

**Sustaining Innovation:**  
**A Strategy Conference for Medicaid Infrastructure Grantees**

*Convened by the National Consortium for Health Systems Development*

**Wednesday, September 3**

**8:30 am**      **REGISTRATION and BREAKFAST**  
**HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF ROOM #CC12 BCD** *(lower level)*

**9:00-10:15**      **Will Hope and History Rhyme? Randy Lewis, Senior Vice President – Distribution and Logistics, Walgreens**  
**ROOM**  
**#CC12 BCD**  
*(lower level)*

*Walgreens (www.walgreens.com) is the nation’s largest drugstore chain with fiscal 2007 sales of \$53.8 billion. The company operates 6,204 drugstores in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Mr. Lewis will share his perspectives on Walgreens’ efforts to tap into the labor pool of workers with disabilities.*

**10:30-12:00**      **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**ROOM**              **A.      Building Business Leadership - Deb Russell, Walgreens**  
**#CC20 AB**  
*(upper level)*

*This session will follow up on the opening keynote session, providing states interested in the “business perspective” an opportunity to hear more and ask questions about increasing employment opportunities.*

**ROOM**              **B.      Embedding Critical Employment Supports: State Experiences Providing Better Service Infrastructure -- John Reiser, Wisconsin MIG; Susan Wells, Vermont MIG**  
**#CC21 AB**  
*(upper level)*

*Several states are using MIG funds to build, coordinate and evaluate critical employment supports within existing health and employment systems. In this session, John Reiser will describe Wisconsin’s efforts to integrate employment services into the new statewide long-term care system; Susan Wells will describe Vermont’s efforts to increase employment outcomes for vulnerable populations through a Medicaid-funded case management pilot and an employer-funded resource coordinator. Together, these presentations offer strategies that target consumers trying to get and keep employment; they will also share perspectives on the value of work, “employment first” policies, solving poverty issues affecting workplace performance, and changing the paradigm in our approach with employers.*

**ROOM**              **C.      Submitting a Proposal for Integrated Data – Anne Reither, MIG RATS**  
**#CC22 AB**  
*(upper level)*

*This important session—for MIG project directors as well as evaluators—will walk through the new voluntary process for submitting data requests to Mathematica. This process allows MIG state staff to request customized analyses from the integrated data built from the finder files*

*and maintained by Mathematica. Anne Reither, co-director of MIG Research Assistance to States (MIG-RATS), will provide a detailed description of the proposal requirements and facilitate a discussion of useful proposal strategies and opportunities.*

**12:00-12:30 LUNCH**

**HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF ROOM #CC12 BCD** *(lower level)*

**12:30-2:00 Plenary: CMS Session for MIG Grantees -- Joe Razes and Effie Shockley, CMS**

**ROOM**

**#CC12 BCD**  
*(lower level)*

*During this session, the CMS Ticket Team will share a 'sense of the future' regarding elements of infrastructure that have been highlighted in recent RFPs, such as peer supports, supported employment, serving people with Mental Illness, and sustainability/strategic planning. They will also provide an administrative update, a MIG RATS update, and key findings from the most recent Medicaid Buy In analysis.*

**2:30-4:00**

**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**ROOM**

**#CC 21AB**  
*(upper level)*

**A. If You Build It, They Will Come: Meeting the Demand for Information and Jobs – Amy Porter, CT MIG; Lori Lippert, MN MIG**

*Multiple grant goals and objectives serve to raise awareness and initiate employer demand for a workforce that includes people with disabilities. MIG initiatives are also designed to encourage more people with disabilities to enter into a competitive, integrated workplace. This session will provide an opportunity for grantees to share strategies for effectively fulfilling new needs for greater information, referral, services, technology and overall infrastructure that MIG creates for employers and people who want to work. Results from a cross-state survey will be shared; Amy Porter and Lori Lippert will describe their experiences getting information to businesses and job seekers, resolving barriers, and developing a system of continuous quality improvement.*

