



ILLINOIS EMPLOYMENT FIRST UPDATE 12/14/17

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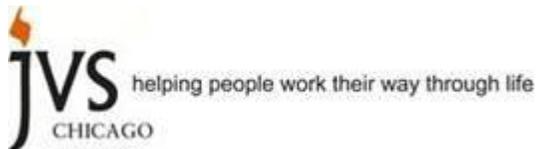
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1. FEATURED RESOURCE

- *[Ensuring Inclusive Holiday Gatherings](#)*

With the holiday season in full swing, many companies will be gathering employees to celebrate the year past and toast to success in the one ahead. In planning such parties – whether around the holidays or any time of year – it’s important to make sure ALL employees, including employees with disabilities, can join in the festivities. For helpful guidance on planning accessible, inclusive parties, the Mid-Atlantic Americans with Disabilities Act Center’s “Guide to Accessible Events and Meetings” offers tips that can assist with everything from venue selection to catering to food allergies and sensitivities. [Access the guide.](#)

2. COMMUNITY YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION PROGRAM SEEKS PARTICIPANTS-NORTHERN COOK COUNTY



JVS Chicago was awarded a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services for the Community Youth Employment Program (CYEP). Funding will allow JVS Chicago to support a minimum of 20 In-School youth with disabilities, ages 16-24, residing in northern Cook County, to secure and sustain employment and achieve higher education. Services will include case management, career planning and assessment, life skills, work readiness and employment retention strategies– all with the ultimate goal of part-time long term employment.

Please contact: 885-INFO-JVS or (312.957.4913 Video Phone) to access services. Space is limited.

3. WEBINARS

- **Webinar: 2017 - The Year in Review**

The NIDILRR-funded [Northeast ADA Regional Center](#) will host a webinar, [2017: The Year in Review](#), December 20th, 1-2pm ET. The center's technical assistance team will review notable events and developments related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and accessibility from the last year. They will also discuss pending Section 508 revised regulations, interesting court rulings, new informational materials from the Northeast ADA Regional Center, and other events. Registration is free and required.

- **BRSS TACS Sponsors "Gender-Responsive Approaches to Supporting Behavioral Health Recovery"** December 28, 2017, at 2 p.m. ET, [click here](#).

SAMHSA's BRSS TACS invites you to "a conversation with experts about gender-responsive approaches to supporting behavioral health recovery. Research suggests that the experience, prevalence, and trajectory of mental and substance use disorders differ between gender groups, as does the effectiveness of different forms of treatment. This event will include discussions of practical approaches to providing gender-responsive recovery supports such as frameworks and vocabulary for understanding the different dimensions of gender and how to engage different gender groups." To register for this free, 60-minute interactive virtual event, to be held December 28, 2017, at 2 p.m. ET, [click here](#).

- **Employment First State Leadership Mentoring Program
Community of Practice Monthly Webinar
January 10, 2018, 3:00-4:00 ET
<http://www.econsys.com/eflsm/copwebinar/>**

Theme: Provider Transformation Staffing

Topic: Staffing to Provide Competitive Integrated Employment

During this month's CoP webinar, participants will learn about strategies to recruit, train and retain staff that support the Employment First mission of the agency. Rick McAllister will discuss approaches to enhancing recruitment efforts. He will share a training paradigm that builds skills and supports retention with a focus on the value of competency based staff development.

Webinar Objectives

- Share strategies that will augment the recruitment process, and help us clarify our vision of which candidates can best support the Employment First mission.
- Provide a structure for staff training and development that facilitates the acquisition of skills needed to deliver competitive integrated employment services, and will also support effective retention efforts.
- Discuss staffing considerations as we shift from sheltered employment to competitive integrated employment. Discuss how these skill sets compare in very different positions–
- Provide a focus on using competency-based assessment from the initiation of recruitment through long-term retention.

Special Guest: Rick McAllister



Rick McAllister, M.Ed., has over 30 years of experience in consulting, training and the day-to-day managing of service-based organizations. He is a nationally recognized speaker on employment strategies, leadership, management, and designing creative and effective organizational structures. He has extensive experience providing technical assistance to private, federal, and state sponsored employment initiatives. Rick has a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's degree in applied behavioral analysis. He is the Managing Partner/EVP of Management Analytics Resource Collaborative, LLC, a consulting group based in New Hampshire.

Action Required: Seeking Input in Advance

We want to ensure that our speakers address your concerns. This is your opportunity to submit input in advance. Submit your questions or comments [here](#) no later than December 29, 2017.

