National Evidence-Based Practice Supported Employment Conference
Johnson & Johnson Dartmouth Mental Health Program

About the Conference

The Johnson & Johnson Division of Corporate Contributions and Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center had their 4th annual SE-EBP conference in Portland, Oregon on May 7th and 8th. Attendees at the conference include the SE-EBP consultant/trainers as well as State VR and Mental Health leaders for the eleven states implementing evidence-based practice supported employment. States represented this year at the conference included: Oregon, Kansas, Vermont, Maryland, Ohio, District of Columbia, Minnesota, Connecticut, Illinois, South Carolina and Missouri. Representing Kansas at the conference was Linda Carlson and Galen Smith with KUSSW, Nancy Rapp from Kansas Disability & Behavioral Health Services, and Eunice Thomson from Kansas Rehabilitation Services. The purpose of the conference is to provide an exchange of information regarding implementing SE-EBP.

What We Learned

The conference included a variety of speakers and “breakout” sessions to brainstorm on identified topics. This year the topics included:

Strategies for Implementing the Ticket to Work - SSA has just issued new regulations for the Ticket to Work program. The new regulations include changes that are intended to improve the program by structuring payments so that it is more viable for providers to serve clients and encouraging a VR-EN (Vocational Rehabilitation - Employment Networks) partnership. These changes should encourage more organizations to become Employment Networks, increase services offered to beneficiaries, and improve coordination of services.

Strategies for training and mentoring supported employment supervisors - This topic recognizes the vital role that supported employment supervisors’ play in implementing EBPSF and in sustaining supported employment programs once implementation is
Methods to further involve families in supported employment and partner with the NAMI at the state level - Angela Kimball, Director of State Policy for NAMI presented information urging the EBPSE states to partner with state NAMI and local chapters to facilitate the success of implementing supported employment programs.

Strategies to involve clients in implementation of supported employment, training and fidelity reviews – A consumer panel discussed strategies for helping consumers’ successful return to work. States shared successful strategies for involving consumers in implementation of SE-EBP.

Kansas Goals Based on Conference

1. Further educate ourselves on the new regulations for Ticket to Work. Explore alternative VR-EN partnership mechanisms for facilitating the use of Ticket to Work in Kansas SE-EBP programs.

2. Explore ways to use peer specialists in Supported Employment Programs (e.g. assisting with outreach for people in contemplation and pre-contemplation).

3. Re-establish the use of consumers in training for SE.

4. Increase the connection between NAMI (State and local) and SE-EBP

Valeo Supported Employment Services Wins Johnson & Johnson – Dartmouth Achievement Award

The J&J-Dartmouth Achievement Award recognizes programs that have shown
significant improvement in supported employment services. This is the first year for this award. Along with the national recognition comes a $10,000.00 award. Two programs were recognized this year – Valeo Behavioral Healthcare’s Supported Employment Program in Topeka Kansas and a program in South Carolina.

Valeo’s supported employment program began implementing evidence-based practice in January 2004. At that time, there were three employment specialists for a CSS population of 700 clients and with caseloads ranging from 30 to 50 clients. At baseline, 9% of the supported employment clients were working. Through their four years implementing, their fidelity has increased from 56 to 70, their outcomes have increased from 9% to 53%, and they have significantly increased the number of staff (3 staff to 9) and number of clients (141 to 175) receiving supported employment.

Accepting the award at the conference for the Kansas program were Kristin Farley, SES Supervisor and Betty Williams, VR Supervisor. Congratulations to Kristin Farley and her SE staff and to Betty Williams and the Topeka VR Staff for this much deserved recognition.

Want to Learn More?

New Publication: “A Practical Guide for Practitioners and Supervisors: Supported Employment” was premiered at this year’s conference. This extremely valuable resource written by Sara Swanson, Deborah Becker, Robert Drake, and Mathew Merrens covers virtually all supported employment services in great detail. This guidebook along with the two previously produced DVD’s create a complete training curriculum for supported employment specialists and guidelines for being an effective supported employment supervisor. All the Kansas EBPSE activities will receive an initial free copy. Additional copies can be purchased for $25.00 and every supported employment specialist ought to have their own copy—this is a fabulous resource! To order a copy, click on the following link and click on “ordering supported employment materials.  http://dms.dartmouth.edu/prc/employment/supported/

Johnson & Johnson has played a key role in the dissemination of EBPSE through their financial support and corporate philosophy of giving. For those of you interested in learning more about Johnson & Johnson and their role in supporting EBPSE and a host of other very worthwhile mental health projects follow this link: www.jnj.com/connect/caring/corporate-giving/.

For an overview of the J&J partnership with Dartmouth Psychiatric Research Center including a brief history of the EBPSE go to: http://dms.dartmouth.edu/prc/employment/.

For those of you who would like to learn more about the EBPSE project in Oregon follow this link: http://www.optiononline.org/osece.php.

To learn more about Ticket to Work go to: http://www.socialsecurity.gov/work/

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