Transforming Lives Through Employment:
SAMHSA’s Supported Employment Grant Program (SEP)

Becoming Employed Starts Today (BEST),
Div. of Behavioral Health & Recovery (DBHR), Washington

Implementation Sites: Southwest WA Behavioral Health RSN & Spokane RSN contract with Grant Mental Healthcare (GMH) (Central WA) & Columbia River Mental Health Services (CRMHS) (Clark County, near Portland, OR), respectively

Special Population Focus (if applicable):

Project Director: Melodie Pazolt

Project Team Members:

Description of Peer Involvement: Peer Counselor at each implementation site

Service Goals: 50 YR 1, 100 YRS 2-5 (450 total)

Project Description: The Washington Becoming Employed Starts Today (BEST) project is designed to transform service delivery by promoting sustainable access to evidence-based Supported Employment. BEST provides consumers with meaningful choice and control of employment and support services, utilizes Peer Counselors, reduces unemployment and supports the recovery and resiliency of individuals with serious mental illnesses including co-occurring substance use disorders.