- **CHTI to Host Free Webinar on “Engaging Elected Officials in Your Work”**

On January 17, 2018, at 9:30 a.m. ET, the Community Health Training Institute (CHTI) is offering a free 90-minute webinar on “Engaging Elected Official in Your Work: Tips, Tools, and Talking Points.” “Engaging a variety of people who can champion your work in places you may not be able to reach is an important strategy for implementing PSE (policy, systems, and environmental) change,” they write. “This webinar will explore why it is important to engage elected officials in the community work you do, and different strategies for how to engage them. The presenter will provide a brief overview of the structure of local governments, and strategies for preparing talking points that members of your coalition can use in phone calls, emails, or visits to elected officials.” For more information and to register, [click here](#).

- **Upcoming Webinar: Best Practices in Training Service Providers in Transition Competencies**

Date/Time: Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018, 10am – 11am PT, 1pm – 2pm ET

In this webinar, the [Pathways Transition Training Partnership](#) team will discuss outcomes of a study of online competency-based training for transition service providers. Two team leaders will share experiences of facilitating team-based learning. Presenters will also report preliminary findings of a national survey of transition service providers' training needs and preferences.

[Register for the webinar »](#)

- **Doors to Wellbeing to Host Free Webinar on “Self-Care for the Peer Specialist”**

On January 30, 2018, at 2 p.m. ET, Doors to Wellbeing will host a free webinar on “Self-Care for the Peer Specialist.” “Workshop participants will learn to define mental health and wellness for themselves, understand how their mental health and wellness affects their work as a peer specialist, and develop personal tools for improving and maintaining mental health and wellness.” For more information and to register, [click here](#).

ARCHIVED:

Navigating School and Work with a Serious Mental Health Condition

Kathryn Sabella, Laura Golden, & Emma Pici D'Ottavio

Description: This webinar described the educational and employment activities of young adults with SMHC and the successes and

challenges they encounter, including challenges due to their mental health conditions.

https://www.umassmed.edu/TransitionsRTC/publication/webinars/?utm_source=rtcUpdates%3A+Pathways+RTC+News&utm_campaign=902d35c086-2017_12_12-rtcUpdates&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_b18385e68b-902d35c086-244791545

Research-based Employment Supports for Youth with Chronic Mental Health Disabilities

October 8, 2015

Webcasts with VCU Center on Transition Innovations

Maryann Davis

4. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1. **The Pollination Project: Seed Grants** (*Rolling Application; \$1,000 for first-time grant applicants*) The Pollination Project provides funding to grassroots organizations that would likely not qualify for funding from other foundations or institutions to support new projects in funding areas such as Animal Rights & Welfare, Economic Empowerment, Environmental Sustainability, Health & Wellness, Human Rights & Dignity, Kindness & Generosity, Leadership Development, Schools & Education, and Youth. The Pollination Project is a vegan organization, and has restrictions concerning animal products and environmental sustainability.
2. **The Joyce Foundation**: (*Applications due April 11, 2018, Letter of Inquiry required 6-8 weeks prior to proposal deadline; No stated funding limitations*) The Joyce Foundation provides funding to non-profit organizations in the Great Lakes region engaged in public policy advocacy. Program areas include Culture, Democracy, Education, Employment, Environment, Gun Violence Prevention, and the Joint Fund for Education and Employment
3. **Chicago Foundation for Women: Spring 2018 Primary Cycle** (*Letter of Inquiry due 1/18/2018; No stated funding limitations*) The CFW supports nonprofit organizations within the Chicago metropolitan area that work to intentionally benefit women and girls in underserved communities. The Spring 2018 Primary Cycle is focused on Health and Freedom from Violence. The CFW requires that all funded organizations be accessible to persons with disabilities and inclusive and respectful of all expression of gender and/or sexuality.

4. Youth MOVE National Offering Dare to Dream Grants

Application Deadline: December 15, 2017

Youth MOVE National's Dare to Dream America program is accepting applications from youth (ages 13 to 25) or Youth MOVE Chapters to receive a grant up to \$2500 to implement projects that promote mental health awareness.

[Get more information »](#)

5. **Blowitz-Ridgeway Foundation**: (*Ongoing Application Deadline; Funding between \$10,000 - \$15,000*) The Foundation's funding focus is to 1.) Improve the health of the uninsured, underinsured and low-income metropolitan Chicago residents and the community through increased access to community-based preventive and primary health services, and 2.) Support housing programs and services that provide access to prevention, intervention, follow-up, supportive services, and employment training for individuals and families who are homeless

or at-risk of being homeless. **Grants will be made to organizations in the City of Chicago and the six collar counties (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will).**

6. The Kresge Foundation: Advancing Innovative, Multi-Sectoral Policy Solutions in Human Services: (Ongoing Application Deadline)

The Kresge Foundation is accepting project proposals from U.S. 501(c)(3) organizations in the field of human services to support efforts to change the way the human services sector operates through testing, disseminating and advocating for policy-driven approaches to improving social and economic mobility.

