



New York Employment
Services System

NYESS Initiatives and OMH Employment/Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program Updates APSE 2023

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Topics we will cover today

- NYESS
- NYESS Initiatives
- NYESS Training Initiatives
 - Current
 - Future
- OMH Employment and Psych-Rehab Program Updates
- Mental Health
- Resources

Section One – NYESS/OMH



New York Employment Services System



Department of Labor



Office of Mental Health



Office for the Aging



Department of Health



Office for People with Developmental Disabilities



Commission for the Blind



Office of Addiction Services and Supports



New York State
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Knowledge > Skill > Opportunity



NYESS – What is it?

- ***NYESS is:***
 - *A statewide partnership*
 - *A collaborative employment services case management system*
 - *A Ticket-to-Work Administrative Employment Network*
 - *A primary employment Data Source*
- *NYESS is **not** just a data system, or an AEN for the TTW program: Our primary focus is as a **resource for all things related to employment***



NYESS – OMH and Employment

- OMH believes that **Employment *is* Recovery** and embraces the principles of Employment First
 - Employment First is a national systems-change framework centered on the premise that ***all*** individuals, including those individuals with the most significant disabilities, are capable of full participation in Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) and community life.

NYESS – OMH and Employment

- Employment is a social determinant of health
 - physical, mental, financial, meaningful activity, socialization, work ethic, self-worth, and overall improved quality of life
 - We know that employment is good for people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) but there is still social stigma and pervasive myths
- Unemployment for the SMI population means
 - poverty, social isolation, less recovery, and decreased quality of life and negative health outcomes



NYESS – OMH and Employment

- The ***OMH Employment Plan*** seeks to improve employment and quality of life outcomes for OMH service recipients through a multi-faceted approach that includes:
 - Normalizing the employment conversation for all OMH service providers
 - Equipping everyone from leadership to program staff with the language, tools, and practices needed to make employment a standard focus in the recovery journey
 - Identifying and supporting Peer Workforce

Section Two - NYESS Initiatives

Work Incentive Network (WIN)

NYESS Work Incentive Network

- NYESS recognized that there is a gap of Benefits Advisors throughout the state of New York
- Because of the *NEED* we created the Work Incentive Network (WIN)
- It is a directory of Certified Work Incentive Practitioners (Benefits Advisors) across the state
- Available on our website: NYESS.NY.GOV

NYESS Work Incentive Network

- NYESS Work Incentives Network
 - A Directory of Certified Benefits Advisors across the state of New York
 - To join our Network
 - Must be a certified benefits advisor
 - Willing to provide benefits advisement services
 - Complete this online form
https://employment1st.com/WIN/NYESS_WINS_Data_Sheet.html
 - To find a Benefits Advisor near you
 - <https://WWW.NYESS.ny.gov>
 - Select: **Benefits Advisors**

Work Incentive Network

- Continuing Education Units
 - Beginning January 2024, NYESS will provide CEUs for WIN members, at no cost, on a quarterly basis
 - Potential topics
 - Ethics
 - Benefits 101
 - Financial Management



Regional Employment Liaisons



Regional Employment Liaisons

- Regional Employment Liaisons – PROS Programs
 - Training
 - Ticket-to-Work
 - Benefits 101
 - Employment 101
 - NYESS Master Training
 - Activities Training
 - WINR Training
 - Day-to-Day application of IPS model
 - NYESS as a collaborative resources for all-things employment
 - Data Fidelity
 - Benefits Advisement both for *Need-to-Know* and more advanced
 - Facilitating and coaching the mechanisms and value of VR relationship
 - Facilitating and coaching the mechanisms and value of DOL/DRC Relationship



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NYESS TTW Restructure

NYESS TTW Restructure

- After ten years of operating one of the largest Administrative Employment Networks (AENs) in the country, it has become apparent that better oversight of the Individual Work Plans (IWPs) for the TTW program is imperative
- NYESS has made some internal procedural changes to operationalize the TTW program within our AEN
- These procedural changes were put in place on 8/1/23
- NYESS will review all IWPs, and the frequency of activity – per SSA TTW policy and procedures



New Activity Types

New Activity Types

- We have recently added Activities for specific program types:
 - NYESS Non-Program Specific
 - NYESS PROS
 - NYESS SAFEP (State Aid Funded Employment Programs)
 - Assisted Competitive Employment (ACE)
 - Affirmative Business/Industry (ABI)
 - Ongoing Integrated Supported Employment (OISE)
 - Transition Business Model (TBM)
 - Transitional Employment Placement (TEP)
 - Work Programs (WP)

