

## **Buckelew job program expanding in Sonoma**

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SONOMA – Buckelew Employment Services is expanding in Sonoma as a result of growing demand since the Department of Rehabilitation is now referring clients to BES for job placements.

Buckelew Programs runs a no-fee employment placement program called Blue Skies Personnel Services, placing people with mental illness into direct-hire jobs. Professional job developers work with employers to identify staffing needs, introduce qualified job candidates and assist with the interview process. Once hired, job coaches work with the client to ensure success of the placement, and HR specialists provide ongoing consulting and training.

Prior to starting Blue Skies, Buckelew placed 17 people with mental illness into jobs. In every year since, it has placed between 75 and 93 people. The program was established to overcome mental health stigma in the workplace.

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