7. The Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC) is accepting applications for their second round of national self-advocacy fellowships (click here). The fellowship will provide a year-long opportunity for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to develop and grow their skills as leaders.

Fellows will work with a supporting host organization, which receives \$5,000 to pay the fellow during the fellowship period. Working on projects about six hours every week, fellows will produce a report or product that others can use after the conclusion of the project. Six fellows will be selected

The deadline for applying for the fellowship is 8 pm Eastern on December 31, 2017.

5. RESOURCES

• **Disclosing a Multiple Sclerosis Diagnosis at Work May Have Pros and Cons**

This week's [Research In Focus](#) explores the experiences of people with multiple sclerosis (MS) who chose to disclose or not to disclose their condition to employers and co-workers and the reasons behind those decisions.

• **People Living with Disabilities: Health Equity, Health Disparities, and Health Literacy**

The [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine](#) recently published a summary, [People Living with Disabilities: Health Equity, Health Disparities, and Health Literacy: Proceedings of a Workshop](#). The report summarizes presentations and discussions from a workshop held in June 2017, sponsored by the Roundtable on the Promotion of Health Equity and the Elimination of Health Disparities and the Roundtable on Health Literacy. The workshop was held to better understand how health literacy, health equity, and health disparities intersect for individuals living with disabilities.

This factsheet on [How to Get the Most Out of Health Care Visits](#) from the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Promoting Healthy Aging for Individuals with Long-Term Physical Disabilities may be helpful in planning the next doctor's appointment.

• **People with Disabilities Face Barriers to Employment, But Accommodations May Help**

People with disabilities may face many barriers to finding and keeping a job, but this week's [Research In Focus](#) finds workplace accommodations may make a difference.

• **A New Online Program May Help People with TBI Build Emotion Regulation Skills**

This week's [Research In Focus](#) looks at a new online program which may help people with traumatic brain injury (TBI) overcome challenges in recognizing and controlling their feelings and reactions to those feelings

- **Changes in Memory After Traumatic Brain Injury**

The NIDILRR-funded [Model Systems Knowledge Translation Center \(MSKTC\)](#) has released a hot topic module, [Changes in Memory After Traumatic Brain Injury \(TBI\)](#). This suite of resources contains videos, fact sheets, and a slideshow designed to help individuals with TBI and their families understand changes in memory after TBI. The videos feature both TBI survivors and clinical experts discussing some of the changes TBI survivors may experience. Additional resources offer strategies that can help people who experience these changes to function more effectively.

- **High Parental Expectations and Early Supports May Improve Employment Prospects for Youth with Deaf-Blindness**

This week's [Research In Focus](#) looks at the impact of experience and expectations for young job seekers who are deaf-blind.

- **Aging and IDD Research in Focus at Senate Hearing**

Tamar Heller, PhD, principal investigator of the NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Developmental Disabilities and Health](#) and co-principal investigator of the [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center \(RRTC\) on Family Support](#), gave testimony before a [US Senate Special Committee on Aging](#) hearing on [Working and Aging with Disabilities: From School to Retirement](#) on October 25th. Dr. Heller's testimony addressed several issues faced by older adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), including changes in health and health promotion, support for family caregivers, and retirement options. The full testimony and a video of the entire hearing are available from the Special Committee on Aging website.

- **If You Have a Criminal Record, There May Be Help to Clean the Slate**

"Forgiving and Forgetting in American Justice: A 50-State Guide to Expungement and Restoration of Rights," offered for free by Collateral Consequences Resource Center, "catalogs and analyzes the various provisions for relief from the collateral consequences of conviction that are now available in each state, including judicial record-sealing and certificates of relief, executive pardon, and administrative nondiscrimination statutes. The report's goal is to facilitate a national conversation about how those who have a criminal record can best regain their legal rights and social status." For the guide, [click here](#).

In addition, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, with funding support from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration and the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance, launched the Clean Slate Clearinghouse, which helps support juvenile and adult criminal record clearance around the country. For more information, [click here](#).

- **Career Mentoring Articles**

The recently-completed NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Employment Outcomes for Individuals who are Blind or Visually Impaired](#) has published two articles from its [Employment Mentoring Project for College Students Who Are Blind](#). *Career mentoring for college students: Insights from a program participant*, published in Braille Forum, highlights feedback from one program participant that may serve as a model for future transition success stories. *Role models and mentors help build employment success*, published in Future Reflections, provides further feedback from mentors, mentees, and a research and training associate from the center. Both articles are available free in full text

from the mentoring project website under Publications along with additional resources for mentoring programs.

