

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

FOR Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Staff, Alaska Division of Behavioral Health Staff and
Community Behavioral Health Providers

Between

THE ALASKA DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

And

THE ALASKA DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Regarding

JOINT EFFORTS TO PROMOTE RECOVERY AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES

PARTIES TO AGREEMENT:

This document is to serve as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Alaska Division of Behavioral Health.

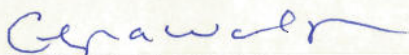
We believe that recovery is possible for individuals with behavioral health disorders and that employment is a major element in this process. Our collaboration and partnership is based upon the belief that the best use of federal and state funds is on programs and services that produce the outcomes needed to enable Alaskans with behavioral health disorders to succeed in their community personally and economically. *Assisting people with behavioral health disorders to explore and attain employment is integral to the overall missions of both the Alaska Division of Behavioral Health and the Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and thus is inherent in the responsibilities of its entire staff and providers, even those not explicitly charged with employment responsibility.* This means that employment is an expected outcome for the total behavioral health system of care, not just "employment programs" or those involved with the vocational rehabilitation program.

Both of our agencies hold a conviction that all people (including persons with behavioral health disorders) should have the citizenship right to equal access to employment, and will be assisted to do so because employment is a way for people to become economically self-sufficient, healthier, and fulfilled.


We hereby commit to the citizens of Alaska that:

- High quality expedited employment and support services for individuals with behavioral health disorders are high priorities for both our agencies;
- Service delivery will be consistent with the best evidence available and subject to quality improvement;
- Ongoing examination and review of our policies and procedures through internal and external analysis will occur to support comprehensive multi-system transformation; and
- Work as an expectation of recovery should be a primary expectation of both entities.

Signed by:

Signature 
Director, Alaska Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Date 5/22/2009

Signature 
Director, Alaska Division of Behavioral Health

Date 5/22/09