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RETAIN REPORT

Retaining Employment
and Talent After
Injury/Illness Network



The RETAIN Report

February 2022

Welcome to the February 2022 issue of The RETAIN Report – the internal e-newsletter for awardees of the Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN) Initiative. Please feel free to share this subscription link with other RETAIN team members as appropriate.

Please Note: Several of the links in this newsletter take you to resources housed in the RETAIN Online Community (ROC). If you do not have access to the ROC and are a member of a state grantee team, please visit [RETAINTA.org](https://www.retainta.org) and click "Request an Account" in the right-hand sidebar.



Coming Soon: Success Stories

We want to thank states for their contributions and assistance in developing the first of many Phase 2 Success Stories. These stories highlight the achievements of each state and provide insight into their work in advancing the RETAIN program. Stories will share the following experiences:

- **Ohio:** Ohio RETAIN used survey responses from health care providers to develop a refresher course that improved their training content. This reinforces providers' ability to identify patients who would benefit from RETAIN and helps them tailor care to address patients' areas of greatest need.
- **Vermont:** VT RETAIN is using a systematic approach to assess equity and inclusion and implement strategies to increase the pool of participants who receive stay-at-work/return-to-work (SAW/RTW) services. This approach includes creating an Equity and Accessibility Workgroup to guide VT RETAIN's efforts and developing a database of existing culturally relevant referral resources to ensure its programs and services are accessible and reflect the diverse worker populations in Vermont.
- **Kansas:** RETAINWORKS is building sustainable partnerships with medical systems, workforce development boards, and occupational rehabilitation centers. This joint effort supports the program's state expansion and promotes collaboration and learning opportunities among its partners.
- **Kentucky:** RETAIN Kentucky's virtual monthly employment seminar series provides timely and relevant information about stay-at-work/return-to-work best practices, supporting employers, health care professionals, program participants, and other stakeholders.

- **Minnesota:** Minnesota RETAIN helped an individual who had surgery for a recent injury to secure work experience, stable housing, and additional resources during the pandemic.

Be on the lookout for the full stories in the coming weeks!



New to the ROC

Programmatic Success Dashboard

The RETAIN [Programmatic Success Dashboard](#) helps states identify strengths and gaps in participant success, program implementation, and other program metrics. The accompanying [User's Guide](#) provides detailed descriptions of each widget on the dashboard, comprehensive directions on how to connect a copy of the dashboard to your data, and a list of formulas used to create the graphics and metrics.

Please contact your state TA liaison with any questions or for technical assistance using the dashboard.

Communications Plan Vlog

The [Communications Plan Video Blog \(vlog\)](#) is a new resource to support states as they develop their RETAIN strategic communications plans. The vlog walks viewers through the [Communications Plan Guide and Template](#). It provides step-by-step instructions, in-depth explanations of the elements of a communications plan, tips for use, and best practices to help enhance each state's existing communications efforts throughout Phase 2.

The vlog is now available on the ROC.

RETAIN FYI: Research and Practice From the Field, Volume 33

The [January edition](#) of the RETAIN FYI covers multiple topics, including the value of looking beyond conventional measures of RTW success, virtual strategies to deliver social care activities, and workplace factors that may contribute to opioid-related deaths. Check out the latest edition!

Do you have a research article, brief, or report on promising or evidence-based SAW/RTW practices that we should highlight in an upcoming edition of the RETAIN FYI? [Email us!](#)



Upcoming Events

New Webinar! – Health Equity Tips for Developing Inclusive Communication

This new webinar focuses on building a healthy workforce and supporting local communities through the use and implementation of inclusive communication. The webinar will highlight tips and best practices to help RETAIN teams ensure their communication products are developed with a health equity lens and meets the diverse needs of the populations RETAIN serves. Topics will include:

- The importance of person-first language
- Preferred terms for select populations, and
- Resources for developing inclusive communication products.

Be on the lookout for further information and an official link to register!

RETAIN Stakeholder Communication & Engagement Dialogue Series

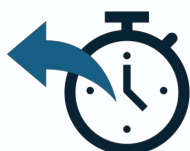
In addition, we are excited to share that the RETAIN Stakeholder Communication & Engagement Dialogue Series, launched at the 2021 RETAIN Annual Convening, will continue. This three-part series focuses on key messages and best practices for one-on-one conversations with various stakeholder groups, including patients, providers, employers, and the public.

Building off of the success of breakout sessions held during the convening, the next sessions will provide participants with an opportunity to share scenarios and best practices based on their field experiences when communicating the benefits of RETAIN with key stakeholders. They will also have the chance to participate in role-play scenarios and receive feedback from peers on areas of opportunity in their dialogue approach.

A key goal of this series is to provide states with the framework on how to share the who, what, why, and how behind the RETAIN program. Sessions will explore:

- Key messages and information needed for each stakeholder group to ensure various outcomes,
- Best channels to use when connecting with key stakeholders and promoting the RETAIN program, and
- Fundamentals of follow-up communication and engagement.

The [presentation slides from part 1](#) (held during the Annual Convening) are available on the [ROC](#) (see slides 30-49). Be on the lookout for more information regarding parts two and three of this series.



From the ROC Archives

This new section will highlight a past RETAIN resource from the ROC, to remind state teams of existing resources that are relevant and timely.

The Impact of Mental Health in SAW/RTW

This [CoP](#) was led by Dr. Latha Brubaker, MD, and addressed the importance of mental health and mental well-being when working with SAW/RTW participants. RTW coordinators/navigators, project directors, and other key staff used case studies to learn about the topic and then engage in discussion.

The full, 60-minute CoP is available on the ROC.

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