

Service Shift From Treatment Alone to an Integrated Treatment and Rehabilitation Approach

How well does your agency help the people you serve live more independently?

Problem:

The field of behavioral health services is shifting. It's changing its focus from traditional treatment services alone, such as counseling, residential services and day programs, to include a rehabilitation approach, which emphasizes teaching individuals those skills needed to function more independently in their community.

As an agency with a treatment focus, you may find yourself losing business to agencies with a rehabilitation focus.

But, when you try to integrate rehabilitation services, you may find your staff lack the necessary skills to effectively teach new skills to clients, particularly if those staff had primarily focused on implementing treatment regimens or providing supervision.

Solution:

Successful training programs that teach staff members how to teach skills to others.

A training program for staff providing rehabilitation services should focus on teaching staff skills that include:

- How to assess the current skills of the person receiving service.
- How to assess the person's readiness to learn new skills.
- How to write a plan with the person designed to help the person learn needed skills.
- How to break tasks down into small easily learned parts.
- How to demonstrate tasks and then assist a person to perform the task.
- How to encourage and support a person who is learning something new by being positive and helpful.
- How difficult behavior, including withdrawal and acting out, may be a part of the person's illness that can be improved with rehabilitation approaches.

Piurek & Associates can offer Alice Prather's expertise to assist your organization in addressing the problem described in the above scenario. Please contact Piurek & Associates at **602-996-8800** if you are interested in learning more about the assistance Alice can provide to your organization.