

Research-Based Principles of Successful Vocational Rehabilitation Strategies: Are These Available in Your Area?

1. People with serious mental illness can be successfully engaged in competitive employment.
2. Vocational rehabilitation services should involve employment in integrated settings for minimum wage or above.
3. Consumers should be placed in paid jobs as quickly as possible and according to their preferred pace.
4. Ongoing vocational support should be available as needed and desired.
5. Consumers should be helped to find jobs that match their career preferences.
6. Vocational rehabilitation services should explicitly address financial planning and provider education/support around disability benefits and entitlements.
7. Vocational and mental health services should be integrated and coordinated.
8. Vocational service providers should work collaboratively with consumers to address issues of stigma and discrimination, and to help negotiate reasonable accommodations with employers.
9. Vocational rehabilitation services should be made available to all mental health consumers.
10. Vocational services should involve family and friends in supporting consumers' efforts to work.

Employment Intervention Demonstration Program
Center for Mental Health Services
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

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