

2024 International IPS Learning Community Annual Meeting

Breakout Group: Serving Individuals with Substance Use Disorders

Facilitators: Rich Toscano and Caroline Mage

How can IPS be implemented for people who have a primary diagnosis of a substance use disorder?

- Barriers: homelessness, lack of support, legal issues, treatment avoidance, and lack of transportation.
- Clinical team may not agree about person choosing when to work.
- There may not be a treatment team available for an individual. Treatment with substance use providers may end but continues with IPS.
- State VR resources have been helpful.
- Barrier: People are not ready to work. When is the right time...court issues, VR services...
- Work is recovery.
- How do we support IPS specialists who work with individuals with substance use issues? (Healthy boundaries and self-care.) And the team can help support the IPS specialist.
- Questions about effective funding streams and clear lines of communication for serving this target population in states that have received significant Opioid Use dollars.
- The discussion that we had about “integration with clinical care” – What does a clinical team look like when many SUD teams tend to have short term connection to participants and the IPS Specialists are left to be the primary support?
- There was also some discussion about supporting Employment Specialists who often are exposed to the trauma of participants who overdose and sometimes don’t survive.