

Speaker 1:

My name is Melissa Lowe. I am 58 years old. I live and work in Penobscot County and I am an employment specialist and have been for three years now. As an employment specialist, I assist individuals with a mental health diagnosis to find and keep employment. I am integrated into a mental health agency and work very closely with the case management program. So my first impression of this job was that I was going to come in and, and help people find employment. And what I've come to realize is that there are other things that are important to be able to reach that goal, such as building their self-confidence and instilling hope for them to succeed. This field has made a difference in my life by celebrating the small successes with my clients and seeing their confidence grow. What I learned from that is that it's more important to be their coach and cheerleader than, um, it is to write their resume. So I had a client who was not only unemployed, but he was homeless and we worked together. I helped him submit applications. Um, he went on his first job interviewing and got the job, and he was so excited he was in my office crying. Happy tears again. It fills me up like when you see those successes, it really got to the core of what I do and why I do it.

Speaker 2:

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