

## Show Taping 5/10/12 at 9 a.m.

Supporting National Recovery Month

**Show Topic:** 

Ready, Willing, and Able To Work: Employment for People in Recovery

**Host**: Ivette A. Torres, Associate Director for Consumer Affairs, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

Invited Panelists: David Berns, Director, District of Columbia Department of Human Services; Gary Bond, Ph.D., Professor of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Rehabilitation Research, Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center; Peggy Burns, LCADC., EAP Counselor, Employee Assistance Program, University of Maryland Medical Center; Neli Vazquez-Rowland, President, A Safe Haven

## **Program Abstract:**

For people in recovery from mental or substance use disorders, employment is often an essential part of the recovery process. Employment increases people's self-worth, stabilizes their living circumstances, and facilitates their integration with the community. Being unemployed is associated with increased rates of mental disorders and with higher rates of substance use disorders and relapse. In the current job market, employment challenges for people in recovery are greater than ever. This show will explore a range of topics related to meeting those challenges, including skills training, career building, having a "recovery job" that bridges the gap between unemployment and full employment, volunteerism as a pathway to employment, and starting a business. The show will examine the barriers and challenges faced by some people in recovery—those without a high school or college degree, those with a criminal history, and those who have been out of the workforce for a long time. Innovative approaches to addressing the employment issue will be highlighted: recovery entrepreneurship programs, employers who target hiring people in recovery, and recovery community organizations that help with skills training and job placement.

## **Key Questions:**

- What is the rate of illicit drug or alcohol use among people who are unemployed vs. those who are employed?
- How many people with a mental health problem are unemployed?
- How extensive is the problem of substance use in the workplace?
- What are the benefits for employers who hire people in recovery?
- What are supported employment programs?
- Are there State-level initiatives that address employment for people in recovery?
- What resources are available to help people in treatment and recovery with finding employment?

## **Taping Location:**

ICF Studio

530 Gaither Road, Rockville, MD 20850 Contact: Jessica Fonoroff, 301-407-6559 Panelists should be at the studio by 9 a.m. for pretaping instructions, sound checks, and staging.

Show Air Date: July 1, 2012

Event will be archived online at <a href="http://www.recoverymonth.gov">http://www.recoverymonth.gov</a>.