

Supported Employment

Gray Matters Behavioral Health Caucus

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GAPSE

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What is Supported Employment?

Supported Employment (SE) is an evidence-based practice that promotes rehabilitation and return to mainstream employment for individuals with mental health disabilities.

Evidenced-based practices for supported employment are based on the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Model.

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Community Services

Georgia must enhance, expand, and focus on community-based services to allow recovery to occur in an individual's natural environment.

These services:

- Save resources (money and time)
- Are more respectful of the person
- Focus on wellness rather than illness
- Are staffed by people more likely to be knowledgeable about other area providers.

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Employment First

- Employment as an expected outcome for each individual who wants to work needs to be central to their recovery and resiliency plan.
- Begin with the end in mind, the end being the person served returning to or becoming a productive, contributing member of their community. *Assume Employability.*
- Restoration of Supported Employment dollars is essential to Employment First objectives. In 2008, 2,241 people were served in SE. The current number is at or below 550.

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Develop A Vision and A Plan

A purposeful life for every Georgian.....

- Jobs are essential for *everyone*, not just people without disabilities.
- Increasing access to community-based services is the key to turning around the current system. Employment opens doors to the community.
- Allowing and encouraging input from individuals, providers, and family members at the community level increases communication and respect.

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Work WORKS!

People want the ability to choose work as a recovery option.

- The GMHCN lists work as a top priority.
- Providers of SE currently have very long wait-lists for services. Many people see possible employment as hope. Hope should not be put "on hold."
- "I feel normal, like everyone else, because I work and have people who know me as a fellow employee, not as a person who has a big problem." ---SE participant

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“ Mr. Handy:
A Supported
Employment
Success Story”



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Community Mental Health
& Supported Employment:
MAKES \$ENSE FOR GEORGIA

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Community-based treatment works!!!

Support THE BUDGET
