

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN HEALTHCARE AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION/DISABILITY BENEFITS SYSTEM

THE USA'S RETAIN PROJECT -- PREVENTING THE 2ND WORST OUTCOME OF HEALTH PROBLEMS IN WORKING PEOPLE

- What are the top three WORST outcomes of a worker's illness or injury?
- Who is responsible for preventing or mitigating those outcomes?
- What is missing that would make things better?

Dr. Jennifer Christian is an MD, board certified occupational and environmental medicine expert with additional training in public health, and chair of the Work Fitness and Disability Section of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine. She is going to tell us about a current \$180 million federally funded U.S. Demonstration Project called RETAIN (Retaining Employment and Talent after Injury or Illness Network). RETAIN programs are now delivering services to workers in 5 U.S. states -- Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Ohio, and Vermont.

RETAIN starts from the assertion that, for working people, loss of livelihood and withdrawal from the workforce is a very poor outcome of treatment for a health problem – and a poor outcome that can often be prevented by multi-stakeholder teamwork.

- Prevention of long-term worklessness requires early identification of workers at increased risk for poor outcomes followed by early intervention services.
- Each RETAIN program has a multi-stakeholder leadership team and is creating real working partnerships with community-based medical practitioners and employers, as well as social service agencies, government-funded vocational rehabilitation agencies and/or workforce training and development programs.
- RETAIN staff provide guidance and counseling to workers but also advocate on their behalf with other stakeholders in the worker's situation as needed.

Learning Objectives -- Participants will:

1. Understand how the mismatch between typical workers' compensation/disability benefits system processes and optimal SAW/RTW outcomes leads to poor outcomes.
2. Identify the stakeholders involved in the process and who feels responsibility or is held accountable when workers lose their jobs/livelihoods or withdraw from the workforce as a result of a work-related injury.
3. Define the actual steps involved in bridging the gap between healthcare and the workplace and how this is actualized into program design and service delivery within a workers comp/disability benefits system.

This session is recognized for 1.5 CEU's under Domain 7

Register Here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vroom-cafe-retain-tickets-560762595017>