

Workforce and Employment Committee Letter to CASRA



February 4th, 2019

Betty Dahlquist, Executive Director
CA Assoc. of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
PO Box 388
Martinez, CA 94553

CHAIRPERSON
Lorraine Flores

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Jane Adcock

Dear Betty,

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council's Workforce and Employment Committee is writing to express our support for the California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA) Employment Initiative, and specifically, the goal of holding a statewide summit on education and employment for persons with psychiatric disabilities.

➤ **Advocacy**

➤ **Evaluation**

➤ **Inclusion**

The California Behavioral Health Planning Council (CBHPC) is a majority Consumer and Family member advisory body to state and local government, the Legislature, and residents of California on mental health services in California. The CBHPC envisions a behavioral health system that makes it possible for individuals to lead full and productive lives. The CBHPC Workforce and Employment Committee works to address the workforce shortage in the public behavioral health system, mental health workforce training, and the employment of individuals with psychiatric disabilities. The Workforce and Employment Committee recognizes that people with psychiatric disabilities face considerable obstacles in finding and maintaining employment in the competitive labor market, which in turn contributes to persistent challenges to their livelihood and wellbeing.

The purpose of the CASRA Employment Initiative, to assist people with psychiatric disabilities in achieving competitive employment, aligns with our values and objectives. The Workforce and Employment Committee believes that a statewide summit on this topic will provide a valuable opportunity for community partners and service providers throughout California to learn about education and employment programs, services, and outcomes. As such, we support CASRA's efforts to obtain funding for this summit, and hope to see it come to fruition. Furthermore, the CBHPC is aware that the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) has scheduled a round table discussion on February 6, 2019, to serve as a first step towards a statewide summit. The CBHPC supports this initial collaborative engagement.

If you have any questions, please contact our Committee staff person, Justin Boese, at Justin.boese@cbhpc.dhcs.ca.gov or 916.552.9458.

Sincerely,



Deborah Pitts, PhD, OTR/L, BCMH, CPRP
Chairperson
Workforce and Employment Committee