

Employment Works/Supported Employment Newsletter



Stewart, Hilltop, and Sandy Behavioral Health Centers
Clackamas County

April 2022

Paying it Forward

Robert enrolled in the SE Program in 2018, as a referral through the Adult Treatment Team. He began working with Employment Specialist Trina Taylor, who was able to assist him in getting his intake paperwork completed along with his Master Application, Vocational Profile, and Job Strategy Report.

When Robert first enrolled in the SE Program he suffered from anxiety and low self-esteem. He reported he was tired of being at home and sitting around on the couch playing video games with his sons. He said, "Now that my kids are growing up I really need to get back to work and be a good example for my sons." Robert expressed uncertainty about his job prospects as he had not worked for a while and he experienced much anxiety.



Robert

While exploring his career choices, Robert reported he used to install car alarms. However, since he hurt his knee and gained weight he could no longer install car alarms. ES speculated that since Robert had some knowledge of cars and was familiar with car parts he might enjoy working at an auto shop as a Shop Helper or at an Auto Parts Store. Robert agreed it might be a good career choice for him.

The SE Team was in the process of training a new ES and Robert transitioned to his new Employment Specialist Pam Harshberger, who assisted Robert in getting his work uniform and shoes from Vocational Rehabilitation. She also helped him in obtaining an interview and becoming employed with Auto Zone.

4 years later Robert is still employed and currently working as a Manager at Auto Zone. He still experiences anxiety and often becomes overwhelmed. However, with the help of SE, VR, and his treatment team he has learned to deal with his symptoms by taking his medications daily and continuing to work on his wellness tools for self-care. Robert states, "Although, I still have anxiety it is just not as pronounced." When

***"Now I am in a position
to give back!"***

asked would he recommend the Supported Employment Program to others he said, "Now that I am in a position to give back, I most definitely will not only recommend the SE Program to someone I am also willing to hire job candidates who are enrolled in Supported Employment."

Supported Education

Supported Education is coming to Health Centers Behavioral Health!

People engaged in behavioral health services on the Child and Family Team or the Community Support team who are interested in obtaining their GED, learning a trade, completing a certificate program, or pursuing a 2-year, 4-year, or graduate degree will be eligible for the Supported Education program!

Supported Education helps people diagnosed with mental illness participate in an education program so they may receive the education and training they need to achieve their learning and recovery goals and become gainfully employed in the job or career of their choice. A degree or certificate is a ticket to a career that can lead to a promising future free from a lifetime of involvement in the mental health system. Supported Education programs help consumers pursue their individual educational goals. Offered in tandem with Supported Employment, these programs help people develop a sense of self-efficacy and independence. Supported Education encourages people to think about and plan for their future. It provides an important step to help people use their innate talents and abilities to pursue their personal recovery goals. Supported Education promotes career development to improve long-term work opportunities.

Job Club

The job search process can leave even the most confident and experienced job candidate feeling alone, discouraged, or confused. Job club consists of fellow job seekers who work together to support each other during their job search process.

Whether you are looking for a first job, your next job, switching careers, or just dissatisfied with your current position, finding that dream job requires more than just applying for advertised job openings. A job seeker's ability to stay positive and motivated matters just as much as a résumé, cover letter, or interview. A job club can provide motivation and valuable resources.

Assistance filling out applications and forms, developing a résumé, practice interviewing, determining the kinds of jobs you may want, setting and reaching job goals, job leads, and support through the job process are all available in Job Club.

Led by Cindy Valenzuela and Madison Omohundro, Job Club is held every Thursday, 10:30—11:30 am, and is open to anyone enrolled in Clackamas County Behavioral Health services. Participants may attend by zoom or in-person. Please call 503.655.8401 or 503.655.8264 for information, to request a flyer, or obtain the zoom link. We look forward to supporting you reach your employment goals!

Employment Works / Supported Employment

Month	# Clients	% Employed
Jul 2021	3191	24.7%
Aug 2021	3215	24.8%
Sep 2021	3146	25.6%

Month	# Clients	% Employed
Oct 2021	3281	25.9%
Nov 2021	3266	26.3%
Dec 2021	3261	26.6%

Month	# Clients	% Employed
Jan 2022	3258	26.6%
Feb 2022	3117	26.3%
Mar 2022	3136	25.9%