

Employment for Individuals with a Mental Health Diagnosis

Guiding our thinking in how to shift from a medical model of treatment to a recovery model that includes employment as an integral part of wellness

VOICE: Visionary Opportunities to Increase Competitive Employment

A project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Disability Employment Policy

Data Highlights:

Individuals with mental health diagnosis served in DMHA and VR, and employment outcomes

- The Indiana Division of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHA) served 80,578 people between 7/1/2018 through 6/30/2019.
 - ✓ During this time, 20,688 individuals were competitively employed full or part time. (26%)
 - ✓ During this time, 58,747 individuals were **NOT employed**. (73%)
 - ✓ Note: Information for 1,143 individuals was not available. (1%)

- Indiana Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) data over a five-year period (2020 is a partial year).
 - ✓ The percentage of individuals with mental health diagnosis who exited VR services:
 - a) Rehabilitated/obtained employment = 24.24%
 - b) Other than rehabilitated (**did not obtain employment**) = 75.86%

- Nationally:
 - ✓ Two thirds of people with mental health diagnosis want to work, but only 15% are working.
 - ✓ Only 2% have access to employment services to help with employment.
 - ✓ Impact of employment on mental health outcomes and service costs (Gibbons & Salkever, 2019)
 - A longitudinal study of administrative data for 5,162 people with mental illness in public mental health system reflects that:
 - a) Employment had a small positive impact on mental health symptoms
 - b) Employment reduced total mental health services costs on average by \$538 in a six-month period.

There is a need to increase access to and achievement of employment for individuals with mental health diagnoses

