placement would probably be better if they, if they could go into a company where...you know and I'm not talking like Goodwill or something...like a job that'd be interesting for the person and they'd enjoy it. Instead of saying "well here's a list of 10 places" and it's loading stuff onto the back of a semi or something you know?

Casey: You want something that has value....

Matt: I want something that's going to be yeah entertaining for me. And so that's what I told them "radio stations" and ... and we did work with CareerPath Services and we are doing radio stations. But, DVR, yeah, if they could just get you in a place and ...I would just want to do... get in a job where it's...but I can see how its kind of difficult to do that too so.

Casey: So you see that there is some obstacles. For you, it like what you were talking about, if they were going to but in a job placement right now, if it had some cash flow to it that would be fine. If there was some cash flow to it.

Matt: Yeah and even if there was a volunteer job that was a fun enjoyable job that I liked. If they could get me in a radio...into a radio station that would be fine.

Casey: because in the role of voc. rehab what the ultimate goal is, is to put in resources into you, that you're going to be... going out and being successful for the rest of your life...

Matt: right...

Casey: so your not going to need to keep coming back to voc. rehab...

Matt: yeah....

Casey: so the thing that's most helpful is to find out what, if there is a few things that we are really going to focus on and be able to get from vocational rehabilitation services, if you could think about, boy if I could get this and I can get this ... I ... I'd cruise, I'd be doing fantastic with my life.

Matt: Help with getting into school...

Casey: okay...

Matt: umm, help with the job placement getting a volunteer position at a career that you have an interest in...that they could help through that so that you can get some on hands experience doing that...and just...you know that's basically all you really need to live life really is a career and ...you know...all the other stuff I think is...you know, I mean a house and that other stuff is a given right? So all that other stuff is career that's basically how people live...and pay the bills and stuff right?

Casey: and it's something they enjoy hopefully

Matt: Yeah, that's...yeah

Casey: So even if it was like loading boxes onto the back of a truck, if that was a short term goal to actually get you cash flow, but ultimately it was if we were going to get you into a school program that supported the whole broadcasting thing, like a degree in broadcasting...

Matt: yeah...

Casey: if those... if you could see those two things fitting together then...like immediate cash flow as long as there was a goal to get you enrolled and get you some education around being able to be... have a successful career in broadcasting

Matt: yeah...

Casey: Okay

Matt: Yeah, like I don't know how they would do that, like if they say, " Well, if you work at Goodwill then we'll pay for your schooling", well yeah then dude...

Casey: and you can see that as being beneficial....

Matt: yeah you know and it all comes down to like, numbers you know...well like how much money would you...cause I mean I could...you know...I can go to...I could probably go to a hotel and you know be like a valet or something and to me that's more enjoyable then loading stuff into... um ...Goodwill, like I've never liked doing bad work and I don't know...I enjoy...Working tough jobs brings like stress to me and like I end up smoking pot or something... or like doing manual, rigorous manual labor that I hate, it just...it causes like stress and I think it has something to do with my bipolar or something or it has something to do with something, because I haven't been able to make it work...

Casey: So, it sounds like there is kind of two things going on...there's part of it that...there is something about manual labor and being involved in that stuff that you know sets up triggers for you, but on the flip side what you've talked about is you function really well when you have a lot of social interaction...

Matt: yeah like if a job your getting paid to talk to people in the set up booths and to do that, I love that, that's fine, but doing work that I hate causes me stress and pain and it's just awful.

Casey: And it's almost like a trigger for relapse....

Matt: It's a trigger and it's bam, I'm gone I'm done.

Casey: Well that's a good thing to know.

Matt: Yeah, so that's why I just don't do that anymore. I just won't do it.

Casey: That's good, I mean that's fantastic, Matt, that you have figured that out, that you know that's a trigger and you don't even set yourself up in that, that's fantastic that you've figured that out.

Matt: Yeah

Casey: That's excellent

Matt: Yeah, oh yeah.

Casey: So the other major thing, aside from getting the cash flow, is we need to get you in a really good education program to get you towards being sustaining the rest of your life. I mean if you could get a degree in broadcast journalism or umm...

Matt: yeah...

Casey: if VR could help with that kind of process...

Matt: yeah...

Casey: then you could see that that would be a fantastic thing to get from work services.

Matt: umm hmm...oh yeah....