

SUPPORTED EDUCATION

FOR STUDENTS WITH
PSYCHIATRIC DISABILITIES

CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
SAMHSA

Supported Education

Helping people with mental illness enroll in an education program so they may receive the education and training they need to achieve their learning and recovery goals and/or become gainfully employed in the job or career of their choice.

Supported Education includes:

- Adult basic education
- GED
- Training programs
- College or university



Key Elements

- Access
- Eligibility
- Timely
- Integrated
- Continuity
- Choice
- Meaningful roles

Key Elements

- Access to and participation in an education program is the goal.
- Eligibility is based on personal choice.
- Supported education services begin soon after the person expresses interest.

Key Elements cont.

- Supported education is integrated with treatment.
- Follow-along supports are continuous.
- Consumer preferences guide services.
- Recovery is an on-going process facilitated by meaningful roles

STUDENT OUTCOMES



Registered for 7 credits

Completed 90% of coursework

Earned average GPA 3.14

Completion rate comparable to other part-time students

Unger, K. Pardee, R. Shafer, M: Outcomes of postsecondary supported education for people with psychiatric disabilities. Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation 14:195-199, 2000.

Outcomes cont.

Enrolled students report higher levels of satisfaction with their quality of life and significantly higher levels of self esteem than those who are (1) working or (2) who are not enrolled in school or (3) not working.

Outcomes cont.

Enrolled students report higher levels of satisfaction with their living situation, finances, daily activities, social relations, and family contacts than those who are not going to school.

Challenges of Returning to School

- Applying for financial aid
- Registration
- Concentration
- Distracted by internal or external stimuli
- Relating to others
- Taking tests
- Completing assignments on time
- Managing time



Who Does What?

- Postsecondary Institution
- Mental Health Agency
- Student
- Peer Support



Postsecondary Institution

- Provide academic counseling
- Provide reasonable accommodations
- Provide financial aid



Reasonable Accommodations

An accommodation is an adjustment in a classroom environment, or task, or requirement, that allows a person with a disability to participate equally with others.

The Role of Mental Health Services

- Change expectations
- Develop individualized education plan
- Provide support
- Link to resources



Student Role

- Maintain physical and mental health
- Maintain reasonable expectations
- Manage financial aid
- Know rights and responsibilities on campus
- Show up
- Ask for help

Predictors of Success

- Predictors
 - Number of hospitalizations
 - Transportation
 - College withdrawal policies
- Not predictors
 - Psychiatric diagnosis
 - Prior college experience
 - Prior GPA
 - Type of institution



Predictors of Success

Participation in supported education is a consistently significant predictor of employment - a more significant indicator than supported employment, skills training, vocational assessment or participation in a psychosocial clubhouse.



Leff, S. & McPartland, J: Service Quality as measured by service fit and employment status among public mental health system service recipients. Conference UIC, NRTCPCD, Chicago, 1998

**Adapted From A Presentation
prepared by Karen V. Unger**

for

**Center For Mental Health Services, Substance
Abuse And Mental Health Services
Administration (SAMHSA)**

Options Supported Education Program

Started in July 2007 with funding from AMH and JBH

1 full time supported education specialist

Sited at Rogue Community College and integrated with Student Support Services

Training and fidelity reviews via Karen Unger

Supported Education Outcomes

21 people currently being served

15 are enrolled at Rogue Community College

8 are taking community college classes

7 are working to complete their GEDs

Scored 88/100 on recent fidelity review