

# An Update on IPS in the U.S.

Sarah Swanson; October 28, 2022

European Union IPS Learning Community

# Aspire Project

- Funded by Department of Labor
- Provided subject matter experts to states but no funds for states
- 2-year project
- Seven states participated in round one.
- Providing opportunities for leaders to meet regularly to discuss barriers to implementing or expanding IPS programs has resulted in growth in six of the seven states.
- Ready to begin a second round of Aspire.

# Small IPS research projects for new populations of people

- Individuals who are very poor (receive government support) but do not have a diagnosed disability
- People who have recently been released from prison
- People receiving services from healthcare centers (that also provide behavioral health services)
- Individuals who have primary diagnosis of substance use disorders

# Growing interest in serving individuals who have primary diagnosis of substance use disorders

- Veteran's Administration is adding new positions in every state to provide IPS to this population.
- Some states are considering expansion to this population

# IPS for veterans with Traumatic Brain Injuries

- The U.S. Veteran's Administration just concluded a study with 107 veterans who have traumatic brain injuries
- 58% obtained one or more jobs
- Mean of 40 days to obtain employment
- Younger age is associated with higher rates of employment
- Veterans from sites with higher scores on Organization section of the fidelity scale were more likely to work.

# IPS Study for Individuals with Serious Mental Illnesses in Jalisco, Mexico

- Franco Mascayano, Division of Behavioral Health Services and Policy Research at Columbia University
- One-year study that will examine employment outcomes, provider experiences, mental health agency leader's experiences, and client experiences.
- Adaptation for employment market in Mexico?

# Small qualitative study

- Interviews with IPS clients who have serious mental health concerns and are members of the LGBTQ+ community
- Special interest in the experiences of people who are transgender due to the level of discrimination and violence towards this group in the U.S.
- Will begin in January 2023

# Increased interest in equity, diversity and inclusion

- After the killing of George Floyd and other people of color who were killed by police, there is growing interest in promoting equity in IPS.
- Measuring access to IPS is challenging
  - <https://www.dol.gov/sites/dolgov/files/ODEP/topics/pdf/ASPIRE-IssueBriefMeasuringRace.pdf>
- Hiring IPS practitioners who reflect their communities and refugees in their communities is important
- Learning Community EDI group meets monthly



# IPS-Y

- Gary Bond's study: IPS employment and education for young adults will end in the spring.
- Many fidelity reviewers in the U.S. and other countries have been trying the IPS-Y Fidelity Scale and have found it to be usable.
- Growing number of programs for young adults in the U.S.
- Slow growth in supported education

# Current effects of the pandemic

- High rate of turnover among IPS staff (many other job opportunities, higher wages outside of mental health workforce)
- Staff turnover in mental health agencies is resulting in financial distress
- IPS specialists are reluctant to return to the community
- Employment rates are slightly higher than before the pandemic (possibly due to employers having vacant positions)

# What has been learned from the pandemic so far...

- We stopped fidelity reviews until recently. Now as fidelity reviews resume, we see significantly lower scores
- Quality Improvement reviews demonstrated that some parts of fidelity reviews can be done virtually with at least one day at the agency
- Role of QA managers in fidelity reviews

# Discussion topics

- Helping IPS practitioners return to the community
- Strategies to continue providing fidelity reviews with limited resources
- IPS for new populations
- Equity, diversity, and inclusion for individuals who want to work
- Technical assistance to engage regional governments that are without IPS

# Contact information

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