



Tennessee Statewide
**Wellness Through
Employment**
Conference

September 23-24, 2025
Embassy Suites by Hilton
Nashville South - Cool Springs

This project is funded under a Grant Contract with the State of Tennessee, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

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Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

BREAKOUT A3

**KEEPING THE MOMENTUM
GOING DESPITE A BUMPY ROAD:
Recognizing Mental Health's
Impact on Engagement**

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OPENING REMARKS
PANELIST INTRODUCTIONS

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Keeping the Momentum Going Despite a Bumpy Road: Recognizing Mental Health's Impact on Engagement

September 2025
ipsworks.org



Learning Objectives

- ▶ Learn about developmental, cultural and symptom-related factors that individuals with SMI face that can interfere with engagement in treatment and employment.
- ▶ Learn strategies for maintaining or increasing engagement with individuals enrolled in IPS.
- ▶ Learn ways to leverage the integrated team to enhance employment engagement.

Why employment matters

- ❖ Most people with diagnosable mental health conditions want to work
- ❖ Employment is a human and civil right
- ❖ Being productive = basic human need
- ❖ Work is a typical adult role in most societies
- ❖ Work is a key part of recovery
- ❖ Work can be a path out of poverty
- ❖ Work may prevent entry into public entitlement system
- ❖ Work contributes to better health and well-being

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Mentimeter



INTERACTIVE EXERCISE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO
CONNECT AND PARTICIPATE

<https://www.mentimeter.com/app/presentation/blbf2q9u8vgz4b3brrfgj71vwfh2zpft/edit?source=share-invite-modal>

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Exercise



How do you feel about seeing a
new health care provider?

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How do you feel about seeing a
new health care provider?

**AUDIENCE
FEEDBACK**

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Exercise



What keeps you going back?

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What keeps you going back?

AUDIENCE
FEEDBACK

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Why it matters

- ▶ The brain is a complex organ!
- ▶ Mental illnesses are diagnosed and treated by the set of symptoms that an individual exhibits.
- ▶ Co-occurring: Mental Health and Chronic Illness
- ▶ Co-morbidity

Why it matters

- ▶ Hereditary, environmental, and social factors
 - ▶ 40-60% shared genetic traits for people with mental health disorders like schizophrenia and substance use disorders
 - ▶ Vulnerable timing when brain is still developing in adolescence
 - ▶ Trauma
 - ▶ Cultural and symptom related factors

What can we do

- ▶ Mental Health 101
- ▶ Brain etiology is evolving
- ▶ Medication and other therapeutic techniques are not always the solution, nor will they eradicate all the symptoms
- ▶ MH language - decrease stigma, strength-based, and person centered.

What can we do

- ▶ Understand cultural factors, racism, and trauma
- ▶ Learn what is getting in the way of the person attending appointments
- ▶ Meet in the community
- ▶ Provide employment options that match the person's preferences

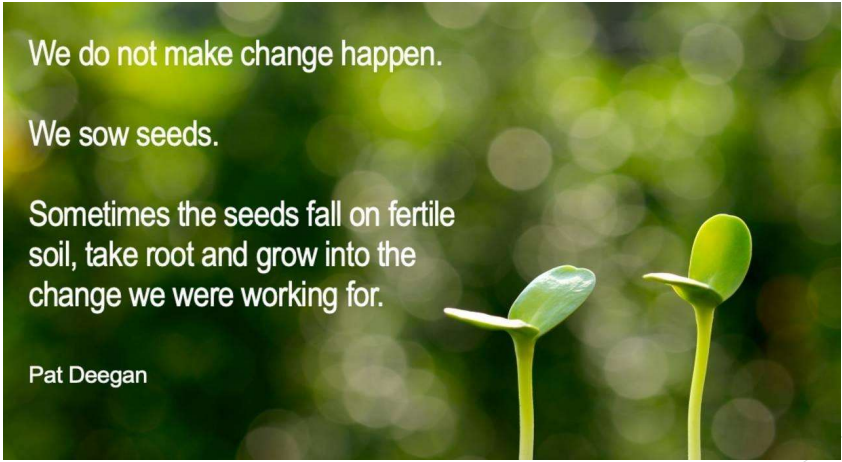
What can we do

- ▶ What does it look like for you when you feel _____?
- ▶ When you're having a really good day, what is happening/what are you experiencing?
- ▶ When you're having a hard day, what is happening/what are you experiencing?

What can we do

- ▶ What should I look out for to know things may not be going so well?
- ▶ If I were to stop hearing from you, what would be a good way for me to reach out?
- ▶ Who is someone in your life whom it would be ok to call if I stop hearing from you?

Our job is to bring HOPE



Leverage supports

- ▶ Integrated Team
- ▶ Family and natural supports
- ▶ Community networks

Let's brainstorm...

- ▶ Dignity of Risk
- ▶ Motivational Interviewing
- ▶ What else?

Summary:

Relationship

Engagement is a dynamic process and experience.

Strengths-based, hopefulness increases engagement and trust.

IPS is effective because coordinated care is:

- ❖ Client-centered
- ❖ Team-based
- ❖ Evidence-based
- ❖ Measurement-based



Resources and contact information:

Resources:

- IPSworks.org
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA)
<https://www.samhsa.gov/>
- Mental Health America <https://mhanational.org/>
- Askjan.org
- National Institute of Mental Health
<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness>

Contact Information

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*THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED
ADVOCACY IN HELPING PEOPLE
ACHIEVE RECOVERY THROUGH
EMPLOYMENT.*



Questions & Answers

In-Person Attendees . . .

Please raise your hand if you'd like to ask a question or share a comment. A Mic Runner will bring a wireless handheld microphone to you. Kindly speak directly into the mic so that everyone—including our virtual participants—can hear you clearly.

Virtual Attendees . . .

Please post your questions and comments in the Chat Box to the right of your viewing screen. Our Chat Box Monitor will relay them to the speakers and panelists for response during the session.



IMPORTANT NOTE FOR AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT | Virtual participants will not be able to hear any in-room dialogue unless it is spoken directly into a microphone. Please wait for a mic runner to deliver a wireless handheld microphone before speaking. Kindly direct your comment or question into the microphone to ensure it is heard clearly. Your support in fostering inclusive and effective communication is greatly appreciated by all—especially our virtual attendees.

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COMPLETE CONFERENCE
EVALUATION FORMS
AND THE REQUEST FOR
DOCUMENTATION OF
CEs EARNED

Up to 7.0 contact / clock
hours available for this event.

QUESTIONS?
Email: tamho@tamho.org

EVALUATIONS



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WTE2025Eval>

REQUEST FOR CE DOCUMENTATION



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WTE2025CE>

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