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New Trainings Support Recovery-Friendly Workplace Policies and Practices

COLUMBUS, OHIO – With the launch of three new online trainings, both employers and employees now have new tools at their disposal to help them prevent and respond to substance misuse within the workplace. The trainings, available at RecoveryOhio.Gov, were developed by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS), the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation, RecoveryOhio, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce, and the training and consulting firm *Working Partners*[®]. They join a suite of training modules in an “Opioid Toolkit” first launched by the Ohio Chamber of Commerce in 2017.

“These modules are helping both the person in recovery and the business that is employing them,” said Lt. Governor Jon Husted, Director of the Governor’s Office of Workforce Transformation. “Employment is a crucial step in the recovery process, and it gives people a sense of purpose and belonging.”

The Opioid Toolkit was created in response to an Ohio Chamber of Commerce task force that found employers were requesting resources to address the opioid problem in their workplaces. The new additions to that toolkit are the trainings “Building a Healthy and Productive Workforce by Supporting Employees in Recovery,” “Navigating My Recovery at Work,” and “A Dose of Reality for Employees: Being a Safe and Critical Consumer of Prescription Medications.”

“We’re pleased to merge our toolkit with the efforts of Governor Mike DeWine and his agencies to bring to you a comprehensive suite of resources,” said Ohio Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Andrew E. Doehrel. “The toolkit will help employers address the risks associated with this public menace facing our communities and impacting our businesses.”

The trainings focus on a science-based explanation of substance use disorder to reduce stigma and develop effective strategies for managing it. These trainings guide employers in developing a business approach to preventing and responding to substance misuse, including hiring and retaining employees in recovery. For employees, the trainings can help them navigate workplace policies, practices, and overall company culture to ensure that they have the tools necessary to maintain lifelong recovery.

“These free resources will demonstrate to employers that hiring or retaining individuals in recovery does not have to be an overwhelming or complicated experience,” said ODJFS Interim Director Matt Damschroder. “We know now that substance use disorder is a chronic health condition, which can be managed with education and understanding. We also know that having meaningful employment can be a powerful tool for supporting health and giving purpose to anyone’s life.”

Moments after taking the oath of office, Governor DeWine created the RecoveryOhio initiative to ensure that the state of Ohio acts aggressively to address unintentional drug overdose crises, as well as invests in the health and well-being of every Ohio citizens.

“Employers can be a key partner in the recovery process and their involvement benefits both the workforce and the workplace,” said *Working Partners*® CEO & Founder Dee Mason.

“Especially in this tight labor market, providing a tool to help employers prevent substance misuse and support employees in recovery is a powerful asset for the state.”