Does Supported Employment Really Work?

- Supported Employment is an Evidence-Based practice.
- In 17 out of 17 randomized control trials in one study, Supported Employment had better competitive employment outcomes than the controls.
- Seventy percent of people with a psychiatric disability say that they WANT to work.
- People with mental illness can find and keep a job, achieve higher income levels, experience fewer symptoms, experience higher self-esteem and live more independently when they participate in Supported Employment.

(Research information provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation)


The Supported Employment Specialist Role:

- Helps to develop appropriate job matches for the consumer and the employer.
- Provides ongoing support as needed to the consumer and the employer.
- Helps educate employers about the needs of the employee and works with the employer to meet these needs.
- Provides skill-building to the employee to help increase employee retention and productivity.

Benefits for the Employer:

- Qualified, pre-screened applicants.
- Skill and strengths of the employees are matched according to the most appropriate and best-suited jobs prior to hiring.
- Can decrease advertising, hiring and training expenses for employer.
- Supported employment specialists are available to the employee and to the employer.
- Potential tax credits to the employer.

The Goal of the Program Is To:

Help Consumers Find the Jobs They Want at the Skill Levels They Need.

We help:

- Save businesses’ time, energy resources and money.
- Consumers find the job that is best suited to their needs, wants and dreams.
- Match consumers with suitable work.
- Provide necessary supports to consumers and employers, so that the employee can perform his/her job to the best of his/her abilities.
- Help consumers appreciate the value of obtaining employment and independence.

Seven Principles of Supported Employment

1. Eligibility for Supported Employment is based on the person’s interest in working.
2. Integration with recovery plans.
3. Competitive employment is the goal.
4. Job Searches begin as soon as the consumer expresses interest in working.
5. Ongoing support.
6. Supported Employment is individualized.
7. Supported Employment provides benefits counseling.