



ViaQuest Mental Health Services Extends a Hand to Local Competitor

Over the past few years, ViaQuest has undergone extensive efforts to expand the services offered to the individuals involved in our programming. Identifying a critical need, the clinical team worked diligently to obtain CARF accreditation and ODMH certification. This allowed for the creation of a comprehensive mental health program.

ViaQuest’s Mental Health program consists of a Psychiatrist, Psychiatric Nurse, four Master’s level clinicians and a CPST caseworker who provide medication management, assessment, individual and group therapy, and mental health case management services. This has had a tremendous impact on the lives of the individuals served by ViaQuest. The improvement in service delivery has been noticed by referral sources, who are pleased with the increase in services; and in particular, the high quality of treatment that is being offered to their individuals.

Apparently, ViaQuest’s competitors are noticing as well. In an excellent display of cohesion and synchronicity, ViaQuest has teamed with Syntaxis Youth Group Homes to provide extensive mental health ser-

vices to all Syntaxis residents. Normally, competitors would be reluctant to work together. However, administrators at both agencies quickly realized how the individuals residing in Syntaxis group homes could benefit from improved mental health care. To that end, ViaQuest and Syntaxis have established a formal working relationship that will provide improved services to all Syntaxis residents. ViaQuest has provided a full time, Master’s Level clinician to provide therapeutic services to Syntaxis residents on site at the group homes and in the Syntaxis office.

Best of all, these services are 100% billable through Medicaid, so there is no cost to Syntaxis despite the tremendous benefit that is gained.

A leader in collaboration for the benefit of individuals in our system, ViaQuest is willing to assist other providers by offering the same high quality level of assessment, individual therapy, and group therapy to the individuals in their care. For more information, contact Jeffrey Sloat MSW, LISW-S, Clinical Director, at (614) 339-0819 or visit ViaQuestInc.com.

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VBH Becomes Certified In Casey Life Skills throughout the State

Young persons and adults need to be involved in all aspects of their skill development and independent skill building programs. A priority of and the successes noted from person-centered planning are driven by the fact that individuals' having choices in the priorities of acquiring new skills are more successful and motivated.

Casey Life Skills Program is a vital tool. Casey assists young persons to prepare for adulthood and provides adults with developmental disabilities clear assessments, guidance for training, progressive curriculum and competency based achievements.

Casey is a web based assessment that is inclusive of nine domains of learning: Communication, Daily Living, Work/Study Skills, Home Life, Self Care, Social Relationships, Housing/Money Management, Career Planning, and Work Life. Each of the domains contain four developmental levels of achievement. This is a powerful tool to utilize with any person looking to identify areas of strengths and to better define skill tasks that assist the individual in personal growth in areas of need.

Studies have cited that the ACLSA (Ansel Casey Life Skills Assessment) is a reliable and valid tool for measuring independent living skills.

In mid-September all Program Directors from ViaQuest Behavioral Health in the North, Central and South regions came together for a two day certification in order to utilize this tool with those they serve. Ray Hoskins from Indiana, a long time trainer of Casey Life Skills, worked to assist our group with becoming certified and in customizing learning plans with clear goal setting, action planning, instruction, and learning tasks to build individual competency.

Each region of ViaQuest Behavioral Health now has a certified Train the Trainer of the Casey Life Skills curriculum and all Program Directors will be utilizing this tool to assist individuals and their teams how best to move forward with this independent skill building program.

If you have any questions regarding how this program could better enhance a specific person's program, please contact a Program Director in your area.

The ViaQuest Foundation Enhancing VBH's Programming

YMCA Memberships

In February 2009, The ViaQuest Foundation arranged for all individuals in VBH programs to get a membership from their local YMCA. The membership is run through a scholarship program that reduces the cost to less than \$3 per month. The YMCA offers recreational programs, job interviewing programs, fitness training room, indoor pools, and many other amenities.

Movie and Game Nights

Each month The ViaQuest Foundation hosts a Movie Night or Game Night for our youth at ViaQuest's main office located in Dublin, Ohio. Last month we watched a Fire Safety Video for all group home residents, then had a discussion on what to do in each group home in the event of a fire. After the fire safety education we watched the movie "America" – a film about a psychiatrist who encounters a 16-year-old biracial boy named America. The psychiatrist works to help America open up about his painful past and discover the support and courage he needs to get his life back on track. The movie is based on the book "America" by E.R. Frank.

Our next event is a Game Night on December 2nd from 5-7pm, featuring a Wii and PlayStation set up on big screens, a Yu-Gi-Oh Card Game Tournament, and various other card and board games.

Job Readiness and Job Training

The ViaQuest Foundation rolled out its Job Readiness and Training Program to all individuals in VBH programs who have a high school diploma or GED. The program is run through the Central Ohio Workforce Investment Corporation (COWIC) Job Leaders. All eligible individuals in VBH programs must register through Job Leaders located in Columbus, Ohio by contacting Malik Willoughby at 614-559-6066 or mwilloughby@cowic.org. Each eligible individual must meet with Mr. Willoughby, fill out employee agreements, take a work assessment test, and fill out a medical form. The process takes about 3 hours. To date we have three individuals training on job skills that include janitorial work, basic social skills, job readiness, and team work all while earning \$9.00 per hour.

For questions about any of these programs contact Derek Kinzer at Derek.Kinzer@ViaQuestFoundation.org

Meet the ViaQuest Behavioral Health Central Region Mental Health Team

Jeffrey Sloat, Clinical Director

Jeff has a BA in Psychology with a Minor in Sociology from Hartwick College in Oneonta, NY. He received a Masters of Social Work from the University of South Carolina. Jeff is a Licensed Independent Social worker with Supervisory designation.

Jeff has been with ViaQuest for over 5 years, serving as Clinical Coordinator at VBH, Director of ViaQuest Foster Care, and presently as Clinical Director. Previously, he served as a school counselor, adult mental health clinician, case manager and foster parent specialist for SAFY, and therapist in private practice.

Anna Toet, Therapist

Anna is from the Netherlands and has an equivalent of a Masters degree in Social Work.

She is Level II trained and is working towards certification in EMDR and specializes in trauma and dissociation. Anna has been trained in JSO and has lots of work experience in the field of AOD.

Anna started working in the Netherlands in psychiatry, moved on to forensics and worked at a counseling agency before moving to America. She has been with ViaQuest since June of this year and enjoys working with the diverse population. She is very passionate about people's rights and fights for them. She grew up with a twin brother who had a developmental disability and was her best friend.

Allisha Rone, Therapist

Allisha has a BA in Psychology from The Ohio State University, and a Masters in Counseling from the University of Dayton. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor.

Allisha has been with ViaQuest since Oct. 19, 2009. Previously, she worked with Mid Ohio Psychological Services on internship and On the Mark Services as a Program Specialist (equivalent to Program Director here). She specializes in working with children and adolescents with mental and emotional disorders.

Mandy Wilcox, Case Coordinator

Mandy received a B.A. in Psychology from Otterbein College with a Minor in Sociology and a concentration in Criminology.

She started with ViaQuest almost 2 years ago in a direct care position. After promotions to Support Service Coordinator and Program Director, she currently serves as Case Coordinator.

All of our professional staff are committed to changing the lives of the individuals in our care.



For more information,
visit us online at

ViaQuestBH.com

LOCATIONS AND REFERRALS

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