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Work Skills Programming Within Davidson County Residential Drug Court

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WORK SKILLS PROGRAMMING WITHIN DAVIDSON COUNTY RESIDENTIAL DRUG COURT



Sarah Dinnes

Faculty Mentor: Katy Schmidt, OTD, OTR/L

Expert Mentor: Nancy Dabbs



DC4 Mission and Goals

Mission

“To assist the Criminal Justice System in addressing the substance abuse problem by providing a long-term residential quality treatment program that will promote positive change in criminal and addictive behaviors for the purpose of successfully reintegrating adult offenders into society”

Goals

1. Promote public safety by reducing recidivism among program participants.
2. Reduce incarceration of non-violent, chemically dependent offenders by providing intensive alcohol and drug treatment
3. Gain community support for recovery and rehabilitation.

Agency Needs

DC4 is a long-term residential facility that provides on-site treatment and recovery resources for participants. The program is divided among 3 phases. The identified need is helping participants transition from phase 2 to phase 3. These individuals need assistance with navigating employment and development of life skills necessary to pursue long-term engagement in productive, positive occupations after release.

OT Perspective

Occupational injustice is the absence of individuals’ right to engage in occupations to sustain a healthy quality of life. Individuals who have been incarcerated and have spent much of their life in the criminal justice system experience occupational injustice. Although research of occupational therapy is scarce in the criminal justice system, studies have shown the positive impact OT can have in correctional facilities on reducing recidivism and promoting healthier, more productive lifestyles. OT interventions, assessments, and programs can help meet individual’s needs and teach new skills to help them reintegrate in the community and be productive members of society.

Project Goals

Capstone

- Gain an understanding of the client’s perspective by participating through immersion of the program.
- Meet with other professionals involved with DC4 to get a better understanding of their roles.
- Collaborate with expert mentor on ideas for group materials to supplement existing program.
- Create resource to provide to DC4 to help individuals build skills prior to transitioning into 3rd phase.

Personal

- Further develop professional communication skills; specifically, with individuals who have mental health and substance abuse disorders.
- Further develop skills in clinical reasoning and ability to adapt in the moment.

Capstone Outcomes

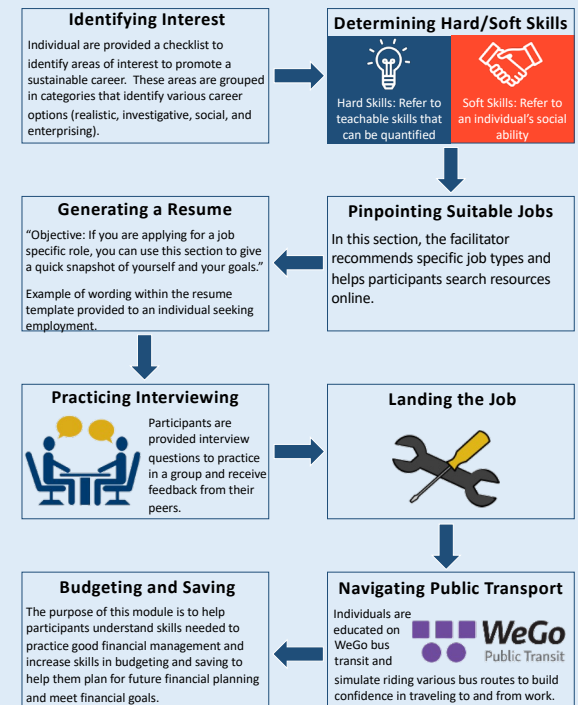
“Addressing Work Skills Readiness”

The primary outcome was the development of intervention materials for improving individuals’ work readiness skills. The project is client-centered in that individuals or group of individuals will be guided through a process to increase skills needed for efficient communication, building a resume by identifying their skills and interests, navigating the application process, understanding good financial management, and building confidence in traveling through the community to improve overall needed skills to transition successfully into the community. To be sustainable for the agency, counselors will be provided materials to have one on one sessions with participants prior to entering third phase.



Capstone Outcomes Cont.

The below flow chart represents what an individual’s path would look like when completing the work skills programming.



Acknowledgements

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