

Encouraging More IPS Referrals Tips for IPS Specialists

Attend mental health treatment team meetings every week and be an active participant.

Remember: out of sight, out of mind. Suggest employment for people who have financial problems, are bored, mention loneliness, lack structure in their days, etc.

Bring resources to the mental health treatment team meeting. For example, if you hear of a job lead that isn't a good match for the people on your caseload, share that with the mental health practitioners in case one of their clients would be interested. Share information about local resources such as Vocational Rehabilitation, the American Job Centers, or certificate training programs.

Show your passion about employment. Describe how employment is part of recovery for many people.

Explain how you can help with careers and not just jobs.

Ask to talk to treatment groups or psychosocial programs about IPS and employment.

Share success stories. If possible, invite a working person to be part of a mental health treatment team meeting to explain what her job means to her, and what helped her to become employed. Help clients write about their experiences and share those stories. Or share short quotes from working people through emails.

Offer to meet with mental health practitioners and their clients, in person or virtually, to answer questions about IPS and how people get jobs.

Respond to referrals immediately. Call a referred individual within a day of receiving the referral and report on how you are reaching out to the person during the next mental health treatment team meeting.

Thank mental health practitioners for making referrals. Let them know that you appreciate their investment in helping individuals with employment.