



The RETAIN Report

July 2019

Welcome to the July 2019 issue of *The RETAIN Report*—the internal e-newsletter for awardees of the Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN) Demonstration Project.

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 online community, please visit retainta.org and click “Request an Account” in the right-hand side bar.



News from the Field

RETAIN team members from the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) and American Institutes for Research (AIR) had the pleasure of visiting two more RETAIN sites since our last dispatch: Connecticut and Vermont.

In Connecticut, the enthusiastic and collaborative relationship among project partners stood out to the ODEP-AIR team (as did the jumping lamb at a Thai restaurant in Hartford)! The team visited various project locations, discussed employer engagement, and received a sampling of the provider training given to physicians.

Meanwhile in Vermont, the RETAIN team ensured we got our steps in over two busy days. They kept us on our toes with a packed agenda and frequent changes of venue, enlightening us on everything from their project's holistic approach to the nitty gritty details of healthcare provider training.

All the while, great things have been happening across the RETAIN states. Many state teams have either started their pilot or are about to begin any day, and some have enrolled their first worker participants. The Institutional Review Board (IRB) process was challenging, however virtually all states have received approval. Some recent accomplishments and updates across RETAIN include the following:

- The California team identified a medical champion to serve as an ambassador to other healthcare providers and expects to launch their pilot in coming weeks.
- The Connecticut teams' IRB was approved, and they have upcoming training sessions for participating providers and plan to launch their pilot shortly.
- The Kansas team received IRB approval, launched their pilot on June 26, and has started serving workers.
- The Kentucky team launched their pilot on June 1, enrolled their first worker participant, and continues to recruit additional employer partners.
- The Ohio team has made great progress developing training tools, recently developed a new Ohio RETAIN website,

expects to obtain IRB approval by the end of July, and plans to launch their pilot shortly thereafter.

- The Minnesota team obtained IRB approval, filled Senior Research Coordinator and Return-to-Work Coordinator positions, and expects to launch their pilot in the next few weeks.
- The Washington team received IRB approval, and their new project director has helped the project make significant progress. They expect to launch their recruitment and screening app by early August.
- The Vermont team launched their pilot, received their first worker participant referral, and enrolled their first few healthcare practices. They also finished building their healthcare data system.

As we prepare to celebrate tomorrow's anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), we remain grateful to the RETAIN state awardees for your work on an important dimension of disability employment. We look forward to seeing how things unfold as your pilots continue throughout the summer and fall!



Join the Conversation: Introducing the RETAIN Communities of Practice

RETAIN Awardees will have a new way to share knowledge and engage in insightful dialogues about issues affecting their demonstration projects: the soon-to-be launched [RETAIN TA Communities of Practice \(CoP\)](#). The CoPs offer a blend of live, virtually moderated small-group discussions and online discussion forums, as well as fact sheets, guides, and other resources to help you maximize the potential of your state projects. Live virtual CoP sessions will run on a cycle of three to six sessions in topic areas including: Recruitment and Early Intervention; Partners and Stakeholders; Occupational Health and Stay at Work/Return to Work (SAW/RTW); and Communications. The live virtual sessions are led by subject matter experts who will engage RETAIN awardees in moderated, question-and-answer dialogues. Accompanying online discussion forums and resources will be housed within the RETAIN Online Community.

Upcoming live virtual sessions will highlight recruitment strategies to engage your RETAIN population of focus, leveraging and maintaining local partnerships, communication strategies for engaging employers in SAW/RTW, and guidance for RTW Coordinators on job accommodations. Please stay tuned to learn more. Over the next few weeks, we will share additional information on dates, times, and subject matter experts for the first set of CoPs.



Getting Back to Work After an Injury —Patient Issues That Often Arise and Possible Answers

When patients experience an injury or illness that affects their ability to work, they typically have questions about their options and unique issues to address. A recent blog post by Maja Jurisic MD, CPE explores these issues. “Getting Back to Work After an Injury—Patient Issues That Often Arise and Possible Answers” provides a

clinician's perspective on common SAW/RTW patient scenarios. Among the guidance explored in the post are possible responses to patient concerns that favor negotiation and persuasion over “ordering” them back to work.

Access the RETAIN Online Community to learn more and read the [full blog post](#).

FEATURED RESOURCES



RETAIN Resource: “Training Topics and Sample Resources by Audience”

If you haven't already, be sure to check out the [“Training Topics and Sample Resources by Audience”](#) resource, which RETAIN TA shared on June 18. You can use the tool to identify broad training topics and potential sources of information and resources to support your training programs for a variety of stakeholders (e.g., employers, healthcare providers, return-to-work coordinators).

[ACCESS THE RESOURCE](#)



Archived RETAIN Webinar: “RETAIN Partners: Co-Leading Systems Change for American Workers At-Risk”

Access the archived version of this July 16 webinar, which guides participants through an assessment of their strategic partnership development. Dr. Joseph M. Ashley, former Assistant Commissioner with the Commonwealth of Virginia, discussed successes and challenges regarding partner buy-in and presented innovative ideas on systems alignment and integration.

[ACCESS THE WEBINAR](#)



RETAIN Podcast: “Demonstration of Motivational Interviewing Skills and Techniques”

In our last issue, we told you about RETAIN TA's two-part podcast series on motivational interviewing led by AIR's Dr. Julie Jacobson Vann and GeMar Neloms. Part 2 of the series is now available. [“Demonstration of Motivational Interviewing Skills and Techniques”](#) originally aired on June 3 and can be accessed anytime in the RETAIN Online Community. A complement to Part 1, the podcast presents the spirit behind and applications of motivational interviewing techniques through a hypothetical role-playing scenario.

[ACCESS THE
PODCAST](#)



NCSL Policy Brief: "Workers' Compensation: Keeping Injured and Ill Workers in the Workforce"

Developed by the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) in collaboration with the ODEP-funded State Exchange on Employment and Disability (SEED), this policy brief explores how states administer workers' compensation programs that provide medical care, rehabilitation, and cash benefits for workers who are injured on the job or who experience occupation-related illnesses and highlights policies aimed at improving SAW/RTW outcomes.

[READ THE
POLICY BRIEF](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- State site visits (August and September 2019)
- Upcoming RETAIN Podcast: "The Role of Vocational Rehabilitation in SAW/RTW" (Coming Soon!)

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