Appealing Features of Vocational Supports
for Latino & non-Latino Transition Age Youth & Young Adult Consumers
Study Goals & Methods

Research Brief 2 | **Transitions RTC** | *March 2011*

Vocational Rehabilitations Programs

The unemployment rate among individuals with a mental health disability is 85-92%. Nearly 70% of unemployed adults with a serious mental health condition (SMHC) want to work. Job placement services make the biggest difference between working and not working for these individuals. These vocational support initiatives come in the form of standard state Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Individual Placement and Support (IPS) model of supported employment and the International Center for Clubhouse Development model (ICCD) designed to help individuals with disabilities prepare for and engage in gainful employment.

Transition Aged Youth & Young Adults (TAYYA), Mental Health & Employment:

The Appealing Features of the Vocational Supports for Latino and Non-Latino TAYYA Consumers Study focuses on addressing employment disparities of young adults with a SMHC by examining their lived experiences with established vocational support programs. The study pays particular attention to Latino TAYYA as they are a group at high risk for negative outcomes including high unemployment and low educational attainment compared to their white counterparts. They are also less likely to seek specialty mental health services and are the fastest growing racial ethnic group in the United States.

Main Research Study Goals

1. Identify common factors that appeal to young adults across the three established vocational support programs.
2. Identify cultural, developmental & contextual common factors that facilitate participation in vocational programs.
3. Identify factors from goals 1 & 2 that differentiate Latino & non-Latino TAYYA.

Research Study Methodology

This qualitative study will include a one-time, semi-structured interview with TAYYA between the ages of 18 and 30 about current or past employment supports through clubhouses, IPS programs, or standard state Vocational Rehabilitation services in Massachusetts. These interviews will address potential barriers and facilitators to the appeal of, and retention in employment support services by focusing on the TAYYA narratives of their personal experiences with the program. Latinos will be oversampled with a targeted recruitment goal of 1/3 Latino from the projected 135 study participants of equal numbers of men and women.

Anticipated Contribution to Mental Health Services for TAYYA:

Knowledge gained through this study will improve our understanding of what young adults need in a vocational support programs. It will also provide information for the design of the next iteration of developmentally and culturally informed vocational support programs that will more effectively target at risk youth and young adults with a SMHC while successfully retaining them in vocational support services.

References

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