**ROOM**

**#CC 22AB**  
*(upper level)*

**B. Work Incentives Infrastructure: Identifying What You Need and When You Need It**

*States are refining their efforts to support sustainable work incentives infrastructure beyond the life of the MIG. By identifying the 'employment supports continuum' (a term to describe the range of services, from application to post-employment, that assist with finding, obtaining, and retaining competitive employment), states are testing new models to increase service capacity. This session will explore the various components of the employment supports continuum, and share strategies states are using to assess and implement the need for enhanced infrastructure in these areas.*

**6:00pm**

**Meet in the Hyatt McCormick Place Hotel Lobby for transportation to reception**

**6:30-8:30**

**EVENING RECEPTION (ALL CONFEREES) – CHICAGO HOUSE OF BLUES**

**Thursday, September 4**

**8:00 am**                      **BREAKFAST BUFFET**  
**ROOM #CC24** (*upper level*)

**8:30 – 9:30**    **AFFINITY GROUPS: DISCUSSIONS ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY.** Grab some breakfast and choose a discussion session to participate in! Bring your ideas and experiences to share.

**ROOM**                      **A.**        **Rethinking Government Structures and Decision Makers** (*with contributions from Kansas, Indiana, and North Dakota*) **Moderator: Mary Ellen Wright, KS**  
**#CC20 AB**  
(*upper level*)

*Some states are approaching longer-term systems change by ensuring that key agency positions and/or mandated ‘task forces’ are in place to support employment outcomes. Further, states are looking to these strategies to help promote a cultural shift – one that moves people with disabilities from poverty into positions of financial self-sufficiency, power, and leadership. This session will provide an opportunity to discuss experiences rebuilding our administrative structures to both accept and promote the expectation of employment outcomes in states.*

**ROOM**                      **B.**        **‘Marketing’ Systems Change** (*with contributions from Alaska, Wisconsin, and Vermont*) **Moderators: Ellen Felix, WI, Susan Wells, VT**  
**#CC21 AB**  
(*upper level*)

*States that are thinking long-term are considering opportunities to build support for continued MIG resources. In this session, states will begin to identify successful initiatives that could potentially be translated into a national report that describes the critical impact of MIG funds. First steps on exploring common themes across states, experiences developing a politically “appealing” message, and a plan for moving forward will be part of this dialogue.*

**ROOM**                      **C.**        **Web-based Technology: Innovations to Improve Service Capacity and Quality** (*with contributions from Nebraska, Arizona, and Washington*) **Moderators: Dara Johnson, AZ, Steve Kozak, WA**  
**#CC22 AB**  
(*upper level*)

*Many states view technology as a way to change how they do business. In this session, states will share how they are planning to use technology to expand outreach, increase access to information, and streamline process. Discussion will focus on describing new visions for service delivery to improve employment outcomes and increase capacity.*

**10:00-11:30**    **Plenary: Problem-Solving the “Improved” Ticket to Work - John Coburn and Joe Entwisle, HDA; Joe Skiba, Independent Consultant; Resource: Marie P. Strahan, SSA**  
**ROOM**

**#CC12 BCD**  
(*lower level*)

*This session will share strategies for states to do the critical analysis and planning necessary to maximize the improved “Ticket to Work” work incentive. New Ticket program regulations went into effect on July 31, 2008, thereby offering MIG projects an opportunity to consider several key issues, such as 1) how can MIG projects can partner with Vocational Rehabilitation and*



*One-Stop agencies to do appropriate risk analyses; 2) what work can be done with providers who may be struggling with technical issues (such as whether Ticket outcome payments cause conflict with Medicaid funding); and 3) how states working toward moving people beyond Substantial Gainful Activity (SGA) may be able to enhance much-needed services (such as long term, supported or post-employment supports) through the Ticket funding stream.*

