



Supporting Minnesota's Ill/Injured Workers; 2018-Present

Nancy Omondi, RETAIN State Director

Dr. Laura Breeher, RETAIN Medical Director

Dr. Clay Cowl, RETAIN Medical Director

RETAIN National Overview – Early Intervention

RETAIN National Partners:

The RETAIN Initiative spans a total of 6 1/2 years and is funded in two phases.

Phase	Funding	Performance Period	Grant Activities
Phase 1	\$25,675,663 total	September 2018 – March 2021	<p>Planning & start-up activities</p> <p>Pilot program</p>
Phase 2	<p>Approximately \$110,000,000 total</p> <p>Up to \$21,600,000 per state</p>	April 2021 – March 2025 (projected)	<p>Scale up & implement RETAIN program</p> <p>Participate in independent evaluation</p>



Five states ([Minnesota](#), Ohio, Kentucky, Kansas, and Vermont) were awarded grant funds in Phase II to implement early intervention strategies to improve stay-at-work/return-to-work (SAW/RTW) outcomes of individuals who experience a work disability while employed.



RETAIN - Helping Ill/Injured Minnesotan's return to work

Increase employment retention and labor force participation of ill and injured individuals; reduce long-term work disability.

Focus Areas:

- Early intervention
- Supporting Ill/Injured Employees
- Building Employer Connections
- Educating Healthcare Providers
- Creating Connections Across Systems

Key Highlights:

- Changes to EMR (see notes)
- 739+ returned to work
- Support services - \$650k supporting participants
- Equity benchmark exceeded; goal 15%, 24.7% actual
- Developed replicable community engagement model for DEED
- Highest number of equity select contracts (7)

Eligibility:

- 18 years of age or older
- Live and work in Minnesota
- Has a work-related or non-work-related (personal) injury or illness that acutely affects employment including exacerbation of pre-existing conditions
- Employed or looking for employment

Acronyms:

AIR: American Institute for Research

DOL: Department of Labor

ODEP: Office of Disability Employment Policy

RETAIN: Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network

RTWCM: Return to Work Case Manager

SAW/RTW: Stay-at-Work/Return-to-Work

SDOH: Social Determinants of Health

SSA: Social Security Administration

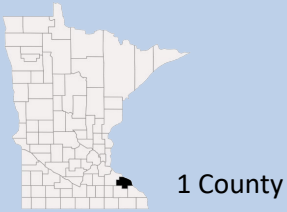
RETAIN External Partners:



RETAIN - What it means for Minnesota

Phase I

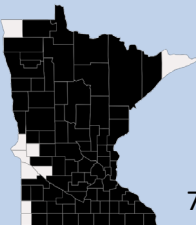
Timeline: Sept. 2018-Dec. 2021
Funding: \$3.5M
Goal: 150 workers
Focus: Southeastern MN
 Workers guided through uncertainty of recent illness/injury by RTWCM.
 Efficient and early coordination of healthcare services and employment-related support.
 Embedding RTWCMs into the clinical practice.
 Establish data and evaluation protocols.



1 County

Phase II

Timeline: Nov. 2021-May 2026
Funding: \$19.5M
Goal: 3,200 workers; >15% BIPOC representation
Focus: Scaling Statewide
 Underserved and underrepresented communities, both disproportionately hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic.
 Emphasis on enrollment & outreach efforts.
 Validating the retain intervention as successful return to work/stay at work model.



76 Counties

RETAIN Sustainability

Timeline: May 2025-May 2026
Funding: Phase II Funding
Goal: 200 enrollments; evaluating healthcare utilization; systemic support for ill/injured workers
 Increase focus on self and provider referral.
 Provide more intensive services for participants and providers enrolled after May 17, 2024.
 Support changes to MN's State Dislocated Worker policies.
 MN is a national leader in stay-at-work/return-to-work policy and has been asked by ODEP to share guidance with other RETAIN states.



