



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE  
P.O. BOX 2675  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-2675

OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH &  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

March 2, 2006

Dear County MH/MR Administrator:

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS) is pleased to announce a project designed to increase the availability of best practices in Supported Employment in selected applicant Counties in Pennsylvania.

Under this project, OMHSAS will select several County MH Programs, or provider agencies approved by the local County Mental Health Program, to receive targeted intensive technical assistance intended to focus on the redesign of vocational service system components.

The Final Report of the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health challenges us to transform mental health care in America. In recognition of this goal, OMHSAS is pleased to continue to offer resources and assistance to counties to support the design and implementation of consumer/family member-driven, recovery-oriented service systems.

I have attached a copy of the OMHSAS Employment Transformation Project application form. Upon examination of these materials, I invite your county MH/MR office to submit an application for our review and consideration for the project. All applications must be postmarked by April 15, 2006.

Sincerely,

Sabrina Tillman-Boyd, Director  
Bureau of Policy and Program Development

**APPLICATION FORM**

**OMHSAS EMPLOYMENT TRANSFORMATION PROJECT**

**NAME OF COUNTY, JOINDER:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**COUNTY MH/MR ADMINISTRATOR:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, ZIP-CODE:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAX:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**LEAD PERSON FOR PROJECT COORDINATION:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**FAX:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:**

\_\_\_\_\_

## **BRIEF BACKGROUND:**

The purpose of the OMHSAS Employment Transformation Project is to provide targeted training and technical assistance to counties, or their identified providers, in redesigning employment services/opportunities for adults with serious mental illness. There are no cash grant awards.

Over the past two years, OMHSAS has provided targeted technical assistance to six County MH/MR Office demonstration projects under the New Freedom Initiative Grant. One of the OMHSAS New Freedom Initiative Projects, located in Lycoming and Clinton Counties, focused on redesign of their vocational service system for adults with mental illness in order to promote recovery and self sufficiency (see attachment).

The intent of the initiative is to continue to promote the vision of the “New Freedom Commission Report” and the Pennsylvania “Call for Change” by focusing on employment.

OMHSAS encourages County MH/MR Programs interested in developing an Employment Transformation Project, to apply for targeted technical assistance by responding to the criteria and questions that follow.

## **SAMPLE PROJECT CRITERIA:**

Applicants for the OMHSAS Employment Transformation Project must identify one or more employment system change areas that will be the focus of the project.

Examples of employment system change may include, but are not limited to:

- redesign of local employment services according to best practice approaches in employment;
- willingness to implement SAMHSA’s evidence-based supported employment resource kit;
- fiscal/clinical consultation in redesign of local employment services; and,
- analysis of the outcomes/effectiveness of the local employment service system

**PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING 5 QUESTIONS:**

- 1) Promoting the recovery process is a priority in transforming our Mental Health systems. Describe the stages or steps your county has designed or would like to design specific to the area of community employment opportunities for consumers.
  
- 2) What vocational/employment services are currently offered in your county or counties?
  
- 3) What employment opportunities do consumers want that are not currently available to them? Is there particular employment service redesign that consumers and family members want in your county or counties?
  
- 4) It will be very helpful for us to know what is currently working and not working in your employment programs. Also, let us know if your proposed employment project is “starting from scratch” or if your proposed project is a “retooling” or redesign of an existing employment program. Describe the anticipated consultation or technical assistance needs in your County MH system in order to successfully transform an employment component or components.
  
- 5) A new employment program or initiative has its best chance for success if all stakeholders are included at the table. How will your county or providers assure that they have “top-down” support from the administration, providers, consumers, family members, and OVR in your proposed employment transformation project?

I agree that \_\_\_\_\_ is applying for  
(Name of County, Joinder)

participation in the OMHSAS Employment Transformation Project and agree to the proposed project and guidelines set forth.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the County MH Administrator/Lead County MH Administrator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Office of Vocational Rehabilitation District Administrator

**THIS APPLICATION SHOULD NOT EXCEED 5 PAGES IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS # 1 - 5. THE APPLICATION INFORMATION PAGE AND SIGNATURE PAGE WILL CONSTITUTE 2 ADDITIONAL PAGES PER APPLICATION.**

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 15, 2006 AND SENT TO:**

**CAROL WARD-COLASANTE  
OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES  
2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR BEECHMONT BUILDING  
P.O. BOX 2675  
HARRISBURG, PA 17105**