New Activity Types

- **All** of the activities within each activity type are the same, the difference is the **Activity Folder** for each **Program Type**
- When adding Activities, please select the most appropriate Activities Folder – based on your program type
 - If you are operating a PROS program, please use the NYESS PROS Activity folder
 - If you are operating a SAFEP program, please use the NYESS SAFEP Activity folder
 - All others please use the NYESS Non-Program Specific Activity folder



Employment Resources

Employment Resources

- NYESS has created two locations for Employment Resources, please check them out:
- ***NYESS Menu***
 - WWW.NYESS.NY.GOV
 - ***Learning Center***
 - Annual Required Trainings
 - General NYESS Resources
 - TTW documents



Employment Resources

- ***NYESS YouTube Channel*** – Recorded Trainings:
 - Activity Training - [NYESS Activities - YouTube](#)
 - Benefits 101 - [NYESS Benefits 101 - YouTube](#)
 - SSDI Benefits - [NYESS SSDI Benefits - YouTube](#)
 - SSI Benefits - [NYESS SSI Benefits - YouTube](#)

Section Three – Overview of Training Initiatives



Current Training Initiatives

Current Training Initiatives

- Employment 101
 - Topics include how to start employment conversations, develop a work ethic, employment as a social determinant of health, working while on public benefits, benefits advisement, and benefits basics (SSI, SSDI, & Healthcare)
 - ACT Teams
 - Young Adult & Adult
 - OMH Housing
 - State Operations
 - Youth, Young Adult & Adult
 - CORE
 - PROS

Training Initiatives

- 2nd Annual DREAM Symposium
 - Benefits: Myths & Facts
- Eleversity – OPWDD staff
 - Ongoing Quarterly training on Benefits
- Benefits and Financial Management
 - PROS programs

Training Initiatives

- This year OMH collaborated with Cornell University to train 250 new Certified Work Incentive Practitioners, statewide
- NYESS has coordinated this process and 180 individuals have attended this training
 - The last cohort session is finishing this month



Training Initiatives

- NYESS is working with the ACT Institute to create a Benefits 101 training to be recorded and placed on their website, and made available to ACT Teams



NYESS Standard Trainings

- NYESS Master Training
- Activity Training
- Ticket-to-Work
- Benefits 101
- Work Incentives Navigator & Reports (WINR) Training
- SCION Specific Training
- Employment 101 Training

NYESS Training Requests

- We offer several training topics on a regular basis, either monthly, quarterly, or by request
- You can find the upcoming training dates on the **NYESS Menu**, under **Notifications**
- If your program is interested in any of the previously mentioned trainings, please reach out to NYESS and we can add you and/or your staff to an existing training, or set-up a training specifically for your staff

Future Training Initiatives

Future Training Initiatives

- NYESS will provide *CEUs* for Certified Work Incentive Practitioners (Benefits Advisors) who are members of the ***NYESS Work Incentive Network (WIN)***
- Through the *ASPIRE Grant* – NYESS will provide Individual Placement & Support (IPS) training for
 - DOL Disability Resource Coordinators (DRCs)
 - DOL Career Center Staff
 - ACCES-VR - Vocational Rehabilitation Counselors

Future Training Initiatives

- Employment 101
 - Clinic – Using a systems change perspective, helping our current system move toward a recovery model
- NYESS (OMH) has applied for the TTI Grant through SAMSHA
 - This grant is expected to focus on Young Adults and Transitioned-Aged Youth
 - NYESS plans to train 500 staff on these five domain areas: Disability Awareness, Employment 101, IPS, Essential OMH Programs, and 988/Crisis as they relate to this population

Section Four – OMH Employment and Psychiatric Rehabilitation Updates



OMH Updates

OMH Updates

- In 2022, the OMH budget included \$2.8M, and in 2023 an additional \$12M was added to support the implementation of **IPS** for OMH programs:
 - Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS)
 - Community Oriented Recovery & Empowerment (CORE)
 - Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
 - Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC)

OMH Updates

- Individual Placement and Support (IPS) is an evidenced-based model of supported employment for people with SMI and shows promising outcomes for co-occurring disorders for substance use
 - OMH works with Columbia University's Center for Practice Innovation (CPI) to train and assist our workforce

OMH Updates

- OMH is raising the expectations and the assistance for all support programs, not just those directly providing employment, to understand the employment conversation and help our folks achieve better outcomes
 - The focus is on *OMH Programs: **Clinic, Treatment, and Housing***
 - Improved outcomes will not come down to a specific model but will be driven by holistic systems improvement and embracing employment as a primary outcome!

