



AEIPS

Advocacy and Contextual Intervention in Supported Education

WORKSHOP:

Lúcia Oliveira
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Getting to Know you?

- What is your name ?
- What is your relationship with Supported Education ?
- What is your role ?

AEIPS

- The Association for the Study and Psychosocial Integration (AEIPS) is a private non-profit organization created in 1987 by a group of professionals, families and people with psychiatric disabilities.

Mission

"To promote recovery and community integration of people with mental illness experience through processes of empowerment and social participation"

Advocacy

The act or process of supporting a cause or proposal : the act or process of advocating something

- The concept of mental health advocacy has been developed to promote the human rights of persons with mental disorders and to reduce stigma and discrimination. It consists of various actions aimed at changing the major structural and attitudinal barriers to achieving positive mental health outcomes in populations.

Advocacy

- Advocacy in this field began when the families of people with mental disorders first made their voices heard. People with mental disorders then added their own contributions. Gradually, these people and their families were joined and supported by a range of organizations, many mental health workers and their associations, and some governments.
- Recently, the concept of advocacy has been broadened to include the needs and rights of persons with mild mental disorders and the mental health needs and rights of the general population

Advocacy

- **Advocacy Actions**
 - Awareness-raising
 - Information
 - Education
 - Training
 - Mutual help
 - Counselling
 - Mediating
 - Defending
 - Denouncing

Advocacy in Supported Education

Why do we need it?

Advocacy in Supported Education

What are the barriers?

Advocacy in Supported Education

- **Barriers**
 - Fear of dealing with college demands:
 - Remember which books to study and how to take notes
 - Pressure of studying, o exams, re-learning to study
 - Fear of not being capable.
 - Socialization
 - Isolation
 - Difficulty in meeting people and making friends
 - Age difference.
 - Lack of self-confidence
 - Financial difficulties

Advocacy in Supported Education

- **Barriers**
 - Lack of family support
 - Medication side effects
 - Application procedure
 - Lack of school information
 - Lack of school flexibility
 - Fear of Stigma

Advocacy in Supported Education

- **Barriers**
 - School organization
 - Study material not available to students or not explicit
 - Adapting to every professor demands
 - Too many disciplines per semester
 - The final exams are all closed together

Supported Education Program

- **Program started in 2001**

Aimed for people with psychiatric disabilities who wanted to go back to school or continue their studies

Supported Education Program

- **Goal**

Provide the necessary support in order to contribute to the success of individual educational projects in the community, in various levels of education:

- Basic and secondary education;
- Higher education - undergraduate and graduate;
- Masters Degrees

Supported Education Program

Access to
regular schools
and
universities



Program Values

- Use natural resources
- Ongoing Support
- Individualization
- Accessibility
- Linking with community resources
- Empowerment

Program based in 3 Pillars

1. Individual Educational Program;
2. Students group;
3. Free study and supported study

Individual Educational Program

Individual support in order to ensure access and maintenance of students' educational project.

This support is provided based on Students choice and interest at several levels:

- A. The choice** of the educational project:
- Analyzing the previous school career;
 - Academic level;
 - Family support;
 - Choosing a study;

Individual Educational Program

A. The choice of the educational project (Cont.):

- Choosing a school;
- Medication effects;
- Identify study resources;
- Get information about financial aid.

The clarity of the educational goals outline the individual educational plan;

Individual Educational Program

B. Access to school:

- Support in the enrollment and application process;
- Applications for scholarships/bursaries;
- Promoting the relationship between student and the school;
- Choose routes and transport to school;

Individual Educational Program

C. Coordination of resources and maintenance of the educational project

Set of supports provided within the school (with the consent or request of the student) and outside the school:

- Speak with teachers;
- Negotiate reasonable accommodations;
- Definition of a general schedule;
- Individual Meetings;

Individual Educational Program

C. Coordination of resources and maintenance of the educational project

- Organizing time and study methods;
- Educational resources;
- Other resources;
- Students' support group.



Students Group

- Weekly meeting
- Professional and Peer Support
- Support students needs.
- Goals for this group:
 - Sharing and reflecting on the school experience and training;
 - Learn to take and organize notes and information;
 - Develop skills and study methods;
 - Establish goals and how to reach them;
 - Discuss ways to handle the pressure of exams and assessments;
 - Discuss the relationship with peers and teachers;
 - Provide effective support among group members in carrying out work



Free study and supported study

- Providing study rooms, material resources like computer, access to internet and photocopying.
- Each student can use these space has previously planned.



Free study and supported study

- Monitoring also includes a study plan and an individualized support.
- Provide information to access other resources in the community (Libraries, conferences, study places, etc.)



Debate

- How far along is your program ?
- Common Challenges ?
- Similarities with your program ?
- Differences with your program ?
- Questions ?

