

## Supported Education: Meet the Programs in Your Area

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### Purpose of This Workshop:

- Discuss the importance of education especially for people with psych disabilities
- Discuss who is eligible for services
- Describe the services provided by LEARN programs
- Share people's success stories
- Allow you to ask questions about returning to school

### New Jersey's Supported Education Programs

Bridgeway & UMDNJ partnership

- Middlesex, Union, Essex, & Hudson

Saint Clare's

- Morris, Passaic, & Bergen

MHA of Southwest NJ

- Camden, Gloucester, & Burlington

Preferred Behavioral Health

- Monmouth, Ocean, & Atlantic

### Why Is Education More Important for People with Psychiatric Disabilities?

Primary labor market better fits the episodic illness

- Vacation and sick time allows for illness related absences
- Benefits
- Family Leave Act
- Protections Under NJ Law Against Discrimination & ADA

### Education: What We Know

- Increase social networks
- Competitive employment
- Mobility into the primary labor market
- Career development
- Personal development

### What is Supported Education (SEd)?

“Education in integrated settings for people with severe psychiatric disabilities for whom postsecondary education has been interrupted or intermittent as a result of a severe psychiatric disability and who, because of their [impairment], need ongoing support services to be successful in the education environment.”

Unger, 1990

## Why is SED a critical need?

- Without an education, jobs that people with psychiatric disabilities have often do not fit their personal and mental health needs
- Historical need to better support students
  - Specialized service that targets the unique challenges of a student with a psychiatric disability
- Increased expectation that people should work
- Entering and maintaining valued social role

## So, What Does LEARN Do???

## New Jersey's Programs

- Mobile approach
- Community based service
- Utilize existing campus resources
  - Reduction in duplication
- Education Accommodation
- Skill Development
- Advocacy

## Three Components of Effective Service

- Skill Development
  - Teach the skill that is critical for the classroom
- Resource Development
  - Link and connect students to existing academic resources
- Accommodation Education
  - Provide the critical information regarding accommodations
  - Help register with Disability Services

## Goal

- To provide opportunities, resources, and supports to persons with psychiatric disabilities to gain admittance and success in post-secondary school, vocational school, and certificate programs.
- To give a greater sense of self-sufficiency and involvement in a broader social network.

## The Benefits of L. E. A. R. N.

- Increases college enrollments and vocational outcomes
- Improves school retention rates
- Improves course completion
- Creates rich social and vocational networks
- Decreases episodes of inpatient care
- Increases career maturity
- Improves quality of life, self esteem, social adjustment, increased personal empowerment
- Provides stigma free social identity

## LEARN's Objectives

- Educational exploration and development
- Individualized consultative services for people with psychiatric diagnoses
- Work cooperatively with DVRS and all other MH & Human Services agencies
- Help change the system so people with psychiatric disabilities are encouraged to return to school and work

## How Do You Become Involved with LEARN?

### And What Services Do You Provide?

## Eligibility Requirements

- Has GED or High School Diploma
- Diagnosed with a psychiatric disability
- 18 years of age and older
- Is ready to start school within the next 6 months
- Has a career goal that requires higher education
- Lives or goes to school within the service areas

## How Do People Become Involved in LEARN

- L. E. A. R. N. Education Coach obtains referral from colleges, practitioners, or self referral
- Full discussion of why you want to go to school and how it connects to your career goal
- Required Paperwork
  - Verification of disability
- Intake & Partnership Commitment
- Initial & On-going Educational Assessments

## Educational Assessment

- Assess Barriers and Concerns
- Identify Support Needs
- Identify Critical Resources (e.g., financial aid)
- Build Skills & Explore Accommodations
- Linkage & Liaison with Academic Resources

## Services

- SEd services assist in all phases of Choose, Get, Keep, Leave
- Explore/secure funding options
- Assist with entrance requirements for schools &/ or programs
- Provide educational coaching
- Provide assistance with registration
- Provide campus orientation
- Negotiate former student loans and transcripts

## General Questions?

## Please Contact Us, If You Have Any Questions

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