

## Recovery Engagement:

**It is all in the proposal...**



## Sacramento County

- Reunification rates in Sacramento County were about 18% in 2001
- Parents unable to access appropriate substance abuse treatment
- Social workers, attorneys, courts often uninformed on parent progress
- Drug testing not uniform and results often delayed

## Recovery Specialists (RS)

- Meeting the need of engaging participants into treatment services and keeping them there as long as possible.
- Recovery Specialists offer services that ensure the greatest level of accessibility to difficult-to-engage individuals.
- Utilization of RS staff improves client's access to care by heightening their sense that someone "cares" and therefore be guided to engage in services.

## The STARS Program

Specialized Treatment and Recovery Services

- Assist parents in the process of recovery from substance abuse by removing barriers to treatment and providing support, encouragement and accountability
- Accurately report each client's progress to the child welfare system and court with a commitment to compassion, integrity and excellence

## Outcomes

- Reunification rates at 40–45% (over 76% for those graduating court)
- Reunification is occurring faster
- Parents truly have “treatment on demand”
- All parties involved in the case are informed at every stage of treatment
- All parents receive random observed “instant” drug testing

## Education

- It is required that individuals hired for the position of Recovery Specialist possess a Bachelors Degree or hold a valid certification from a recognized drug and alcohol counselor certification body.
- Recovery Specialists may be hired who are in the process of certification through CAADAC or CAARR.
- Trainings such as Motivational Interviewing, Mandated Reporting, Ethics, and others are required upon hire.

## Motivational Interviewing:

A client-centered, semi-directive method of engaging intrinsic motivation to change behavior by developing discrepancy and exploring and resolving ambivalence within the client.



## Recovery Specialists

- Role Models – comfortable with some self-disclosure
- Dance as opposed to wrestle
- Support through resistance
- Teach advocacy
- Remove barriers and excuses

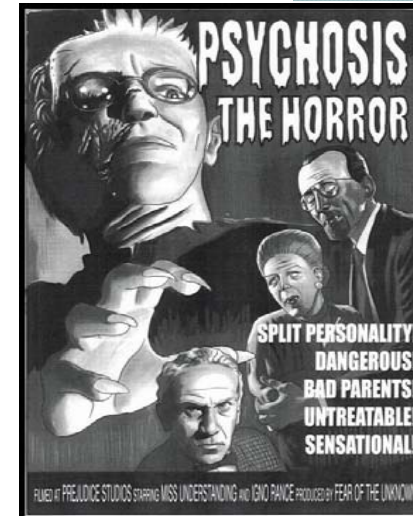


## A holistic approach:

### Keep these in mind...

- Hope
- Symptom Control
- Knowledge
- Wellness Plan
- Spirituality
- Positive Self Image
- Support Network
- Personal Goals
- Economic Stability
- Personal Responsibility
- Physical Health
- Choices

## Stigma



## Potential Barriers:

- It may take time for the “system” to accept Peer Support
  - Lack of team-work (new approaches)
  - High integrity to remove doubt
- Training & Learning styles
  - Education and ongoing supervision is a must
- Personalization
- Relapse & Self-care



## We are proposing to you:

- You can start this in your area!
- People in recovery want to give back.
- Education, support, guidance and structure will foster these positive outcomes in every county!



## Why do this?

Because of the positive impact it will have on:

1. The clients
2. The collaborating agencies
3. The RS themselves



## The benefit to the Agency

- Client engagement & retention in services= \$\$\$
- Adding RS's to the agency landscape creates a team and eventually an entire organization of positive people working in their strengths positions
- RS's are change agents teaching others that do not have personal recovery experience
- Good reputation in the community

## The Benefit to the RS & Client

- Entry level position = long-term personal growth within the agency and are happy to move up
- Challenges stigma and newness to permeate oldness
- Healthier outcomes for families

## How to do this?

- Job description
- Handout Materials
- Start the hiring process
- Be selective



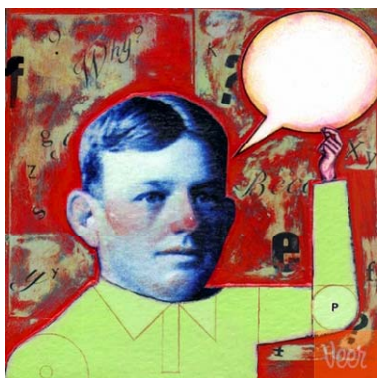
## The Dynamic Team



## Success stories



## Questions?



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