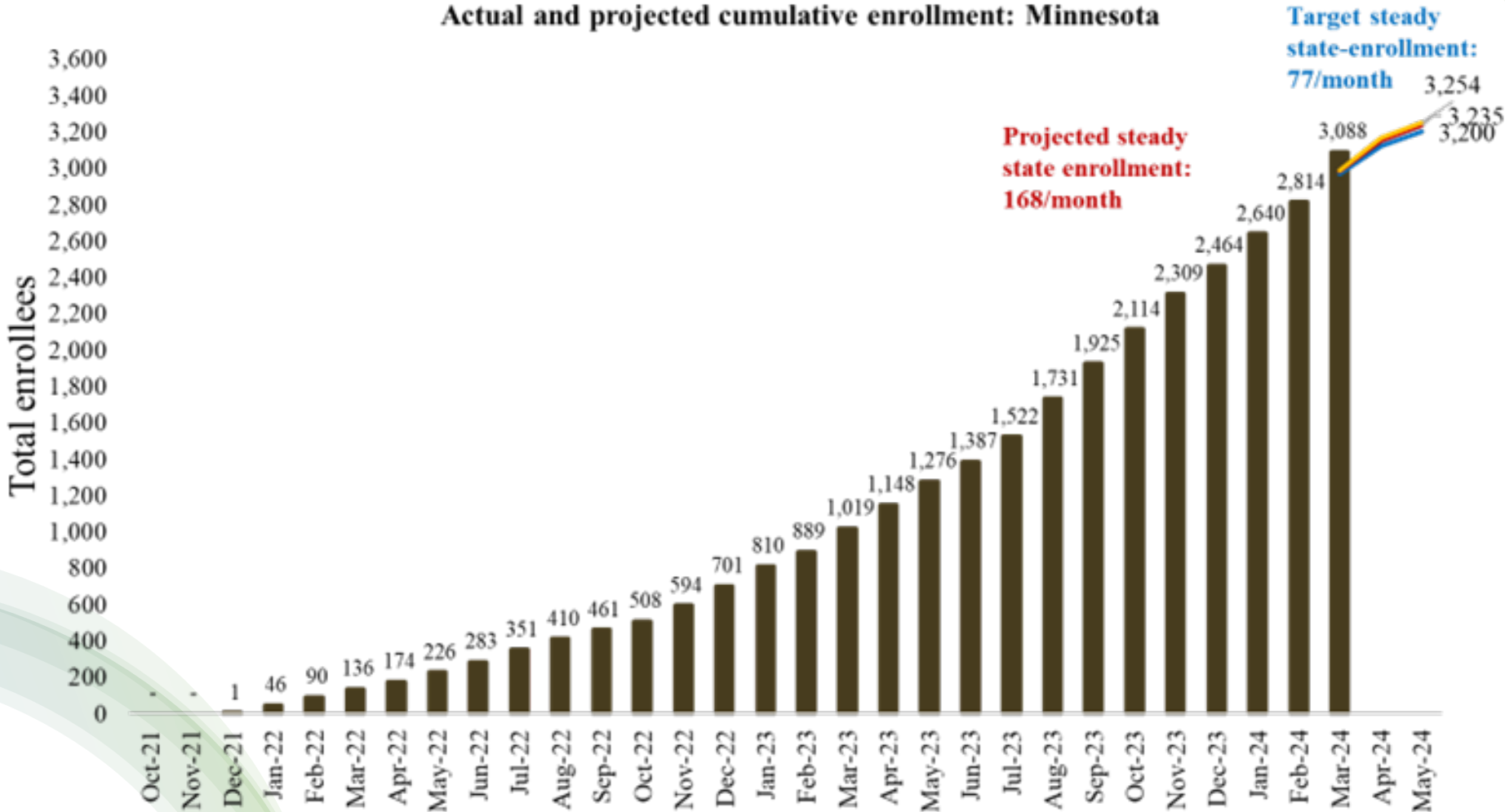
All counties; national policy leader



