People with intellectual and developmental disabilities can work and want to work—yet the majority don’t have jobs.

State and national policies exist to increase employment, but systems have not aligned to make integrated employment a priority.

To address these challenges, our center integrates research, dissemination, and knowledge translation.

We support activities in 4 areas:
1) Knowledge translation and support for individuals and families to promote engagement in employment planning
2) Increasing the effectiveness of supports and services provided by an employment consultant
3) Building capacity and supporting organizational transformation for community rehabilitation providers
4) Policies and practices of high-performing state employment systems

The “44” Webinar Series

We knew that our work on the RRTC would include ongoing webinars. But we wanted our format to be unique, dynamic, and innovative, and to differ from conventional webinar content about disability and employment.

Our webinars encourage creative thinking and provoke reactions. In each session, we share a fresh perspective, and expose participants to new ideas and new ways of thinking about our field. We hope that viewers will reframe their thinking and get inspired.

The challenges we face today in our work are complex. We seek out intriguing topics, and reach out to leaders in the field and respondents, including self-advocates, to present their perspectives.

Polls, videos, and discussion pods provide many chances for audience interaction.

The “44” Webinar Series

Becoming Empowered, and the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE).

Partners include the Arc of the US, National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services, Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered, and the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE).

www.ThinkWork.org

Meet Our Webinar Team:

- Abigail Hall
- E.J. Baker
- Andrea Jordan
- Jocelyn Schwartz
- Max Barrows, Self-advocate
- Annya Weber
- Melanie Jordan
- John Butterworth
- Cindy Thomas
- Allison Hall
- Don Lavin, Nonprofit Director
- Debra Whitehead, Senior Trainer/
- Judith Gross, Researcher
- Anya Weber
- Melanie Jordan
- John Butterworth
- Cindy Thomas
- Allison Hall

Organizational Transformation: From Workshops to Community Employment (10/20/16)

Provider agencies across the country are transitioning from segregated “sheltered” workshop options to supporting integrated community careers for people with disabilities. We shared findings from a panel of experts about characteristics considered essential for provider transformation.

What’s on your mind about advancing integrated employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities? Jot your ideas on the index cards provided, and get a reward!

What did participants say?

- “By talking about this, I will now encourage my staff as social change agents.”
- “All does mean All with the right supports and services, natural and formal.”
- “Not to be afraid to say to our consumers to think vision instead of benefits first!”
- “Presenting the issue as an incompatibility between life goals and reliance on disability was interesting.”
- “To continue to push parents and teachers outside their comfort zone when putting competitive, integrated employment out there as an option for any student with disabilities.”
- “Ones step at a time creates a ripple.”
- “People (from whatever culture) can evolve and change in their thinking. Sometimes cultural competence discussion pigeonholes people upon whatever their culture is – forgetting that it is not all static.”
- “I think we definitely should be always aware of the traditions and values of the families – their dreams, goals and visions for their loved ones.”
- “Start with person-centered dreams, not the institutional model of SSA Disability Benefits.”
- “The importance of raising expectations.”
- “I loved hearing from Nicole [a self-advocate]. She really makes you remember to listen to what individuals want...and how to actually provide them with informed choices.”
- “Remember that individuals need to see, hear, and feel what it is like to work!”
- “We can’t continue offering the same services and service delivery models and expecting better results.”
- “Not working is not an option!”
- “That we are all experiencing similar barriers all over the country.”