

SMHP Council Employment Subcommittee
March 18, 2026

IN ATTENDANCE: Michael Stepanky; Val Comerford; Sarah Swart; Allyson Blanchette; Kathy Petkauskos; Vinnette McKay; Steve LaMaster; Jon Delman; Kim Anderson; Justin Brown; Maura (CCBC PACT).

1. Committee Reports (5 min) requested for April 2nd State MHPC meeting. Sarah will provide the update.
2. Old Business:
 - a. Check re: length of time required for posting of minutes: There is not a specific requirement re: number of months of minutes to be posted. Website has been updated with new minutes from the past year.
 - b. Welcome statement on website: Val sent Don a draft statement.
 - c. Jo Davis is retiring from MassAbility and can be taken off the Employment Subcommittee distribution list.
3. Gather existing survey results re: training need by 3/31/26.
 - a. **MBY surveys staff and partners (vendors, employers) re: training needs. Ally to ask Graham (MBY) if possible to isolate training needs for ACCS vendors specifically and provide to the Subcommittee.**
 - b. MBY staff in general seeking additional training on serving people with mental health conditions.
 - c. WWL (Work Without Limits) provides employer training on mental health (inc. neurodivergent) issues and benefits management, though there are requests for training on how to sign people up for benefits, which WWL does not offer.
 - d. Best practices exist within MBY for serving people with MH conditions. Interest in scaling these practices, inc. continuing to de-emphasize sobriety and being “symptom-free” before onset of services. Problems persist in pockets of the state, including the Southeast Area.
 - e. **Steve will ask subcommittee members if their auspice organizations have conducted training-need surveys and combine the results before the April subcommittee meeting.**
 - f. DMH has been able to offer supported employment in Clubhouses, PACT, and First-Episode Psychosis programs, i.e. services where supported employment is part of the service model. DMH has not been able to expand supported employment into services where it is not an intrinsic part of the model.
 - g. **Maura to ask if CCBC has collected employment training needs.**
 - h. To review Best Practices collected through the FY25 Focus Groups, to include in training needs summary.
 - i. Recommendation to provide recovery/rehab-based training as a foundation before supported employment training.
 - j. Goal to recommend training needs to full MH Planning Council and DMH Director of Training.

4. MassAbility RFR: focus on language access. RFR combines adult and young adult services. MBY is seeking additional DMH/Mental-Health affiliated agencies to apply. MBY payment structures may disincentive agencies to apply.
5. Observation that CIES providers have shifted away from ACCS Agencies.
6. Steve has drafted an initial calendar for review of employment data, inc:
 - a. Clubhouse: April, July, October, January
 - b. MBY: November, May
 - c. PACT: August, February
 - d. No Discussion or Other relevant programs as possible: December, March, June
7. Next Meeting
 - a. Review training need assessments collected
 - b. Begin development of training survey

~ Adjourn ~