- **Do You Want to Make a Difference? Try Writing an Op Ed**

A free resource from The Indivisible Project and The OpEd Project can help you get your message out through the media. “The OpEd Project’s mission is to increase the range of voices and quality of ideas we hear in the world, with a focus on increasing the number of underrepresented voices and thought leaders in influential public forums. The Indivisible Project’s mission is to equip locally led groups across the country with tools to hold their Members of Congress accountable...Our missions overlap. We both believe that the right voices speaking up at the right time can have a big impact on decision makers. And we both believe that our democracy is full of untapped expertise and potential.” For the free guide, [click here](#).

- **CMS Releases Standardized Screening Tool for Health-related Social Needs**

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has issued a 10-item screening tool to identify people’s social needs across five domains, according to an article in act.md. “Nine in 10 physicians serving low-income communities believe patients’ social needs are as important to address as their medical conditions,” the article notes. “But according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), screening for social needs is not yet standard clinical practice...The tool was created to support the [CMS Accountable Health Communities Model](#), which is currently testing how well universal social needs screening and enhanced clinical-community linkages can improve health outcomes and impact costs of care.” For the article, [click here](#). In a related story, *The Guardian* reports that “Britain’s most socially excluded groups are 10 times more likely to die early than the general population, according to analysis showing inequality is more pronounced than is documented. Its lead author said the disparity exposed ‘something toxic in our society.’” For the article, [click here](#).

- **CMCS Releases CAHPS Data on Experiences of Medicaid Enrollees with Disabilities**

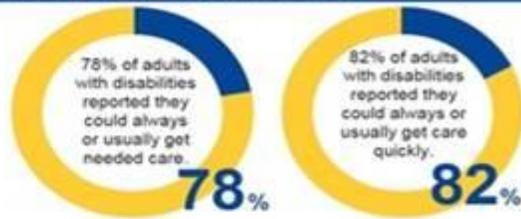
In the Fall of 2014, the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services (CMCS) conducted a Nationwide Adult Medicaid Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (CAHPS) survey of Medicaid enrollees to attain national and state-by-state measures of access, barriers to care, and experiences with care across delivery systems and major population subgroups.

The survey interviewed a representative sample of adults ages 18 and older enrolled in Medicaid between October 2013 through December 2013. This [first-of-its kind survey provides baseline information](#) on the experiences of low-income adults prior to a state’s expansion of coverage to the new adult group that took effect on January 1, 2014. These data will be used to inform federal and state efforts to improve health care delivery for Medicaid enrollees.

[Read CMCS' issue brief: Health Care Experiences of Adults with Disabilities Enrolled in Medicaid Only: Findings from a 2014-2015 Nationwide Survey of Medicaid Beneficiaries \(PDF\)](#).

HEALTH CARE EXPERIENCES OF ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES ENROLLED IN MEDICAID ONLY: FINDINGS FROM A NATIONAL SURVEY OF ADULT MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES, 2014-2015*

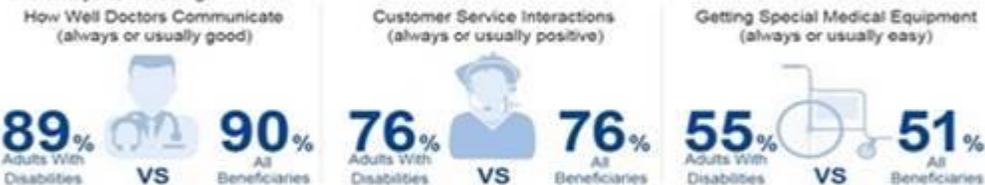
Approximately 8 in 10 adults with disabilities reported they could always or usually get needed care and reported they could always or usually get care quickly.



Two in 10 adults with disabilities reported they were not able to get needed care.



Despite experiencing greater health needs and more functional limitations, adults with disabilities reported **similar or slightly better** patient care experiences as all adult beneficiaries on most indicators examined in this analysis, including:



Experiences of care vary by state.

Higher performing states are those with the smallest share of adults with disabilities reporting problems on the following five indicators:

- Getting needed care
- Getting care quickly
- How well doctors communicate
- Customer service interactions
- Getting special medical equipment

State Performance on Five Experience of Care Indicators for Adults with Disabilities*



* Percent of adult beneficiaries with disabilities reporting "Never" and "Sometimes" in the lowest quartile for each indicator.