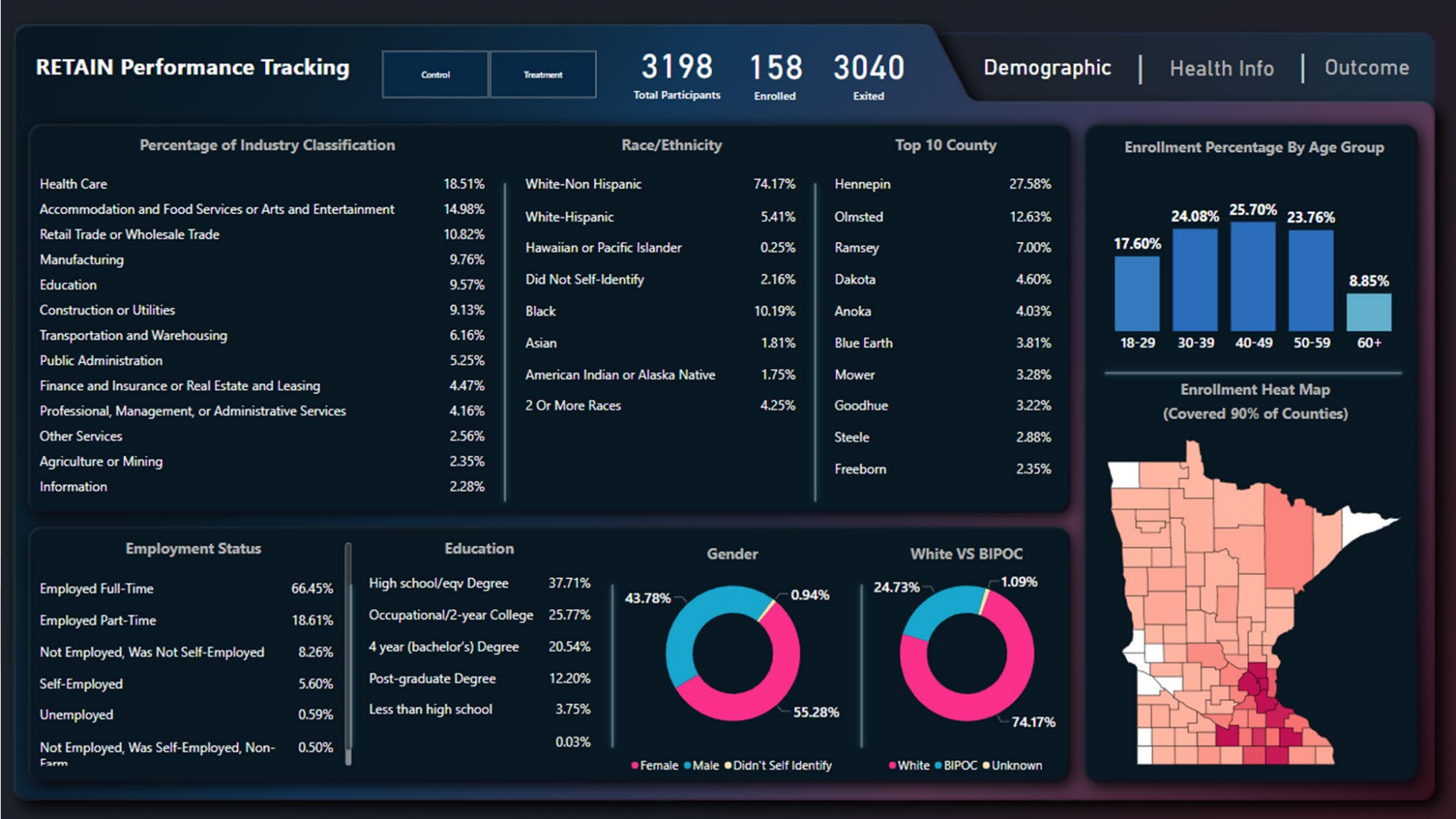
Retaining Employment and Talent After Injury/Illness Network



