# Creating and Supporting a Positive Rehabilitation Culture

Jessica Oppenheimer, LCSW Kelly Sutton, LCSW BestSelf Behavioral Health Buffalo, NY

## Objectives

- Provide an understanding of how to use discharge planning to inform rehab goals/length of stay
- Provide a clear path on how to utilize an integrated staff
- How celebrating successes promotes rehabilitation
- Various ways leaders can promote the vision for a rehab culture

# **About Our Agency**

- As of 7/01/17, Lake Shore merged with Child and Adolescent Treatment Services to create BestSelf Behavioral Health
- Contains over 600 employees
- Incorporates all levels of treatment, including PROS, ACT, Homeless Services, MH and CD clinics (integrated through CCBHC), child and adolescent treatment services, HCBS, school based services, and more.

#### Where we were

- Conversion from CDT in 2009
- Continued to have clients from CDT/long length of stay
- Low motivation to make progress on goals
- Minimal discussion regarding outcomes/data tracking
- No recognition of graduations or accomplishments

# Where to Begin

- Discharge planning from Day 1!
- OMH recommends an average length of stay at PROS to be around 1 year
- PROS is not a forever place, it's a stepping stone in recovery
- At intake, ask questions about the participants goals for treatment, explain average length of stay, and "how will you know when you're ready for discharge?" (reviewed at every tx plan)

# Staff Integration

- Clinicians, peer, RN, Employment specialist, and psychiatrist are included at staff meeting and provide feedback for the team
- Employment specialist and peer co-facilitate sessions with clinicians as needed
- Employment specialist reviews/signs tx plans
- Peer facilitates classes, attends job fairs, organizes community speakers, and promotes rehab goals in a number of ways

# **Engagement/Coordination**

- Meeting clients before discharge at the hospital to explain program
- Coordinating with health home care coordinators
- Having community speakers regularly discuss work, school, and socialization options
- Offering assistance (transportation, support, etc) in linking with local resources, such as the Recovery Center or Wellness Center

Concurrent documentation on progress notes

# **Celebrating Successes**

- Annual PROS picnic with awards
- Graduations, regular acknowledgment of achievements with certificates, star board for people who are working
- Invite only pizza parties for those making progress on a work goal

### For Program Directors

- VR audit team asks a question on the audit sheets if a client in the clinic has been considered for PROS
- Length of stay reports to target long length of stay
- Regularly meet with MH/CD clinics and other collaborators to generate referral sources
- Utilizing UR III meeting to discuss PROS participants with a long length of stay
- Maintaining a vision of outcomes and recovery with staff

#### Thank You!

Contact information:

Jessica Oppenheimer, LCSW
joppenheimer@bestselfwny.org
(716) 852-1117 ext. 157

Kelly Sutton, LCSW
ksutton@bestselfwny.org
(716) 822-2117 ext. 241