

Partnerships to Employment Conference

April 24, 2007

Employment Professional Track

Ex-offender Employment Strategies for Success Part of the statewide, offender reentry effort, the DOC and DLT developed several projects to address the employment needs of transitioning offenders. In this workshop, we will discuss the programs being implemented. An overview will be given by the DLT staff who provide the programs. The goal of the workshop is to begin a dialogue to build support for better collaboration, information sharing and cross-training regarding the many offenders who have not only criminal justice barriers to employment, but also have disability issues.

Terry Foley, *Department of Corrections*

Camille Vollaro & Anna Lickwar, *Department of Labor & Training*

9:15 - 10:15 AM

Survive and Thrive: Dealing with the Pressures and Stressors of Employment Services Employment Services is a fulfilling profession. However, meeting consumer needs requires daily coping with a variety of pressures and demands. This session is a forum to share information and ideas about dealing with the challenges and stresses of providing quality services. In an interactive and entertaining format, topics will include: healthy responses to stress; avoiding burnout; keeping a sense of humor; maintaining motivation; inexpensive and meaningful professional development strategies; and much more.

Melanie Jordan, *Institute for Community Inclusion / UMASS*

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Work Incentives That Work Using the latest Federal and State Work Incentives can help people with disabilities obtain and retain employment. Find out more about work incentives: Medicaid Buy-In, Ticket to Work, PASS Plan, Impairment Related Work Incentives, Trial Work Periods, etc. and how to access them and who can help you.

Dianne Kayala, *DHS*

Francis Cross, *SSA*

Elaina Goldstein, *RTI*

Roberta Green, *ORS*

Charles Messena

1:45 - 2:45 PM

Enhanced Job Retention for People with Psychiatric Disabilities through Readiness Development Job retention rates for people with psychiatric disabilities are very low. The sequence of obtaining, but then leaving jobs becomes demoralizing for both provider and consumer, and people find themselves in cycles of unemployment and underemployment. What is behind the low retention rate may often be assessed as motivational in nature, but may actually be more related to the person's readiness to choose, get and keep a job. This workshop will provide practitioners with the knowledge of specific, infrequently addressed factors that can greatly enhance work choices and, ultimately, improve job retention.

Debbie Nicoletlis, *BU Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation*

Lyn Legere, *Bay Cove Human Services*

3:00 - 4:00 PM