

Policy Clarification concerning ACT and IPS Integration

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To: ACT teams and Choice providers

From: Michael Oyster, Choice Model Lead & ACT Coordinator at Health Systems Division (HSD)

Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Supported Employment (SE) is an evidence-based practice of vocational services that has demonstrated the best success in competitive employment outcomes for individuals with serious mental illness.

In July 2017, Oregon Administrative Rules required the use of IPS Supported Employment by SE and vocational specialists in Oregon ACT programs, to ensure full service integration of both evidence-based practices. To clarify how these two evidence-based practices are to function together, this policy clarification operationalizes the expectations regarding ACT and IPS integration.

Fidelity standards of both ACT and IPS requires that the SE specialist(s) on the ACT team must:

- Attend ACT team meetings, provide vocational services to ACT participants as well as attend and participate in the certified IPS SE team weekly meetings; and
- Receive supervision from the SE supervisor related to employment services in addition to supervision from the ACT team leader related to ACT services (supervision can be separate or joined); and
- Follow the IPS fidelity requirements as any other SE specialist on the IPS team.

The Oregon Center for Excellence for Assertive Community Treatment will evaluate the integration of ACT and IPS as part of annual ACT fidelity reviews and if the criteria outlined above are not met, a provider will need to develop a corrective action plan. If the corrective action plan is incomplete or program changes do not occur regarding ACT and IPS integration, ACT certification may not be renewed until corrective actions are followed.

The Oregon Supported Employment Center of Excellence (OSECE) provides training in the IPS model of Supported Employment and conducts annual fidelity reviews to certify IPS SE programs. Please contact Crystal McMahon, Director of OSECE cmcmahon@optionsonline.org if you need to become a certified IPS SE program or have questions related to IPS SE fidelity.

Heidi Herinckx, Director of The Oregon Center of Excellence for Assertive Community Treatment (OCEACT) hherinckx@optionsonline.org can answer any questions regarding the integration of ACT and SE services and how to achieve fidelity to both models.

If there are questions concerning this policy clarification, please contact Michael Oyster at Michael.W.Oyster@state.or.us or (503) 945-9813.