

Match Summary

Name of Match: **Innovations in Supported Employment and Social Enterprise**

Location of Match: Vancouver

1. Brief summary of the outcomes of your match

The match in Vancouver consisted of 2 days of discussions focused on employment services for people who live with severe and persistent mental health disabilities. A variety of learning opportunities were used including group discussions, guest speakers and site visits to social enterprises and community teams in Vancouver. Evidence based tools, retention strategies and peer work were among the topics highlighted throughout the two days.

2. Resources used in your match

Mary O'Hagan from New Zealand who developed PeerZone, a series of workshops used by peer workers to support clients in a variety of life domains discussed her model with the group and how it could support employment goals. She also discussed SWELL, an app she is developing that employment workers would be able to use with their clients. Amy Wakelin the lead of Peer Zone in Toronto skyped in to the meeting to discuss how PeerZone is being rolled out in her community.

A Case Manager and Recreation Therapist at Strathcona Mental Health Team in Vancouver show cased the IPS model of integrated supported employment and mental health case management.

Attendees visited four Social Enterprises:

Willow Bean Café

<http://globalnews.ca/news/2002152/willow-bean-cafe-gives-jobs-skills-to-people-with-mental-illness/>

Cleaning Solution

<http://www.cleaningsolution.ca/>

"Café 335"

<http://www.coastmentalhealth.com/cafe335>

Hope Café

<http://blenz.com/blenz-hope-cafe-counters-stigma-around-mental-illness/>

3. Brief description of how your match has accelerated change towards mental health, well-being and inclusion

The match gave valuable insight into how employment supports are being delivered in Canada, The United States and New Zealand. A variety of models and techniques were discussed and this knowledge exchanged allowed participants to think about their current practices and opportunities to make changes based on what is happening in other communities. The match has allowed communities that do not often have a chance to collaborate work together and strengthen their services delivery. The importance of employment in an individual's recovery was highlighted throughout the two days. Implementing best practices as shared throughout the time together will strengthen services for individuals living with mental illness and encourage teams to continue to advocate for inclusive and diverse work places.

4. Brief description of how your match has built leadership for the future

The match gave opportunity for reflection on each participant's community as well as insight to what is happening globally in the area of mental health and employment supports. Those who attended and participated in the variety of discussions throughout the two days could share what they do well and ask other services provides for supports on areas they wanted to improve. This interactive approach allowed participants to leave the match with the tools, knowledge and resources needed to implement changes in their communities. Connections were made at the match that are ongoing and will support the goals of all participants that attended the exchange.