Participation of People with Mental Health Disorders in Ticket Act Programs

Craig Thornton

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Overview

- People with mental health disorders participate in employment promotion activities
- Often at higher rates than other people with disabilities
- Demand is there; how do we effectively support it?
Work Promotion Programs Have Two Goals

1. Promote recovery
   - Working itself is important
   - Part of a larger service package

2. Promote economic self-sufficiency
   - Substantial gainful activity is important
   - Promote careers and independence
   - Reduce reliance on cash assistance
Two Illustrative Programs

- Medicaid Buy-In
- Ticket to Work
Percent of Buy-In Participants with Psychiatric Disorders, 2001

- Calif: 24%
- Mass: 35%
- Iowa: 45%
- Wisc: 46%
- Minn: 57%
PMPM Medicaid Expenditures for Buy-In Participants with MH disorders, Wisconsin 2001

- Pharmacy: 58%
- Other: 25%
- Inpatient: 7%
- Physician: 1%
- Personal Assistance: 9%

N = 720 participants
Effects

- Evidence about the effect of participating in the Ticket Act programs is not available yet.
- There is evidence that some employment support programs can be effective (for example, EIDP).
Issues

- The Buy-In and Ticket to Work Programs are part of the mental health service system
- The “fear factor” and “knowledge gap” remain
- We need to understand more about
  - Effective strategies to help people to test the waters of employment; make Buy-In and TTW work together more effectively
  - Do interventions promote recovery and reduce poverty?
Sources for More Information

- www.mathematica-mpr.com has reports on the Medicaid Buy-In program and the Ticket to Work Evaluation