OMH Collaborations

OMH Updates

- OMH Collaboration
 - OMH NYESS
 - Ticket-to-Work, Training and Technical Assistance on all employment-related subjects
 - Created the Work Incentives Network to make it easier for people with disabilities and their families to find benefits advisement supports
 - Created Employment 101 trainings for specific OMH Programs: PROS, ACT, CORE, Housing, State Operations

OMH Updates

- OMH Collaboration (Cont'd)
 - Office of the Chief Disability Officer (Kim Hill)
 - Working side-by-side daily on multiple fronts:
 - Employment First
 - State of New York as a Model Employer
 - The DREAM Symposium
 - MISCC (Most Integrated Setting Coordinating Council)

OMH Updates

- OMH Collaboration (Cont'd)
 - NYS Dept. of Labor (2023)
 - OMH is investing \$1M annually to support the DOL led NY Systems Change and Innovative Opportunities Network (**SCION**)
 - SCION supports Disability Resource Coordinators in Career Centers and One-Stops throughout the state
 - DRCs are essential connectors to help people with disabilities to find essential supports and are supported by NYS DOL and NYS OMH NYESS teams
 - The OMH NYESS team will provide training to all Career Center and One-Stop staff on how to support people with disabilities

OMH Updates

- Collaboration (Cont'd)
 - NYS ACCES-VR
 - NY Advancing State Policy for Recovery and Employment (ASPIRE) Federal Grant is a direct collaboration supporting multiply-marginalized Transition-Aged Youth and improving systems collaboration between VR and OMH
 - The goal is to help both the OMH and VR systems statewide to operate more efficiently together, and to better leverage each system. Collaboration is essential because none of this is happening in a vacuum

OMH Updates

- Collaboration (Cont'd)
 - NYS Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)
 - The OMH NYESS team designs and delivers training for OPWDD staff and providers - quarterly
 - NY National Expansion of Employment Opportunities Network (NEON) OMH is a lead partner working with OPWDD to establish foundational agreements pertaining to Employment First and operating practices

OMH Updates

- Collaboration (Cont'd)
- NYS Civil Service
 - NYESS is working with Commissioner Hogues and his team on 55B and DEI within the state workforce
 - Additional 500 55B Slots – total 1700

OMH Updates

- Collaboration (Cont'd)
- New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS) – Now known as Alliance for Rights & Recovery
 - In collaboration with NYAPRS – OMH currently has 72 staff participating in the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Academy Training



Section Five – Mental Health

Mental Health

- **988** is the new 3-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (NSPL) – now available Nationwide
 - Direct connection to caring support for anyone in mental health distress
 - Thoughts of Suicide, Substance Use Crisis, or Emotional Distress
 - Call or Text 988 to access a Crisis Counselor
 - Select #2 for Spanish
 - Interpreters are available in over 150 languages
 - Access 988 via Chat – visit 988lifeline.org/chat

Mental Health Resources

- Mental Health Needs Assessment
 - What type of Mental Health information do you need?
 - Training Needs
 - Resources
 - How can OMH help you?



Section Six – Resources



Resources

- Activity Definitions
 - <https://employment1st.com/TTW/NYESS-NPS-Countable-Activities.pdf>
 - <https://employment1st.com/TTW/NYESS-PROS-Countable-Activities.pdf>
 - <https://employment1st.com/TTW/NYESS-SAFEP-Countable-Activities.pdf>
- Job Seekers Guide
 - <https://employment1st.com/NYESS/Job-Seekers-Guide-for-Employment.pdf>



Resources

- SSA Benefits – Get the Facts!
 - <https://employment1st.com/NYESS/Get-the-Facts.pdf>
- Ticket-to-Work Fact Sheet
 - <https://employment1st.com/NYESS/TTW-Fact-Sheet.pdf>
- Americans with Disabilities Fact Sheet
 - <https://employment1st.com/NYESS/Americans-with-Disabilities-Act-Fact-Sheet.pdf>



NYESS or OMH Questions?

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