*About the Nationwide Adult Medicaid Survey: The 2014-2015 Nationwide Adult Medicaid Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (NAM CAHPS) survey, conducted by the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services sampled adult beneficiaries who were not residing in an institutional setting and were continuously enrolled in Medicaid from October 2013 through December 2013, prior to the state Medicaid expansions that occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2014. Forty six states and the District of Columbia participated in the 2014-2015 NAM CAHPS survey. Data collection occurred from December 2014 through July 2015. The overall response rate was 23.6%, with 272,879 beneficiaries completing the survey. Learn more about the NAM CAHPS survey at <https://www.medicare.gov/medicaid-quality-of-care/performance-measurement/adult-cahps/index.html>



[View this infographic as a PDF.](#)

6. MENTAL HEALTH FOCUSED RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

- **New Research Briefs Highlight Results of Surveys of Self-employed Individuals with Psychiatric Diagnoses**

The NIDILRR-funded project on [Self-Employment Starts with You](#) has published a series of research briefs highlighting the results of surveys of self-employed individuals with mental health conditions. "Characteristics of Businesses and Business Owners" describes the survey participants, their experiences with barriers to and supports for self-employment, and the types of businesses they run. "Being and Becoming Self-Employed" provides insight into the experience and challenges of self-employment, and strategies for overcoming the challenges and reclaiming employment. The third

brief, "Planning for the Future: Growth-Oriented Entrepreneurship," presents findings related to growing a business and planning for the future. More research and resources for entrepreneurship are available from www.ReclaimingEmployment.net.

More about the Self-Employment Starts with You Study

The [Self Employment Starts with You \(SESY\)](#) study used qualitative and survey data to understand self-employment by individuals with a psychiatric disability, and gain new insights to support current and aspiring business owners. This service user-led research study examined the experience of 60 current business owners who had received mental health services or disability benefits and accommodations, and are operating U.S.-based microenterprises...[Read more...](#)

Research Briefs in this Series

[#1: Characteristics of Businesses and Business Owners](#)

[#2: Being and Becoming Self-Employed](#)

Stay tuned for *#3: Planning for the Future: Growth-Oriented Entrepreneurship*
December 18th 2017

This study was funded by the National Institute on Disability,

Independent Living,  and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). You may contact Project Director Laysha Ostrow, PhD at contact@livelearninc.net with any questions.

- ***Full Disclosure: When Mental Health Professionals Reveal Their Mental Illness at Work***

"Results from a survey conducted by Temple University Collaborative associates suggest that mental health staff who have mental health issues and work as therapists, counselors, case managers, etc. (i.e., non-peer-specialist roles) report positive and supportive responses from their colleagues following disclosure," the TU Collaborative writes. "However, many also acknowledged their own fears of and/or experiences with workplace discrimination and a 'social distancing' of colleagues following disclosure or after requests for workplace accommodations. Take a look at this publication to review the survey results and see what policy, program, and practice initiatives you can implement to build even more welcoming work environments within our mental health community for all." To download the free eight-page publication, *Full Disclosure: When Mental Health Professionals Reveal Their Mental Illness at Work*, [click here](#).

- **An Array of Articles and Resources about the Criminal Justice System, in Which Many Individuals with Mental Health Conditions Are Incarcerated**

The criminal justice system—and, in some of the pieces, the connection between the criminal justice and mental health systems—was the focus of the following articles and resources. Most are recent; two are from 2015: “Improving Outcomes for People with Serious Mental Illness and Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders in Contact with the Criminal Justice System” ([click here](#)); “It’s Time to End Mass Incarceration” ([click here](#)); “Why We Should Stop Calling People Who Commit Crimes ‘Criminals’” ([click here](#)); “Criminalization of Poverty” from Harvard Law School ([click here](#)); “Let’s Make 2018 the Year to Step Up for Persons with Disabilities” ([click here](#)); “Our Prison Population Is Getting Older and Older” ([click here](#)); “Reaching Inside the Jails to Break the Cycle of Homeless Arrests” ([click here](#)); “Mental Health Advisory Board Report: A Blueprint for Change” (Los Angeles, 2015) ([click here](#)); “Paroling the Mind: A College Program Opens New Doors...” ([click here](#)); “Our Criminal Justice System Perpetuates Poverty” (2015) ([click here](#)); “Screening and Assessment of Co-occurring Disorders in the Justice System” ([click here](#)); and “Demographic Differences in Sentencing: An Update to the 2012 *Booker* Report” ([click here](#)).

