

Discussion comments on Employment First Policy Employment First Summit October 2012

Does “priority” service option mean not supporting other service options?

If we keep pushing work we may force people to choose that option.

Why drafting policy for broken system?

Is funding being transferred from training centers to the community?

How will employers be involved in this initiative?

We need to include employers and self employment options.

Fear of benefit loss.

Quality Assurance – how to afford dignity of risk vs. safety.

Make sure informed choice is guaranteed.

Aspirational but need to define integrated setting to meet the needs of individual. Don't curtail other options.

Services negatively impacting employment. Caps on assets for housing. What does it teach about money management?

Value of employment needs to be explained but don't go into philosophical vagaries.

Watch out for language, it can be exclusionary.

Benefits, what do average workers get?

Valuable but double edged.

Employment First What is next? What are other options?

Two things to increase employment (1) allow transportation for individuals to work (2) recognize that employment for people with mental health diagnosis as real.

Set targets for state agencies to meet.