



The RETAIN Report

September 2019

Welcome to the September 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.



RETAIN News & Updates

From site visits to pilot launches, much is happening across the RETAIN Demonstration Projects. Updates from the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) include the following:

Site Visits: ODEP team members and their colleagues from the American Institutes for Research (AIR) recently visited the Ohio and Minnesota RETAIN teams to review their programs and progress. In Ohio, the RETAIN team showcased strong partnerships, detailed program descriptions, and process flow charts, as well as their new offices dedicated to RETAIN activities. The teams traveled to various project locations across the Buckeye state and met with key stakeholders, including a physician advisory board. Despite the Ohio team’s best efforts to prolong their time with their federal partners, the ODEP and AIR team managed to make it home after an exciting (and entertaining!) team building activity in a series of historical escape rooms.

In addition, ODEP and AIR team members traveled to Minnesota this month for a productive site visit that included compliance and programmatic portions. The Minnesota RETAIN team highlighted partner roles, the participant experience from intake to exit, health care provider training, and data systems capabilities. There were also in-depth discussions on recruitment and enrollment strategies. The ODEP and AIR team took a walking history tour of the Mayo Campus and were able to peek into the Mayo Brothers’ historical suite that included Dr. Charles Mayo’s office and his motto hanging on the wall: “there’s no fun like work.” It appears that the Minnesota team is abiding by this motto!

Program Launch Updates: Since the last RETAIN newsletter, all state programs have received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval, and seven out of eight states have launched their pilot and begun enrolling participants. One state has not officially launched and is in the final stages of formalizing its program details to get things off the ground.

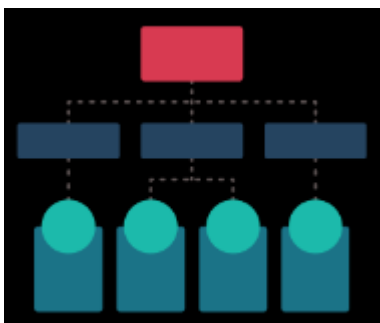
Help with CQI: ODEP understands that RETAIN states have put tremendous effort into planning and developing your pilot programs. As you start to enroll workers, we want to make sure that you have all the help you need to make adjustments as you learn and track progress. One area that will be critical to monitor is the flow of participants from your referral pipelines. A new RETAIN TA Resource (described below) details various continuous quality improvement (CQI) strategies that can be used to monitor program performance, including recruitment and enrollment. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your Technical Assistance (TA) Liaison and ODEP Federal Project Officer (FPO) for help.



Countdown to National Disability Employment Awareness Month

We are just days away from October and the launch of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM). This annual campaign is a time to celebrate the contributions of workers with disabilities to the American workforce. NDEAM is led at the national level by ODEP, with events and observances taking place in workplaces and communities across the nation. In this spirit, organizations involved in the RETAIN Demonstration Projects are encouraged to share information about NDEAM with their stakeholders and tie their RETAIN efforts to the campaign.

To that end, the RETAIN TA team has prepared materials related to NDEAM and similar outreach opportunities. Please check out our recorded webinar "[Making RETAIN Timely: Ways to Capitalize on NDEAM and Other News Hooks](#)," which is currently available in the ROC. In addition, we developed a helpful [fact sheet about NDEAM outreach opportunities](#). In the meantime, be sure to visit dol.gov/ndeam to download or order the 2019 NDEAM poster in English and Spanish; learn more about this year's theme, "The Right Talent, Right Now;" and access a list of ways to celebrate NDEAM.



A Roadmap for Resource Mapping

A new RETAIN TA blog post by Kimberly Jinnett, PhD, explores the strategy of resource mapping. "Resource Mapping - An Effective Integration Tool" defines and explains this useful strategy and outlines how RETAIN teams can use resource mapping to integrate business and health-care perspectives and support systems change. The post addresses when to use resource mapping and how to map out the resources and assets available to a community in support of RETAIN goals and intended outcomes. Access the ROC to learn more and [read the full blog post](#).

Get to Know the ROC



The RETAIN TA team is delighted to announce some updates to the RETAIN Online Community (ROC)—the virtual platform we use to house a range of TA offerings for RETAIN awardees. Now referred to as the “ROC” (pronounced “Rock”), the online community has a new look and enhanced features, which we invite you to explore. Key sections of the ROC include the following:

- ABOUT RETAIN TA, which features background on the teams behind RETAIN technical assistance.
- RETAIN COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE (CoP), the home of our virtually moderated discussion groups and related materials.
- PEER-TO-PEER EXCHANGES, a knowledge-sharing platform, organized by topic.
- RETAIN TA BLOG, where you’ll find a range of written contributions on key subjects.
- COMMUNICATIONS CORNER, your source for tools to help you brand and promote your RETAIN project.
- ON-DEMAND MULTIMEDIA, the place to find podcasts and archived RETAIN TA webinars.
- RESOURCES to assist you in your RETAIN efforts, organized by topic.

We will soon share an at-a-glance fact sheet on the ROC and its enhanced features. Until then, please bookmark and explore the online community at RETAINTA.org.

Note: If you are a member or partner of a RETAIN state team and still need access to the ROC, please click “REQUEST AN ACCOUNT” in the right-hand sidebar, or contact your AIR RETAIN TA Liaison.

FEATURED RESOURCES



Community of Practice (CoP) Resources

We hope you had a chance to tune in to the recent live CoP sessions in our “Strategic Partnerships” and “Communications Exchange” series. Be sure to check out the ROC for materials associated with our most recent sessions, including Q&As and key take-aways arising from each CoP event. (Scroll to *Archived Communities of Practice* at the bottom of the page.)

[Access the CoP](#)



RETAIN Podcast: "Integrating Business and Health Care for Ongoing Learning and Better Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work Results"

In this podcast, Kimberly Jinnett, PhD explores the steps and stages needed to foster integration between business and

health care on behalf of employee health and wellbeing. Recognizing how important such integrated approaches are to the success of RETAIN, the podcast offers general background on key integration techniques, as well as systemic strategies, tools, and measures that can be useful in fostering integration that can improve SAW/RTW results for ill or injured workers.

[Access the Podcast](#)



RETAIN Archived Webinar: “Maximizing Workforce Partnerships: How Vocational Rehabilitation Can Be a Valued Partner in Your RETAIN Initiative”

In this recording of our August 27th webinar, David Leon of the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services and Leslie Dawson of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services present information, data, and case studies to demonstrate why vocational rehabilitation (VR) agencies can be valuable RETAIN partners, and how to work with them effectively.

[Access the Webinar](#)



RETAIN TA Resource: “Continuous Quality Improvement Strategies”

Take an in-depth look at continuous quality improvement (CQI) strategies using this new tool from the RETAIN TA team. The resource describes five CQI methods along with strategies, techniques, and related tools to assist you with potential approaches. For each method, it describes model components and steps, and provides links to additional resources to aid in RETAIN-related CQI.

[Access the
Resource](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- Communications Exchange CoP: “RETAIN & Providers: Communications Strategies for Engaging Health Care Audiences in Your Demonstration Project” - October 4, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET - [Register for the CoP](#)

This document was prepared for the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Office of Disability Employment Policy and Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN) state grantees, by the American Institutes for Research under DOL Contract Number 1605DC-18-F-00429. The views expressed are those of the authors and should not be attributed to DOL, nor does mention of trade names, commercial products, or organizations imply endorsement of same by the U.S. Government.

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