**11:30 – 12:00 LUNCH**

**HALLWAY OUTSIDE OF ROOM #CC12 BCD** (lower level)

**12:00-1:30 ROOM #CC12 BCD** (lower level) **Plenary: Technical Session: Using Policy Tools to Support Employment Services for People with Psychiatric Disabilities – Shawn Terrell, CMS**

*Most MIG projects involved with efforts to improve employment services for people with psychiatric disabilities have found that existing policy tools (including 1915c, 1915i, and the Rehab Option) can have complex nuances and confusing application. To assist efforts to increase the appropriate use of these tools and meet your state’s intended policy outcomes, Shawn Terrell will describe technical details and advantages/disadvantages of various approaches, and, respond to specific questions from the states. **NOTE:** Questions for Shawn may be submitted in advance to Melissa Turner at [mwturner@hdadvocates.org](mailto:mwturner@hdadvocates.org).*

**1:45-2:45** **CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**ROOM #CC20 AB** (upper level) **A. Rural Employment Issues: The Farm Bill and Other Infrastructure – Paul Jones, Program Manager, Breaking New Ground; Tom Alexander, ND MIG**

*Agriculture production is ranked as one of the most hazardous occupations in the nation. This session will focus on employment strategies for assisting rural and farm families with disabilities, including opportunities around assistive technology, access to healthcare, and business planning. Paul Jones will share information about the work of Breaking New Ground, a national resource and technical assistance center that began nearly 30 years ago when a farmer with paraplegia called Purdue University looking for assistance getting back onto his tractor. Tom Alexander will share strategies for cultivating relationships to build employment supports in rural North Dakota.*

**ROOM #CC21 AB** (upper level) **B. New Initiative: Leveraging Supplier Diversity for Disability-Owned Businesses– Patti Lind, Founder and Executive Director, The Abilities Fund**

*This session will provide open forum to discuss a ground-breaking program that is leveraging corporate “supplier diversity programs” as a means to opening opportunities to businesses owned by people with disabilities. Current data demonstrate that small business development is a growing, substantial form of employment; according to recent statistics, self-employment rates are highest among people with disabilities. Corporate diversity supplier programs identify and provide business opportunities to for-profit enterprises that are minority owned, operated and controlled. The USBLN® and The Abilities Fund have joined together to identify and work*

*collaboratively with founding partners to maximize participation by developing and launching a self-sustaining Diversity/Disability Supplier Program. Come with your thoughts and questions about strategies to develop self-employment/entrepreneurial opportunities for people with disabilities in your state.*

**ROOM**  
**#CC22 AB**  
*(upper level)*

**C. “Drop-In” Session: MIG National Marketing Campaign**

*NCHSD staff and available representatives from the Leadership Group for the MIG National Marketing Campaign effort will be available during this session to answer questions and provide updated information. Drop by if you’ve been wondering how states are working together to fund a national message about employment!*

**3:00-4:00**  
**ROOM**  
**#CC12 BCD**  
*(lower level)*

**Plenary: Leadership for the Future – Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky, IL**

*States will gather in closing to discuss next steps for moving forward on sustaining critical infrastructure development beyond the life of the current MIG funding. With key comments from Jan Schakowsky about strategies for keeping employment at the fore with our Congressional leaders in Washington, we’ll identify opportunities as we welcome a new administration and over the next 12-18 months.*

*Representative Jan Schakowsky was elected to represent Illinois' 9th Congressional District on November 3, 1998, after serving for eight years in the Illinois State Assembly. She is in her fifth term. Schakowsky serves in the House Democratic Leadership as Chief Deputy Whip and as a member of the Steering and Policy Committee. She is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, where she will work to accomplish her top priority in Congress -- providing universal healthcare coverage for all Americans. On that Committee, she serves as Vice-Chair of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection and as a member of the Subcommittee on Health and the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. During the 110th Congress, Schakowsky serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the bipartisan Women's Caucus.*

**4:00**

**Adjourn**