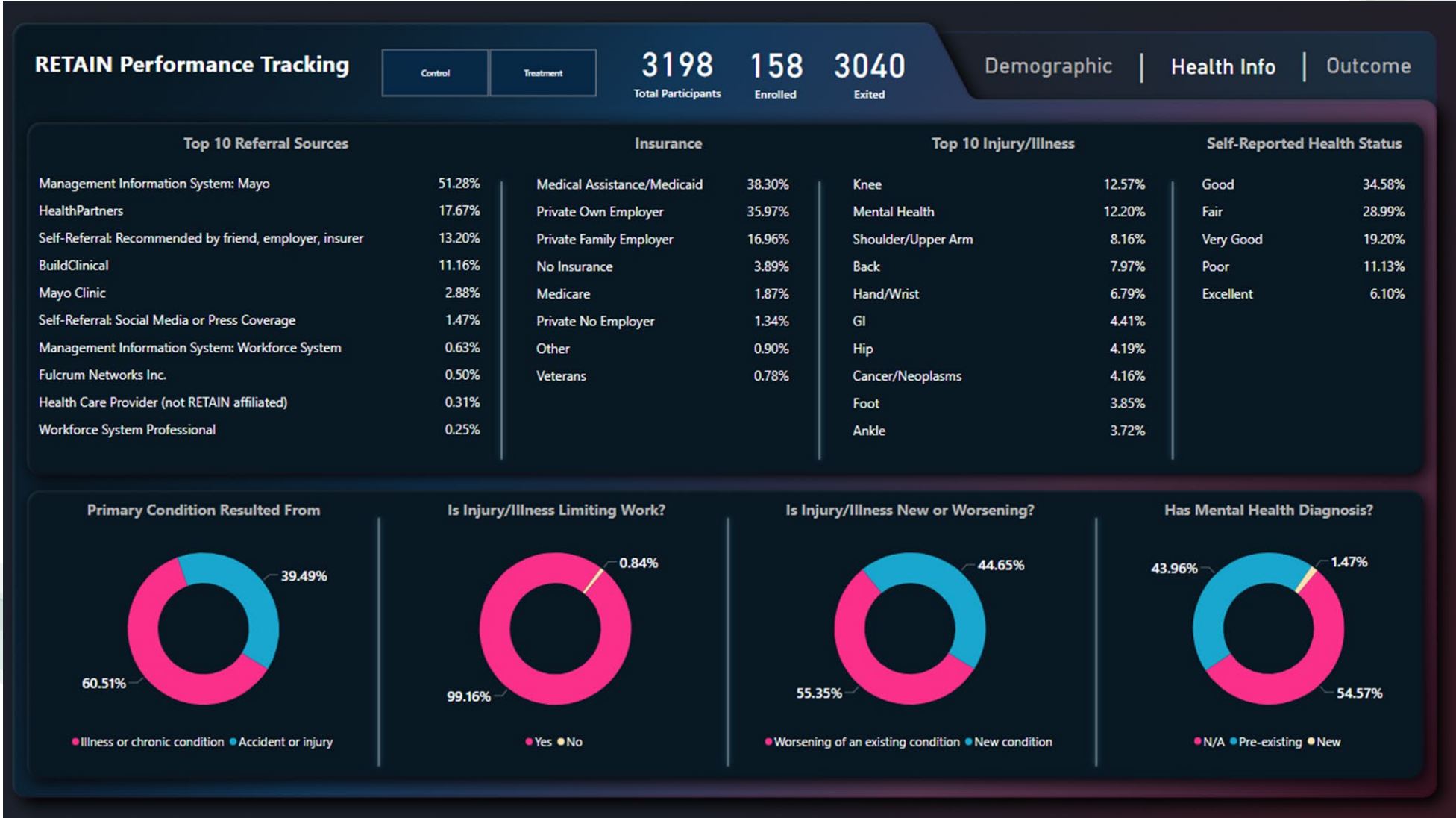
RETAIN – Enrollments by month



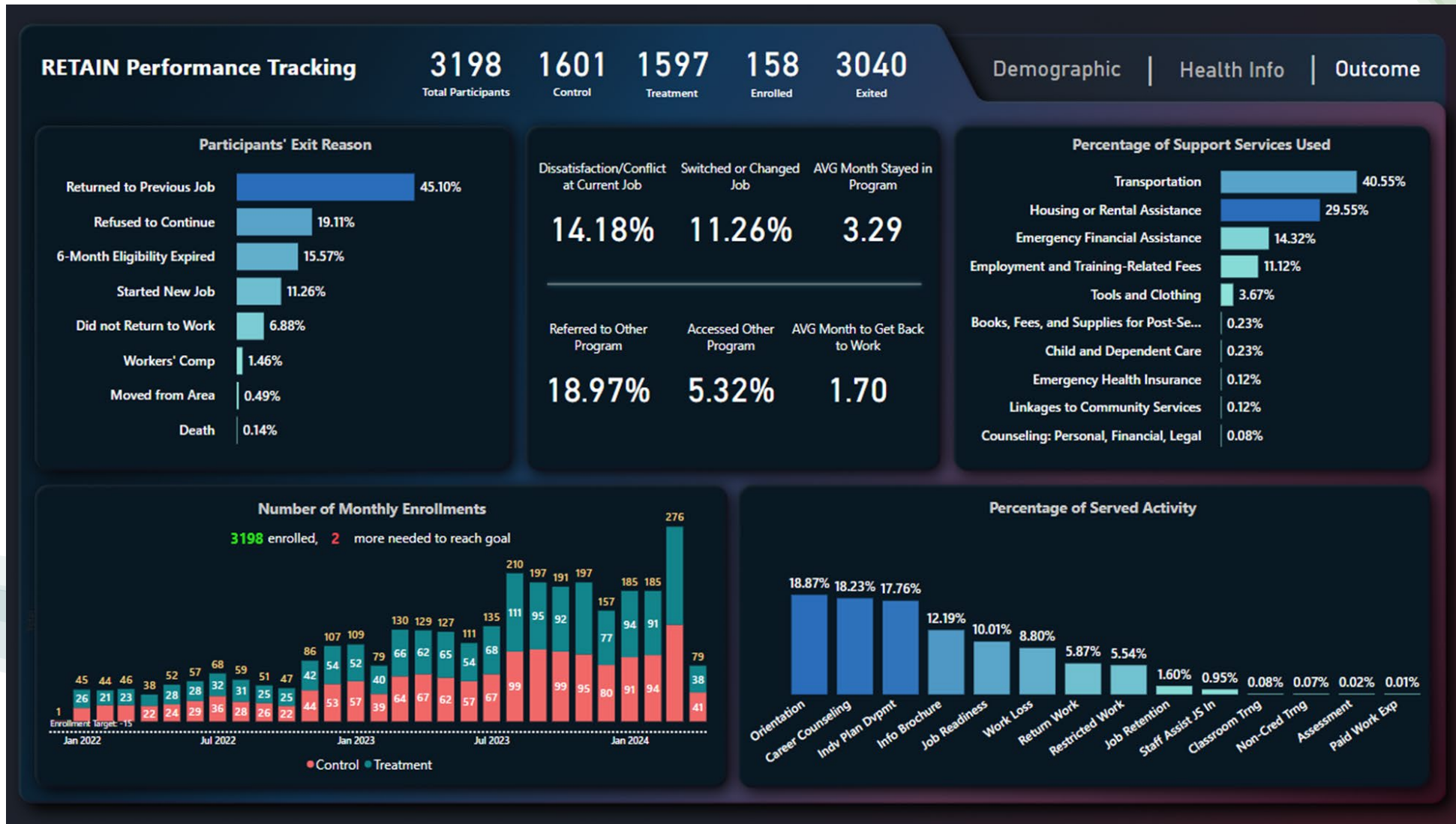
RETAIN - Dashboard



RETAIN - Dashboard

