

DISCUSSION ISSUES FOR WORKGROUPS

Issue 1 - overcoming the obstacles for those with a mental illness continuing to hold or retain employment

From all you have heard today, and from your previous knowledge and experience, what works against people with a mental illness holding/retaining employment? In other words, what are the conditions where a person with a mental illness has a greater probability of retaining employment?

- Structural?
- Legal?
- Financial?
- Cultural?
- Personal?

What strategies, tactics and actions are necessary to diminish these barriers?

Issue 2 – employer risks and incentives

From today and your previous experience, what risks, real or perceived, play a role in the decisions employers make regarding people with a mental illness?

What incentives/disincentives are necessary to create greater demand among employers?

- Financial?
- Recognition?
- Legal?

Issue 3 – Linkages between mental health services, employment service providers and employers

From what has been presented and your own knowledge, what could be done on a national, state, local level to better link:

- state funded mental health services
- vocational service providers
- employers

If a web-based facility to support the above was to be developed, what features would you want to see?

Issue 4 – Communications Strategy

What key messages and what form of communications exercise do you believe is necessary to create greater employer demand?

Issue 5 – overcoming the obstacles for those with a mental illness to participate in work

If access to employment is a key factor in our low rate of employment of people with a mental illness and from all you have heard today, and your previous knowledge and experience, what prevents people with a mental illness gaining employment?

- Structural?
- Legal – HR, OH&S, liability?
- Financial?
- Cultural?
- Personal?

What strategies, tactics and actions are necessary to diminish these barriers?