

Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) Practicum Assignment

Nicola Bancroft

Stenberg College

PSYN 212-6 (C)

B. Tateham

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PSR Practicum Assignment

1. A summary of the Patient

K.D. is diagnosed with depression and suffers from chronic back and neck pain from a previous injury. He is no longer able to work at a laboring job and must now sit while working. He cannot stand for more than 10 minutes without “excruciating pain” (Personal Correspondence, 2013). He presents as an isolated person, with down cast eyes, a reduced appetite and a reluctance to befriend shelter residents (Personal Correspondence, 2013). The services I am looking for must be walking distance from the shelter as K.D does not have a vehicle. The only employment option is one that allows sitting. Culturally K.D is a Caucasian male who identifies as Canadian. He has no affiliation to and does not practice any form of religion. This religious and cultural identification poses no impact on the service requirements. Employment has been scarce since his injury ten years ago and he has been on disability payment since for his unemployment. Job history includes work as a janitor and later running a janitorial business. He has also worked industrial jobs for construction companies. What is a barrier to the client’s job search is his inability to read and write at an adult level. He is currently working towards further schooling and receiving a high school graduation certificate. He is likely diagnosed with learning disabilities that have impeded his ability to complete high school, although no documentation has been presented. My client has many social support networks at the shelter that include the employees, a counselor, and a group of men who meet once weekly for coffee, but he rarely reaches out for support. The coffee group serves as a both a social network and a way to create routine outside the shelter. Staff continues to help K.D with job preparation, information on upgrading and resources regarding literacy courses.

*2. A focused assessment related to the patients **current** status; the specific assessment used will*

be the Mental Status Exam (MSE) and can be included as either a narrative paragraph or in table format

K.D looks unhygienic and unkempt. His clothes are tattered and look unclean. He is appropriately dressed for the season, but has likely not showered in some time. K.D is alert and able to stay focused on the conversation. His behavior is pleasant and accommodating. He is able to answer the questions without hesitation; his speech is normal. K.D has a flat mood and lowered affect. His thought process is logical and he is oriented to time, place and person. Thought content is also appropriate.

3. A detailed summary of all acquired information relating to your two Communities.

For the purpose of this assignment I have researched employment agencies, education upgrading and skills training to help my client with his goal of employment and sustainable housing. The challenges for my client include a lack of proficient reading and writing skills, lack of computer skills, and pain issues relating to his back issue.

Windshield Survey

All of the agencies utilized for K.D. are in the downtown core. They are within walking distance from the shelter and surrounded by shops and restaurants. There is immediate access to medical services such as a pharmacy, doctor's office and hospital, all within walking distance. The 'Merchants Building' is a refurbished building that resembles an old-fashioned, multi-story building, with an upgrade. The carpeting, paint-job and entrances are all new and well maintained in regard to cleanliness. The neighborhood is very well maintained and being the 'historic' of Duncan, boasts century-old totem poles and renovated buildings. Homeless

sometimes congregate at the inner park a few blocks away, but are not visible near the services offered to K.D. The hours of operation for all three agencies are Monday to Friday during business hours. K.D. meets the criteria for all agencies as per our PSR Moving Forward Plan.

Community #1 - Duncan BC

Global Vocational Services

In regard to local employment agencies, Global Vocational Services works in coordination with community partners to deliver a range of employment services through our Work BC Employment Service Centre. The services are diverse and focus on meeting the needs of area job seekers and employers as well as our shifting labour market (Global Vocational Services website, 2013). The first step is for K.D to meet the staff in the resource centre. Depending on his needs, they will assist in identifying the next step towards meeting his employment goals (Global Vocational Services website, 2013). This may be simply providing self-serve services at the resource centre or completing a 'formal needs assessment' and case managed services (Global Vocational Services website, 2013). The 'skill scan' is another offered service that identifies transferable skills of the client. These skills are then coupled with other traditional interests, values and personality attributes to provide a 'big picture' of what the client wants for employment. This service would work well for K.D as he lacks a 'big picture' of his future employment opportunities. He realizes that further education is needed for a sit down job yet is unsure where his interest lies. As K.D. is illiterate, Global Vocational Services would work well because they offer personalized services with a career counselor. Many employment agencies that are self-serve pose barriers to K.D for this reason.



Literacy Now

In order for K.D. to obtain appropriate, non-laborious employment he must complete his high school certification. K.D. is aware of these barriers and remains hopeful that after completing his G.E.D., more opportunities will arise. His current skill set is not enough so our plan involves utilizing a local literacy agency. Literacy Now is an agency in Duncan, BC that offers adult basic education at four levels from Fundamental Certificate (reading, writing and basic math and computer skills), up to BC Adult Graduation (Literacy Now website, 2013). This agency is within walking distance from the shelter and pick-up may be arranged by shelter staff if K.D is experiencing severe physical pain from walking. It is also a free service and is open five

days a week (Literacy Now website, 2013).



Community #2 – South Cowichan, BC

Vancouver Island Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VIVRS)

Vancouver Island Vocational Rehabilitation Services (VIVRS) offers specialized employment and life skill services to residents of Duncan and Ladysmith who identify themselves as living with a disability and have multiple life challenges that make employment difficult. All services at VIVRS are tailored to fit the individual client's needs. When you meet with a VIVRS Specialist, you will work together to choose the services that will be of most

benefit. Examples of services include a vocational assessment to identify career interests, transferable skills, and personal strengths. They also offer specialized assessments to identify accommodations needed in the workplace, or during training. For K.D. this would include the necessity to sit while working. Similarly, individual coaching is supplied to help the client manage a disability, or challenging life circumstances. This individual coaching is essential for K.D. who is currently illiterate. VIVRS also offers access to skills training to prepare for employment and job placement / work experience placements in your area of interest. In conclusion this services is most useful for assistance with a job search, resume and interview preparation, and development of customized employment situations.



4. Compare and Contrast

All of the above agencies satisfy the immediate needs of K.D. The Duncan services will be most useful for their central location. Both services are walking distance from the shelter. A common strength in all agencies is that one-to-one counseling / consultation is offered. This is essential for K.D. due to illiteracy and specific learning needs. Similarly, all services offer workshops and coaching, again this is verbally delivered which is essential for K.D. I cannot find any needed improvements to the offered services in both Duncan and South Cowichan communities. Both service hours are Monday to Friday with regular business hours. In regard to employment agencies, Global and VIVRS fully meet the needs of my chosen client. Similarly the need for upgrading education is fully met with Literacy Now.

5. Highlight your own sense of what role(s) you occupy as a RPN in the realm of PSR and the referral process

The role I occupy as an RPN in the realm of PSR and the referral process is to offer resources and help clients overcome barriers to the best of my ability. This may involve seeking out resources that are within walking distance if the client cannot drive. It may also involve finding accommodations to literacy issues and learning disabilities. PSR promotes client driven initiatives and decisions. K.D. was in support of using the above services at all times. In regard to my role as RPN I now see myself as a resource in regard to community services. Through the development of this assignment I have come to realize the many social services offered in my community of Duncan and South Cowichan.

References:

Global Vocational Services (2013). About global. Retrieved from <http://www.gvsjobs.com>

Literacy Now Cowichan (2013). Adult literacy. Retrieved from
<http://www.literacynowcowichan.com>

Vancouver Island Vocational Rehabilitation Services (2013). Duncan Ladysmith location.
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