

DMHAS Supported Employment and Supported Education services in Connecticut

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WORK

- Supported Employment and Education Services are integral to the DMHAS' goal of offering a recovery-oriented system of care
- Employment Is Everyone's Business
- For many people, employment facilitates improvements in one's quality of life

Commissioner's Client Employment to Recovery Policy

Employment is inextricably linked to recovery. Employment and education cannot be separated from the DMHAS treatment system in planning, systems design, funding, monitoring and staffing.

DMHAS currently funds employment through 20 agencies statewide (26 teams). Agencies are providing Individual Placement and Support (IPS) services to individuals with mental health and/or substance use conditions



Employment Services

In addition, 3 agencies provide employment services to individuals who's primary diagnosis is people with Substance Use Disorders. These agencies find it helpful to follow the IPS model.

There are 5 agencies providing Mobile Employment Services for individuals with substance use disorders who live in transitional housing, i.e. shelters, or temporary housing. All of the 5 providers are also IPS providers

DMHAS Supported Employment Providers follow the Individual Placement and Support Model (IPS)

CT was one of the first states to follow the IPS model and to be an active participant in the IPS International Learning Community

- DMHAS continues to work closely with the IPS Center to implement the SAMHSA-endorsed **Evidence-based Supported Employment Practice (EBP)** for persons with mental health conditions to obtain employment
- The IPS Learning Collaborative assists Employment providers to learn about best practices internationally

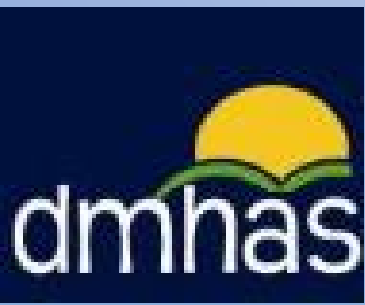
IPS INTERNATIONAL LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

The community includes 26 U.S. States, the District of Columbia, Alameda County (California), Broward County (Florida), and six countries/regions outside the U.S.: Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, New Zealand, England, and Montreal, Canada



IPS EVIDENCE-BASED SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

- ❑ The IPS model has the most demonstrated effectiveness in supporting the employment goals of adults with severe mental illness/addictions
- ❑ The model provides a road map for employment providers delivering services
- ❑ Individuals using IPS have better employment outcomes



IPS Principles

- **Zero Exclusion:** services to any person who wants to work
- Focuses on **Competitive Employment**
- **Rapid** Job Search
- **Individual preferences** guide decisions
- Targeted **Job Development**
- Individualized **long-term supports**
- Services are **Integrated** with mental health treatment teams
- **Benefits counseling** from a Certified Benefits Counselor



The importance of working together

Employment Is Everyone's Business!

We must all work together to educate people, let them know what opportunities are available and encourage people to try something even if s/he/they do not have the confidence to do so.

Supported Education Services

DMHAS funds 5 Supported Education Services statewide

Supported Education provides services which include but are not limited to: educational planning, assistance with admissions and financial aid processes, tours of post-secondary institutions, academic and career counseling, assistance in obtaining one's General Education Diploma (GED), coordination of tutorial services as well as connections to other academic resources, assistance with ADA in relation to academic settings, disclosure and comprehensive individualized educational plans.

Supported Education Services

Supported Education Services follow a model similar to the IPS model in that some of the agencies have physical space within the community colleges to be visible and assist students in accessing her/his/their support needs. Having shared space also allows the Supported Education Specialist to help other students who may be part of the DMHAS target population who may not know services exist.

Supported education partners with the American Job Centers to assist students with training and certificate programs s/he/they may be unaware of or need the encouragement to try.

Supported Education Services

Region 1 Laurel House - Stamford

Region 2: Fellowship Place - New Haven

Region 3: Reliance Health - Norwich

Region 4: Easter Seals Capitol Region and Eastern CT - Hartford

Region 5: Mental Health Association of CT – Waterbury

Listed on DMHAS website:

[SupportedEducationProviderspdf.pdf \(ct.gov\)](#)

Collaboration with Bureau of Rehabilitation Services and other partner agencies (American Job Centers)

The standard: Collaboration between Employment Specialists and BRS counselors consist of having frequent, regular meetings. The intent of these meetings is to discuss shared cases and potential referrals, as services from each agency are different and can compliment one another

DMHAS Employment providers and Supported Education providers work closely with partner agencies to assist individuals in accessing other needed services





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