



Happy New Year from Ohio Coordinating Center for ACT! 1/18/08

Announcements

1. Ohio Coordinating Center for ACT (OCCA) released the new 2008 ACT Training brochure. It was sent via email last month; call Jon if you did not receive it. (Please note: in order to register via the website you must create a username and password-if you have attended one of our trainings before, you already have a username and password. Don't hesitate to call Jon Ramos at 513-458-6684 for assistance.
2. Next ACT Training is ACT 101 and 102 in Athens on January 31, 2008. Register now at <http://register.healthfoundation.org> or follow the training link on the OCCA website at www.ohioactcenter.org. Space is limited, don't miss it!
3. Supported Employment 2008 Annual Conference is March 18 and 19 at the Doubletree Hotel Columbus. This is always beneficial for persons interested in the evidence-based practice of Supported Employment. View details at www.ohioseccoe.case.edu/
4. 24th Annual Assertive Community Treatment Conference is in Indianapolis, IN on May 14-16, 2008. This opportunity to network and learn with the national ACT community comes but once a year. Go to www.actassociation.org for details and registration. We'll see you there!

Ohio ACT Outcomes

The Ohio Coordinating Center for ACT is making a deliberate effort to work with teams in tracking, recording and publishing client outcomes. Keep in mind that client outcomes are a key component to the implementation of ACT in Ohio. More specifically, there are client outcome measures tied directly into the ACT certification standard. Even more importantly, the client outcomes that we track and measure reflect the effectiveness of the service itself –after all, that's what an Evidence-Based Practice is all about! As Ohio's ACT teams articulate the improved outcomes that their clients have achieved they are paving the way for ACT services in other parts of the state. Here are a few of the most recent outcomes achieved by ACT teams in Ohio:

- One ACT team decreased client hospital use by 543 bed days from 2006 to 2007
- Another team has seen client hospital bed days decrease by more than 75% since the ACT team's inception
- Another has decreased hospital use by 30% since 2006 (bed days decreased from 95 days to 39 days in FY07 first quarter)
- In another Ohio county 90% of a Forensic ACT team's caseload remained in the community without psychiatric hospitalizations in 2007
- For one Forensic ACT team, 22% of the caseload was employed in 2007 (compare to state average of 14% for SMD population)
- Another team has 34% of the caseload employed (on date of measure in FY08)
- 73% of one Forensic ACT team's caseload avoided incarceration and any new criminal justice involvement during the previous 6 months (period ending 9/07)

- Another Forensic ACT team has a recidivism rate (on new charges) of 8.7% over the last five years (compare to the state's recidivism rate of approximately five times this over a three year period)

Clearly ACT services are proving effective across Ohio! Please submit your client outcomes to Jon Ramos (513) 458-6685 or Jonas Thom (513) 458-6733 at the Ohio Coordinating Center for ACT.

Success Story

One ACT client success story is of a 64 year old male who has been in and out of treatment since his early 30's. When he came to the ACT team he was considered a long term resident of the State Hospital and had been there several years. By the time he was 30, his life had taken a turn for the worse. He had received mental health treatment for a brief time, but had not been engaged long enough to experience any significant improvements. Like many ACT clients, his quality of life and the illness itself would worsen before he was able to achieve progress in treatment.

In his early 30's this individual was experiencing an increase in symptoms of Schizophrenia. He was refusing medication, becoming increasingly paranoid, isolating and threatening to others. The situation climaxed as he became threatening to his mother one day. When the police were called in he grabbed the gun he had kept hidden and held the officers at bay for several hours. Needless to say, this incident was covered by the media and became a frightening ordeal for the entire community -not something you ordinarily encounter in an Ohio small town.

This man was charged, convicted and sent to jail for a period of time. While incarcerated he was ultimately found "not restorable" and sent to the state hospital. After several years, he was finally found by the ACT team.

His relationship with the team was rough in the beginning. He isolated himself from the team as well as unit staff and other patients. He remained paranoid and delusional, but was at least taking some medication to decrease these symptoms. Over time, the team's persistence paid off. They would regularly come to the hospital to visit him and faithfully attended treatment meetings on the unit. As time went by, he began to open up to some team members- an engaging relationship of trust and acceptance was beginning to form. However, it was a slow process and it would take time and hard work to achieve significant progress.

After years of trying to develop enough trust for the client to feel safe going outside of the hospital with ACT team members, he finally agreed to a pass. The client and team member took full advantage and he obtained a birth certificate while on pass. Little by little, the client began to decrease isolation and increase integration into the community. He even attended a day trip with others to Niagara Falls, which he thoroughly enjoyed and still talks about to this day. After months of Day Programming outside of the hospital, he set a goal to move into a Step-Down housing environment. Again, with much effort and coordination from the team, the courts and the hospital began to consider discharge. After a team member testified in court as to the client's progress and the degree of support that would be provided by the team, they finally granted the client a conditional release. After 5 years of work with the team he was discharged from the hospital and is living in the community. With the team's support he has obtained benefits and entitlements and continues to receive appropriate, effective treatment for his mental illness. Although this has been a long road for the client and team, it's been well worth it for this client to achieve re-integration into the community.

Keep up the good work Ohio ACT teams!