Contributors to the above include @JudgeWren and @WaqarVick;

- **New and Revised Webpages on Trauma, Suicide Prevention, and Intimate Partner Violence Are Launched**

The SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions has launched new and revised webpages on trauma, suicide prevention, and intimate partner violence. “Each page is full of updated content and many of the best nationwide resources on these topics, tailored to behavioral health and primary care organizations. For the Trauma page, [click here](#). For the Suicide Prevention page, [click here](#). For the Intimate Partner Violence page, [click here](#). Questions? Email the Center for Integrated Health Solutions at Integration@TheNationalCouncil.org .

- **New Tip-Sheet: Understanding Neurobiology of Psychological Trauma**

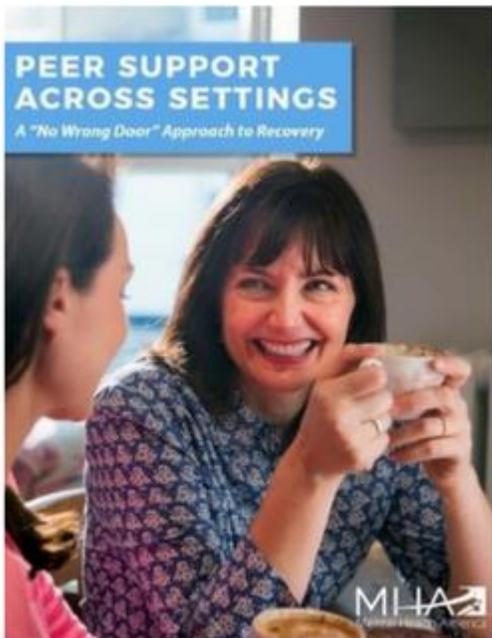
[Pathways Transition Training Partnership](#) developed a tip-sheet for service providers with introductory information on scientifically-informed findings about brain development and trauma, specific to transition age youth. This 8-page resource, available for free download from Pathways, includes a discussion of the impact of trauma on the brain and the combined effect of developmentally-based changes to the brain during adolescence. It provides additional context for understanding and recognizing trauma, as well as tips on trauma-informed engagement with young people. It also includes self-care recommendations for service providers who may experience vicarious trauma in the course of their work.

[Access the tip sheet »](#)

- **Beyond The Diagnosis: Story Telling Project**

This manual is designed to encourage the sharing of real stories of community participation. Inside, we include suggestions for organizing storytelling events and activities to help people develop stories based on their experiences. This manual can be used by consumers who want to develop their own stories. Or, it can be used by providers who want to assist consumers in their efforts to identify and describe the people, places, and things that are meaningful in their communities. (Click link to download the manual) http://tucollaborative.org/sdm_downloads/beyond-diagnosis-story-telling-project/

- **Peer Support Across Settings: A “No Wrong Door” Approach to Recovery**



People should have access to peer support wherever they are.

Learn the benefits of peers in:

- Primary Care;
- Outpatient Services;
- Peer-Run Respite;
- Emergency Departments;
- Inpatient Services; and
- Transitional Services

Our new toolkit Peer Support Across Settings: A “No Wrong Door” Approach to Recovery, has the talking points, research, and frameworks that can help you advocate for increased access to peer support and increased opportunities for yourself and the peer workforce.

[Click here to download the report.](#)

- **There's More to Young Adult Unemployment Than Mental Health: What Else to Look For**

The NIDILRR-funded [Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Learning and Working During the Transition to Adulthood \(Transitions RTC\)](#) has published a research brief, [There's More to Young Adult Unemployment Than Mental Health: What Else to Look For](#). The brief examines the high unemployment rates for young people with mental health conditions and investigates other barriers to employment besides disability. These barriers can include gender, race, education level, and community factors. This project is also supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

- **Free Booklet to Assist Young Adults with Mental Health Conditions on the Path to Employment**

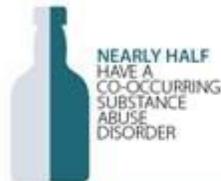
Transitions RTC has just published *Innovative Practices to Support Careers of Young Adults with Mental Health Conditions: Helping Youth on the Path to Employment*, a free 22-page booklet on providing career services to transition-age youth and young adults with serious mental health conditions. Transitions RTC writes: “Helping Youth on the Path to Employment (HYPE), a joint project with Rutgers University, is a career development intervention that aims to create a set of services that will help young adults with serious mental health conditions achieve their goals in work and school so as to gain competitive employment, enabling them to live meaningful and self-sufficient lives.” For the free booklet, [click here](#).

- **Mental Health America Ranks States’ Mental Health Systems**

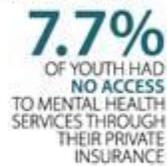
Mental Health America writes: “*The State of Mental Health in America 2018* report rankings are complete, and MHA policy staff is currently updating the MHA website with the final results.” In the meantime, the 2017 rankings and statistics are [available here](#).

