



**New York Employment
Services System**



**Office of
Mental Health**

APSE State-of-the-State 2023

Andy Sink

NYESS Director of Employment Policy

andy.sink@omh.ny.gov

(518) 474-3616

OMH Employment Plan

- Lack of employment is a **key social determinant of health**, as is poverty. Both lead to poor health outcomes. **Low employment rates are pervasive** for people with disabilities and the compounding effects are more significant than that of their non-disabled unemployed peers
- What will improve outcomes is the **weaving of employment principles** and practices into day-today service delivery in order to **de-mystify and normalize the employment conversation**
- *The OMH Employment Workplan 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*
 - *Implementing psychiatric rehabilitation principles, which align with Employment 1st Philosophy*

Investments in Employment Infrastructure

2022 Budget: \$2.8M Increase

- Investment in PROS programs to support a more robust IPS infrastructure
- Benefits and Financial management expertise
- Dedicated NYESS Regional Employment Liaisons to support full IPS implementation and connections to essential employment infrastructure

2023 Budget: \$12.9M Increase

- State Aid to support full IPS implementation for CORE, ACT and CCBHC providers
- Enhancing data systems to monitor and track employment outcomes by program type
- Improving partnerships with Disability Resource Coordinators and OMH rehab programs to engage underserved populations
- Increased training and technical assistance for all providers of IPS

Program Model Updates

- Broadly, all employment and rehabilitation programs have **increased funding and support to implement IPS principles and practices**; Training and technical assistance is provided by both the NYESS team and Columbia University's Center for Practice Innovation (CPI)
- The OMH Employment Plan and related initiatives are ***not limited to employment and rehabilitation programs***; Housing, Clinic, Inpatient and Outpatient programs are getting Employment 101 essential training and TA
- State Aid Funded Employment Programs (SAFEP) Guidance was issued in June 2023. OMH is working more closely with counties and state aid funded employment programs, including Assisted Competitive Employment and Ongoing Integrated Supported Employment. Rehab Services Unit has a new staff dedicated specifically to SAFEP
- OMH has invested new funding to support the implementation of IPS in Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) and Community Oriented Recovery and Empowerment (CORE) Psychosocial Rehabilitation, providing state aid to cover the cost of non-Medicaid reimbursement services
- We strengthened the PROS Employment Initiative with enhanced funding and updated program standards. All PROS programs are required to have a fulltime employment specialist and to offer IPS
- We have a website and mailbox dedicated to Supported Employment Services! You can reach us at EmploymentServices@omh.ny.gov.



Collaborations

- NY Advancing State Policy Integration for Recovery and Employment (ASPIRE): *Enhances collaboration between OMH and VR*
 - OMH led collaboration with NYSED ACCES-VR and NYS DOH
 - ASPIRE North: Malone VR District Office and Behavioral Health Services North PROS
 - ASPIRE Queens: Queens VR District Office and Zucker Hillside/Northwell PROS
 - Key Deliverables: Serve multiply marginalized transition-aged youth; Create tools for OMH and VR systems to support shared customers; Scale lessons learned from pilot areas statewide
- NY Systems Change and Inclusive Opportunities Network (SCION)
 - Disability Resource Coordinators (DRCs) in each Career Center/One Stop
 - OMH committing \$1M (~30%) beginning in 2024
 - NYESS will provide disability awareness training to all Career Center staff (not just DRCs) beginning in 2024
- Eleversity: NYESS has developed curriculum and is delivering quarterly Benefits 101 training in collaboration with OPWDD
- This is an abbreviated list!!! Lots of collaborative working going on in NY...

NYESS Work Incentives Network

- NYESS provides ongoing **Benefits 101** and related trainings/info for anyone interested
- Recognized need to make it **easier** for individuals and families **to find benefits advisement resources**
- We created a centralized **directory and locator map!**
- We're recruiting Certified Benefits Advisors from all partners: OMH, OPWDD, ILCs, DOL Career Centers, TTW Provider Affiliates...
- OMH just sponsored **180 benefits advisement certifications** through Cornell University!
- Interested in participating? Think you need more supports on the subject? Let us know!



Confused? Interested?

Let's Talk!

Andy Sink

Director of NYESS Employment Policy

Office of Mental Health

44 Holland Avenue, 6th Floor, Albany, New York 12229

(518) 474-3616 | andy.sink@omh.ny.gov

www.omh.ny.gov www.nyess.ny.gov