

Advancing Disability Employment Policy: The Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work Policy Collaborative

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Today's Presentation

- **Overview of the SAW/RTW Policy Collaborative**
- **Fostering interaction between research, practice, and policy**
- **Preliminary recommendations**

Purpose of the SAW/RTW Policy Collaborative

- Focus on workers who have a chronic illness or medical condition that puts them at risk for labor force exit
- Inform efforts to improve policies and programs that promote positive SAW/RTW outcomes

Collaborative Activities

- **Year 1: SAW/RTW Community of Practice, webinars, studies**
- **Year 2: policy work groups, webinars, online dialogues, strategic outreach and dissemination**

Year 1 Reports

- **Assessing the Costs and Benefits of RTW Programs**
- **RTW in the Health Care Sector: Promising Practices & Success Stories**
- **The Role of the Physician in the RTW Process Following Disability Onset**

Year 2 Policy Work Groups

- **Promoting employment as a health outcome**
- **Timely, effective targeting of people who need support to keep working**
- **Job retention/re-employment for workers who experience productivity loss**

Fostering Interaction Between Research, Practice, and Policy (1)

- **Guidance provided by core work group of researchers and practitioners**
- **Community of practice includes representatives from private, public, and academic sectors**

Fostering Interaction Between Research, Practice, and Policy (2)

- **Webinars, virtual meetings, and online dialogues used for collaborative learning**
- **Strategic outreach to federal and state agencies, workforce associations, disability advocates, etc.**

Preliminary Policy Work Group Recommendations (1)

- **Task federal entity with leading interagency collaboration on preventing avoidable work disability**
- **Encourage states to incorporate expansion of evidence-based early intervention services in their strategic plans for workforce development**

Preliminary PWG Recommendations (2)

- **Encourage private health care exchanges to offer plans that include SAW/RTW services**
- **Provide direct wage subsidies or refundable tax credits for workers/employers**

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