



WRAP for WORK:

Recovery at Work

September, 2005 edition

WORKBOOK

To be used in conjunction with the
Wellness Recovery Action Plan
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Table of Contents

Foreword	5
Wellness Toolkit	6
Triggers	10
Early Warning Signs	12
Crisis Plan	14
Post-Crisis Plan	17
Using your Plan	20
Bibliography	20

Foreword

Mary Ellen Copeland's Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) is a valuable and important tool for personal recovery. Identifying tasks for daily personal maintenance, managing triggers and early warning signs, and preparing crisis plans helps give us control over our illnesses. The more we know about the things that trigger and support us, the more power we have to create lives of meaning and fulfillment.

The world of work offers unique recovery opportunities and challenges. Studies show positive outcomes for mental health consumers who participate in competitive employment. Work brings new issues to manage in recovery. This workbook will help you create a wellness recovery action plan (WRAP for Work) that specifically relates to work issues. It is recommended that you complete a personal WRAP prior to this workbook so that you can think about how that information affects and relates to your work life.

I. Wellness Toolkit

The WRAP for WORK toolkit offers questions to help you think about how to maintain your wellness and recovery at work. These questions may help you gain a clearer understanding of what you are like at work on good and bad days and identify what you can do to have more good days at work. Refer to this toolkit when completing other sections of your WRAP for WORK plan.

When I am feeling good and performing well at work:

My thinking is _____? (i.e. clear, focused, better at making decisions, more positive, good memory and recall, organized, etc.)

I feel _____ (i.e. competent, optimistic, valued, responsible, cheerful, friendly, etc.) _____

How do you relate to your boss and coworkers? (i.e. friendly, feel comfortable asking questions, communicate clearly, ask for and offer support, etc.) _____

I am really good at performing these sorts of tasks: _____

I take care of myself at work by..._____ (i.e. eating healthy, going for walks on breaks, maintaining a task list, keeping my work area organized, talking to supportive people, displaying inspiring quotes or pictures, etc.)

I take care of myself during non-work hours by _____ (i.e. getting enough sleep, preparing healthy meals, exercising, talking to friends, keeping work clothes organized, getting up early enough to do morning tasks, not getting upset if tied up in traffic, etc.) _____

When I am feeling bad and not performing well at work:

My thinking is..._____ (i.e. fuzzy, more negative, harder to focus, trouble remembering things, more critical of other people, easily distracted, racing thoughts, etc.) _____

I feel _____ (i.e. overwhelmed, confused, worthless, helpless, unsupported, etc.) _____

How do you relate to your supervisor and coworkers? (i.e. irritated, superficial, over-react to criticism, stop asking questions, think people are mad at me, avoid them, etc.) _____

It is really hard to perform these sorts of tasks: (i.e. math, talking to people, reading, taking directions, telling others what to do, filing paperwork on time, etc.)

Some things that do not help me feel and perform better are _____
(i.e. self-medicating, worrying about how others feel about me, withdrawing and not expressing myself, focusing on my negative self talk, never being wrong, etc.) _____

I can feel better sometimes by doing these things at work _____
(i.e. asking a coworker to give me feedback about my work, prioritizing my work tasks, talking to a support person, going for a walk, doing a task better than is expected, etc.) _____

I can do these things at home to make the next workday better _____
(i.e. going to bed early, exercising hard, talking to a support person, doing something fun, getting advice from friends and family, helping someone else in need, etc.) _____

What other things affect the way you work or feel about your co-workers?

III. Triggers

Triggers are **upsetting events** that occur in our work or personal lives and start symptoms, feelings or behaviors that block us from doing well at work. Think about what happens **before the feelings and behaviors occur**. Once you know what your triggers are, you can plan to avoid trigger situations or do self-care steps if you can not.

What has happened or could happen at work that might trigger you? (i.e. feeling overwhelmed, being criticized, dealing with someone who reminds you of an abuser, making a mistake, having to do a task you're not good at, etc.)

Do you notice any small problems that could turn into triggers at work?

I can do these things to avoid these triggers in the future: _____
(i.e. discuss my sensitivity with the person who triggers me (if they are safe), talk to a support person about how to desensitize myself or deal with the situation; ask my boss to make accommodations so I am not triggered as much, etc.)