MENTAL HEALTH FACTS

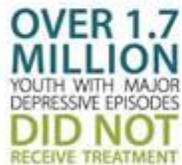
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE CONDITIONS ARE COMMON



MOST AMERICANS LACK ACCESS TO CARE



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH IS WORSENING AND ACCESS TO CARE IS LIMITED



THAT'S ENOUGH TO FILL EVERY MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL STADIUM ON THE EAST COAST TWICE



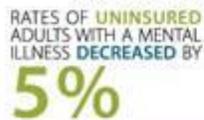
THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF PROVIDERS

IN ALABAMA, THERE'S ONLY **ONE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL** PER 1,260 PEOPLE



TO MEET THE NEED FOR MENTAL HEALTH CARE, PROVIDERS IN THE LOWEST RANKED STATES WOULD HAVE TO TREAT **SIX TIMES AS MANY PEOPLE** THAN PROVIDERS IN THE HIGHEST RANKED STATES

HEALTHCARE REFORM IS HELPING



SOURCE: [Noyes, Thomas et al. State of Mental Health in America 2014. Mental Health America. 2014. <http://www.mentalhealthamerica.net>](#)



- **“Mental Health and Wellness Through Civic Participation” Covers Importance of Community Involvement**

“Did you know if you are hospitalized you are still able to vote?” asks the Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion. “Missed out on the last election? Get prepared for the next one! Check out our new document: ‘Mental Health and Wellness Through Civic Participation.’” To download the free 20-page manual, [click here](#).

- **NASMHPD Compiles Information for Providers to Help Persons in Early Stages of Psychosis**

The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) has compiled a vast array of materials that include “descriptions and links to various clinician manuals, programmatic descriptions/guidelines, and other tools developed to support quality care for persons in early stages of psychosis.” For free access to the information, which includes a fact sheet on “Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Psychosis (CBTp),” information briefs on “First Episode Psychosis: Considerations for the Criminal Justice System” and on “Outreach for First Episode Psychosis,” and much more, [click here](#).

- **SAMHSA Publishes an Adult Mental Health Treatment Court Locator**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has created a map of all the adult mental health treatment courts in the U.S. To find a court in your area, [click here](#). For more information about mental health courts, [click here](#).

- **If You Have a Criminal Record, There May Be Help to Clean the Slate**

“Forgiving and Forgetting in American Justice: A 50-State Guide to Expungement and Restoration of Rights,” offered for free by Collateral Consequences Resource Center, “catalogs and analyzes the various provisions for relief from the collateral consequences of conviction that are now available in each state, including judicial record-sealing and certificates of relief, executive pardon, and administrative nondiscrimination statutes. The report’s goal is to facilitate a national conversation about how those who have a criminal record can best regain their legal rights and social status.” For the guide, [click here](#).

In addition, the Council of State Governments Justice Center, with funding support from the U.S. Department of Labor’s Employment and Training Administration and the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance, launched the Clean Slate Clearinghouse, which helps support juvenile and adult criminal record clearance around the country. For more information, [click here](#).

- **“The Challenge of Higher Education” Provides a Firsthand Perspective**

The Café TA Center has published a new *Focus*, entitled “The Challenge of Higher Education for Mental Health Consumers—A First Hand Perspective.” The Café TA Center writes, “In this issue of *Focus*, Paul Thornton, a consumer from Alabama, shares his own experience trying to find dedicated education funding for people with mental health conditions, discusses some of the potential sources of support, and proposes his own initiative to develop funding that specifically provides for the higher education of mental health consumers.” For the publication, [click here](#).

7. OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT/INPUT SOUGHT

- ***Educating Disabled Veterans and Employers Online Dialogue***

The U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy and Veterans’ Employment and Training Service, in coordination with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, are

currently hosting an online national dialogue on “Educating Disabled Veterans and Employers about Workplace Rights and Responsibilities.” Employers are encouraged to participate by submitting ideas, votes and comments to help inform future efforts to improve understanding about workplace protections for disabled veterans. Participation in the dialogue is open through Dec. 15. [Learn how to participate.](#)

- **ADA Needs Assessment Surveys**

The NIDILRR-funded [Northeast ADA Regional Center](#) is conducting three surveys to identify the information needs of older adults and members of the Hispanic/Latino community with disabilities with regard to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Data from these surveys will help the ADA National Network develop information products and outreach activities to support these groups in understanding their rights under the ADA and awareness of local services that offer support around disability. One survey is open to [adults age 60 or older with disabilities or ongoing health concerns](#), with a second survey open to [service providers who support these older adults](#). A third survey is open to [members of the Hispanic/Latino community with disabilities](#) and is available in English and Spanish.

