

Article: 0096

Topic: S38 - Symposium 40: Providing psychiatric services as needed by mentally ill persons

Employment and Mental Health

W. Kawohl¹

¹Centre for Social Psychiatry Dpt. of Psychiatry Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics, Psychiatric Hospital
University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Employment and unemployment have become major topics in mental health care and also in the public discussion. Employment is no longer considered the mere goal of psychiatric rehabilitation but serves as a rehabilitative measure itself. Supported Employment (SE) according to the principle *Individual Placement and Support* (IPS) has made its way from the United States to Europe in the last decade. The EQOLISE-Trial (Burns et. al. 2007) can be considered the proof of principle of IPS in Europe. Not only had the main outcome criterion, i.e. employment on the open Job market, successfully been reached. Moreover, it was shown that IPS influences psychopathology, rehospitalisations and days spent in Hospital in a positive manner. Since then, more randomized controlled trials (RCTs) such as the Placement-Budgets-Trial (ISRCTN89670872), the ZHEPP-trial (ISRCTN54951166) and SE plus (ISRCTN02422335) have been initiated. These RCTs comprise a total of about 500 participants and focus on factors such as the time needed to find a job, the applicability of IPS on job maintenance and on the possibility to find a job for persons who receive disability pensions. Secondary outcome criteria are, among others, clinical and social functioning, motivation, and stigma. Data from these trials, from retrospective clinical analyses and from an EQOLISE follow-up at the Zurich site will be presented.

Reference:

Burns T, Catty J, Becker T, Drake RE, Fioritti A, Knapp M, Lauber C, Rössler W, Tomov T, van Busschbach J, White S, Wiersma D; EQOLISE Group (2007) The effectiveness of supported employment for people with severe mental illness: a randomised controlled trial. *Lancet*. 2007 Sep 29; 370(9593): 1146-52