If these triggers occur, some things I can do are _____
(i.e. journal, go for a walk, breathe deeply, talk to a support person or co-worker, challenge and reprogram negative self talk, etc.) _____

IV. Early Warning Signs

Early warning signs are internal and may be unrelated to reactions to stressful situations. In spite of our best efforts at reducing symptoms, we may begin to experience early warning signs, subtle signs of change that indicate we may need to take some further action.

What early warning signs might you see at work that would indicate that you need to take further action? (i.e. arrive to work late or not at all, easy tasks seem hard, feel incompetent, can't concentrate, jump from task to task, feel angry and impatient with others, weepy, etc.) _____

How might these warning signs appear to your boss or coworkers? (i.e. undependable, lazy, bossy, angry, incompetent, hard to deal with, etc. Would it be safe to talk to them about it?) _____

If you use alcohol or drugs, how do they affect your ability to do your job? (i.e. heightened sense of competence or confidence, apathy, foggy thinking, slow reflexes, inaccurate perceptions, easily irritated, less critical, low energy, etc.)

What could you do at work to prevent your symptoms from getting worse? (i.e. talk to your boss, coworkers and/or support team, ask for someone to answer your phone calls, ask for more breaks at work, ask for an adjusted schedule, take several days off, make sure you're doing everything on your daily maintenance plan, stay busy, etc.) _____

VI. Crisis Planning

No one wants to experience a crisis at work. If we make plans when we are well, we have more control over situations and make it easier for others around us.

What symptoms would indicate to your coworkers that someone needs to take responsibility for your care or make decisions on your behalf? (i.e. uncontrollable pacing, inability to stay still, thinking you are someone you are not, thinking you have the ability to do something that you do not, displaying abusive, destructive or violent behavior toward your self, others or property, abusing alcohol and/or drugs, etc.)

Who would you like to support you while you are in crisis at work?

Name	Phone Numbers
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<hr/>	<hr/>

Who at work do you not want to support you while you are in crisis?

VII. Post Crisis Plan

When the crisis at work is over, it is important to focus on recovering and moving on. Planning and learning from the crisis experience is useful at this point.

I will know that I am “out of crisis” and ready for post-crisis planning and re-assuming work responsibilities when I can

When I have recovered from my crisis, I would like to feel

What do I need to do now to prevent having problems because of my recent crisis? What can I do at a later time, and when will I do it?

NOW _____

LATER _____

I would like the following people to help and/or support me during this post-crisis time:

Name	Phone number	Relationship	What they could do to help
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What people and things do I need to avoid while I am recovering from my recent work crisis?

It would be useful do these things every day while recovering from my crisis at work:

How will I know if I am beginning to feel bad or am in risk of returning to a crisis phase? (i.e. worry, tearfulness, anxiety, trouble sleeping, tardiness, etc.)

What wellness tools can I use if I start to feel bad or am in risk of having another crisis at work? (Make a star next to those you must do.)

What have I learned from my crisis-at-work?

What changes do I want to make in my life as a result of what I have learned?

How do I intend to make these changes?

Resuming Responsibilities (use the space below to list who has been helping you while you were in your crisis-at-work, what they were doing for you and how you plan to return to these duties.)

Responsibility #1

What? _____

Who was helping? _____

Plan for resuming responsibility

Responsibility #2

What? _____

Who was helping? _____

Plan for resuming responsibility

Responsibility #3

What? _____

Who was helping? _____

Plan for resuming responsibility

Using your Plan

Creating a **WRAP for Work** plan will help to support your recovery at work. It's important to keep your plan handy as a reminder and so you can change it as you learn more about what you need to do to maintain your wellness on a daily basis. It's also very important to give a copy of your crisis plan to your chosen supporters at work, making sure they understand what you need from them in the event of a crisis. Planning for the best and the worst is an admirable and worthwhile effort that will help you recover and create the life you desire.

Happy working recovery!

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This workbook includes revisions of the EWRAP Workbook draft by Mary Shuman/Appalachian Consulting Group (April 2004) for the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance and The Wellness and Recovery Action Plan Workbook by Julie Spores, Ike Powell and Lynn Thogersen (January 2005), Their hard work, help and support was invaluable in the creation of this guide.

This Workbook Belongs To:

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone Number

If this workbook is found, please return to me at the above address. Thank you.

I created this plan on (date) _____

With the help of _____

Any plan with a more recent date supersedes this one.

Signed _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____

Witness _____ Date _____



This Workbook was compiled by Randy Tucker
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