

# NEWSLETTER

## REGION VII WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

### Transitional Job Program

Transitional Jobs are a planned, structured learning experience that takes place in a workplace for a limited period of time for those who have had little or no prior experience in the workplace. This may include a work study program which enriches the client's academic knowledge, job readiness skills and at the same time, offers "Real Time" experience in the workplace. Also, this may include a work study program which enriches the client's academic knowledge primarily in a specific skill. This training should also expose the clients to a specific career path.

"My job is to assist people in recovery with finding meaningful employment. The people that I work with face a variety of obstacles and barriers to employment and most have a criminal background. The transitional job program has been my biggest resource for these individuals. Over the course of 3 months, I have been able to assist ten (10) individuals in finding employment by utilizing these programs. Typically, employers don't hire people with a criminal background or a history of Substance Use Disorder because they have come to believe the stigma and stereotypes that are associated with the recovery community. By utilizing the workforce resources, I am able to connect employers to employees without fear of that stigma. The employers have the opportunity to meet these individuals and experience all the positive attributes that they have to offer. So far I have had a 100% retention rate from transitional employment to On-the-Job Training.

**Rebecca Conrad**  
**Hampshire County Pathways**  
**Recovery Employment Navigator**

### Success Story



**Michelle Fischer**  
**Morgan County**  
**WIOA Transitional Job Program**

Michelle Fischer from Morgan County is employed with the Morgan County Boys & Girls Club. She was promoted recently to the Assistant Director. Michelle began working at the Boys & Girls Club through the transitional job program. She then took a course and earned a computer Next Level Innovators certification. Michelle has excelled in her positions working with the Morgan County youth and has been an inspirational figure to those in Morgan County.

"I would like to thank Michelle McDowell and the Region 7 Workforce Development programs for helping me to succeed and excel in my job and my future."

