

## Why Employment is Pivotal to Sustained Addiction Recovery

September 14, 2021 | 10:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. EDT

TIME (EDT)	DESCRIPTION
10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<p><b>WELCOME AND OPENING</b> Keynote Address</p> <p><b>Welcome:</b> Rebecca Starr, M.B.A., M.S.W., LICSW, <i>Project Director of MA Access to Recovery (ATR), AHP</i></p> <p><b>Keynote via Video:</b> Martin J. Walsh, <i>U.S. Secretary of Labor</i></p>
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	<p><b>ANSWERING THE WHY:</b> What Does the Research Say About the Importance of Employment to Recovery?</p> <p>Employment is a critical building block in the addiction recovery process and may help people stay engaged in treatment while buffering relapse risk. Moreover, employment represents a link to other forms of recovery capital that are key for ensuring sustained addiction remission. Learn from international scholars why employment is so vital to the addiction recovery process, and why it should be not only encouraged but championed by everyone who works with this population.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Rebecca Starr, M.B.A., M.S.W., LICSW, <i>Project Director, ATR, AHP</i></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b> Dr. David Eddie, Ph.D., <i>Assistant Professor, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School</i> Dr. David Best, Ph.D., <i>Professor, Derby University, England</i></p>
12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	<p><b>Lunch break on your own</b></p>
12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	<p><b>BANDING TOGETHER:</b> Cross-Systems Collaboration is Key</p> <p>Have you ever played the game “telephone,” where a message is passed from one person to another, only to be so garbled by the end that the original intention was lost completely? For individuals with a substance use disorder, navigating various systems to piece together recovery support can often feel like a high-stakes version of this game. In this session, leaders from higher education and workforce development will discuss how working with people in recovery has encouraged them to adapt or completely change their respective organizations and to operate across systems to create customization of their programs for this population.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Casey Tiefenwerth, M.S.W., LCSW, <i>ATR Program Manager for CBI (Career Building Initiative), AHP</i></p> <p><b>Panelists:</b> Doreen Treacy, M.Div., <i>Vice President, MassHire/Downtown Boston (American Jobs Center)</i> Martha L. Leahy, <i>Deputy Director, New England Culinary Arts Training (NECAT)</i> Vinnie Rege, M.S., <i>Dean, Business and Experiential Education, Bristol Community College</i> Ramona Reno, M.S., GCDF, <i>Executive Director of Re-Entry &amp; Recovery Services, AHP Consultant, MassHire/Holyoke (American Jobs Center)</i></p>



1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Break

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

**RALLY EMPLOYERS:** Now is the Time to Advance “Recovery Ready Workplaces”

For people in recovery to find work, we need employers to hire them. But how do we find employers willing to do so? What does it look like to become a “recovery ready workplace (RRW)”? In addition to hiring people in recovery, it means providing support for their current employees in recovery. This presentation will outline the philosophy, policies, and practices that make a workplace “recovery ready” and will make the business case for why this approach benefits employers, with real-life examples of successful RRW programs. Attendees will leave this panel with practical tools to become advocates for the advancement of RRWs.

**Moderator:** Philip Rainer, M.S.W., LCSW-R, *Senior Program Associate II, AHP*

**Panelists:** Tina Willson, B.A., *Instructional Designer, AHP*

Amy Harding, M.A., *Program Manager and Senior Writer, AHP*

2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Break

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**WHAT WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT:** A Groundbreaking Approach—the ATR Model for Customized Employment Supports for People with Substance Use Disorders

We cannot forsake the American ideal that everyone in our country should have opportunities to earn a living wage and be able to support themselves and their families. People in recovery are no different. It’s imperative that they have the chance to compete for quality jobs in the current economy, yet they typically must overcome multiple barriers to secure meaningful employment. Learn about ATR’s unique model that is revolutionizing on-ramps to employment and enhancing recovery progress for this population.

**Moderator:** Casey Tiefenwerth, M.S.W., LCSW, *ATR Program Manager for CBI (Career Building Initiative), AHP*

**Panelists:** Rebecca Starr, M.B.A., M.S.W., LICSW, *Project Director, ATR, AHP*

Individuals with lived experience who went through the ATR program

4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**CALL TO ACTION:** Next Steps to Carry Us Forward

In this last session, we’ll review key takeaways and recommendations from all prior panels, focusing on recommendations at the individual, program, and policy levels of our work. We will also plot our path forward with concrete action steps.

**Moderator:** Erin Allain, M.S., *ATR Senior Program Associate, AHP*

4:30 p.m.

Program ends

This virtual symposium, WORKING RECOVERY, is sponsored by Massachusetts Access to Recovery (ATR), a project of Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP), and funded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health/Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS).

