

2026 International IPS Learning Community Annual Meeting Breakout Notes

State Mental Health Liaisons & State VR Liaisons

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Question 1: What are the Roadblocks to achieving greater success and IPS usage

- Lack of Funding which is often allocated for treatment over employment
 - o This results in us not being able to take on new Clients
- Allocation of Resources
 - o Clinicians vs. Employment – Clinicians always win out
- Employment is often not a part of service offerings
- Lack of Specialists and lack of clinicians who are trained and aware of IPS
- Requirements from VR
 - o Restrictive on the types of jobs you can search for and the pace at which you can search
- Agency Coordination
- Using a Waiver brings more bureaucracy that delays the efforts to find a job and decreased trust from the client
- Employment is not a priority compared to crisis and housing
- The “Benefits Cliff” that people are scared of
- Need for a Culture Shift, including support and resources from the top
- Increased Awareness
- Employment discouraged by those in the clinician field

Question 2, How do we Break those Barriers

- Lived Experience is useful for working with and getting through to people. This includes convincing other state agencies to collaborate
- How do we sell employment as a *benefit* to a profit minded provider
- MHBGs need to direct specifically for employment (do they already do that?)
- Increase Instances of Advocacy
- Employment as Recovery
 - o Stressing its status as a social determinate of health
- Increase Interagency buy-in for IPS
- Education on IPS for those aspiring to be MH professionals.

Question 3, How to Increase Interagency Collaboration

- Local Level Collaboration feeds itself up
- Interagency as a launching pad to bring in more agencies
- Align Service Definitions and outcomes
- Agreements need to be seen and treated as living and evolving documents
- Staffers/Expertise can move easily between agency/roles
- Education on IPS for VR/MH State Agencies

Question 4: How can NEON help?

- Improve the ability to track data and outcomes
- Help navigate the benefits/asset limitations
- Increase impact in other channels and with other groups.