- **Comment Opportunity: 2019 Medicare Policy and Technical Changes**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is seeking comments on a proposed Medicare rule that makes policy and technical changes to Medicare Advantage, Medicare Cost Plan, Medicare Fee-for-Service, the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs, and the PACE Program.

Comments can be submitted online thru January 16, 2018.

This proposed rule would:

- Revise the Medicare Advantage program (Part C) regulations and Prescription Drug Benefit program (Part D) regulations to implement certain provisions of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) and the 21st Century Cures Act;
- improve program quality, accessibility, and affordability
- improve the CMS customer experience;;
- address program integrity policies related to payments based on prescriber, provider and supplier status in Medicare Advantage, Medicare cost plan, Medicare Part D and the PACE programs;
- provide a proposed update to the official Medicare Part D electronic prescribing standards; and
- clarify program requirements and certain technical changes regarding treatment of Medicare Part A and Part B appeal rights related to premiums adjustments.

[View the federal register notice for the full text of the proposed rule, additional ways to submit comments, and a list of contacts who can provide more information on the proposed rule.](#)

- **SOLVING ILLINOIS’ OPIOID CRISIS – WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Illinois is experiencing the **deadliest drug crisis in our history**. Opioids are claiming more lives each day. Just last year, **nearly 1,900 people in Illinois died of overdoses**—almost twice the number of fatal car accidents. Beyond these deaths are the pain suffered by individuals, families, and communities.

The State of Illinois has been working tirelessly in the past year to solve our opioid crisis. Governor Rauner released the Opioid Action Plan and created the Opioid Overdose Prevention and Intervention Task Force, which is charged with implementing strategies that **will reduce projected opioid overdose deaths by one-third within the next three years**. The Illinois Department of Human Services/Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (IDHS/DASA) received federal funding for several projects that are

creating and providing resources to address the crisis, including the statewide helpline (1-833-2FINDHELP).

Solving Illinois' opioid crisis and saving lives means learning what the crisis looks like in every community. We need to hear from EVERYONE – families, first responders, law enforcement, teachers, coaches, faith leaders, people who are using opioids and people in recovery – about what's happening in your community and what you think we need to do to solve Illinois' opioid crisis.

Please take a moment to fill out this short, anonymous web survey created by Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP) and IDHS/DASA. Simply click on the link below to fill out the survey and tell us what you think we need to do solve the crisis and save lives.

[Illinois Opioid Crisis Community Survey](#)

To reach as many as people statewide as possible, **please share this email** with your family members, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. **Everyone** is welcome (and encouraged!) to fill out a survey.

The survey is available now through December 22nd. Survey results will be used to help to develop strategies to solve the Illinois' opioid crisis.

Questions? Please contact Sue Pickett at spickett@ahpnet.com or by phone at 312 376 1870.

8. EMPLOYER CORNER



Registration Now Open for 2018 Disability Equality Index (DEI)

The US Business Leadership Network (USBLN) and the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) have [opened registration for the 2018 Disability Equality Index \(DEI\)](#). The DEI is a corporate benchmarking tool that scores businesses' disability policies and practices on an objective scale from 0-100. In 2017, 110 corporations used the DEI to benchmark their efforts toward disability inclusion. The tool is offered annually and this year's registration deadline is January 12, 2018. Find more information [online here](#).

- **NAS Guidebook Addresses Airport Travel by People with Disabilities**

The [National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Transportation Research Board](#) has released a guidebook, [Enhancing Airport Wayfinding for Aging Travelers and Persons with Disabilities](#). The book provides guidance to help airport operators, airlines, and planners assist aging travelers and persons with disabilities to travel independently within airports using pedestrian wayfinding systems. The guidebook also includes a Wayfinding Accessibility Audit Checklist which can be used to document issues that should be considered in a baseline airport wayfinding accessibility audit, suggestions for apps and web-based information systems, and information on compliance with federal and international regulations and standards.

ASKEARN.ORG SPOTLIGHT



Apprenticeships

To grow and thrive in today's economy, employers in all industries need a highly skilled workforce. Now, more and more are discovering a proven strategy for building one: apprenticeship. In honor of National Apprenticeship Week, check out [Askearn.org's page on apprenticeships](#), which includes a video and other resources to help employers learn more about apprenticeship programs and how to ensure they're welcoming of the skills and talents of people with disabilities.

[READ MORE](#)

The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of the Illinois Department of Human Services.