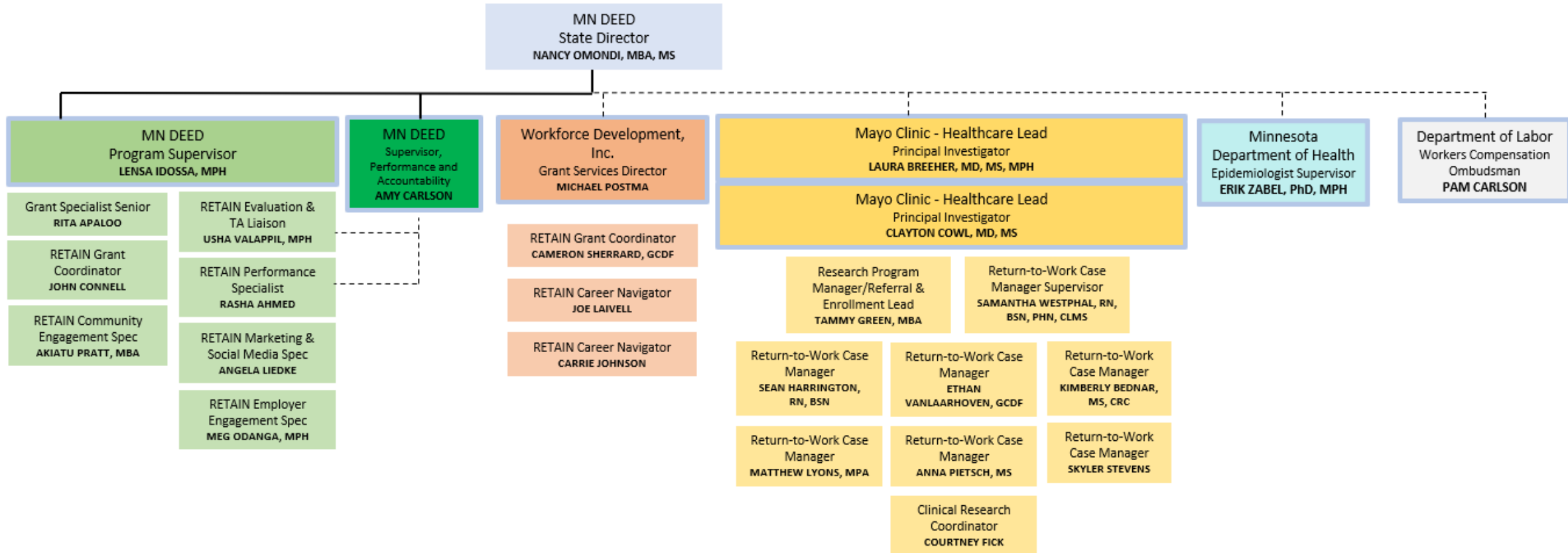


RETAIN - Dashboard



State of Minnesota RETAIN Team

Organizational Chart MN RETAIN



Acknowledgements

