



Supported Employment Guidance for the Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI)

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The Addictions and Mental Health (AMH) Division together with consumers, Oregon's Mental Health Organizations (MHO), Community Mental Health Programs, providers and others have embarked on an ambitious initiative that will change the way adult mental health services are delivered in Oregon. The Adult Mental Health Initiative known as AMHI ("Aim-High") is designed to ensure that the right types of services are delivered at the right time to adults with mental illness.

Currently, too many Oregonians living with mental illness spend too much time in the wrong level of care and cannot access services that could help them become even more independent. AMHI is designed to provide more resources in the community to support individuals as they move toward successful independence.

For many, employment is integral in achieving and maintaining independence. Evidence-based Supported Employment¹ helps clients in community mental health services to become a part of the competitive labor market, and is nearly three times more effective than other vocational approaches (i.e. sheltered workshops) in helping people with mental illness to gain competitive employment. People who obtain competitive employment through evidence-based Supported Employment have increased income, improved self-esteem, improved quality of life, and reduced symptoms. Approximately half of those who enroll in evidence-based Supported Employment become steady workers and remain competitively employed a decade later². To this end, AMHI will support programs which provide evidence-based Supported Employment services to individuals in the AMHI targeted population.

Research, as well as experience within Oregon, shows that evidence-based Supported Employment programs can reach fidelity within 12 months. Agencies

¹ For more information about evidence-based Supported Employment please refer to:
<http://www.dartmouth.edu/~ips/>

² For references please refer to: <http://www.dartmouth.edu/~ips/page40/page97/page142/files/ips-policy-brief-2.pdf>

starting new evidence-based Supported Employment programs will be eligible for funding for 12 months in order to reach fidelity after which annual fidelity reviews will be required to continue with funding. Once an agency has met fidelity, it may also be eligible to utilize the Medicaid Supported Employment fee-for-service billing code.

AMH contracts with the Oregon Supported Employment Center for Excellence (OSECE) to provide assistance in start-up of new evidence-based Supported Employment programs as well as training, on-going technical assistance, and fidelity monitoring. OSECE will assist the MHOs develop an evidence-based Supported Employment implementation plan that is appropriate for the MHOs' service area and population. This may include regional programs and/or partnering with existing evidence-based Supported Employment providers.