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Practice Links

Issue 47, April 2012



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Continuing Professional Development

BAPSCAN 8th National Congress - 'Keeping Children Safe in an Uncertain World'

Sunday 15th - Wednesday 18th April 2012 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. BASPCAN has held a triennial Congress since 1991, providing an opportunity for professionals from a range of disciplines from across the United Kingdom and internationally to share the latest findings from research and to debate how families may be supported and children kept safe. I would like to extend a personal invitation for you to consider submitting an abstract to present some of your work. Alternatively, you may wish to attend Congress as a delegate, and to join in the debates and discussion with colleagues from across the world.

The Congress will take place at the historic Queen's University Belfast (http://www.qub.ac.uk/), close to the city centre and right in the cultural heart of the city. Belfast is well served by low cost flights from across the United Kingdom, Ireland and Europe, and ferries from Scotland and England. There are also direct flights from both Canada and the USA. http://www.baspcan.org.uk/congress2012.php

Creating Equitable Access to Justice: Recognising People with Disabilities as Victims of Crime

3rd-4th May, 2012, Brookfield Health Sciences Complex (BHSC), G_01, University College Cork

A conference organised between the School of Applied Social Studies, Institute for Social Science in the 21st Century, and Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University College Cork, supported by the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences (IRCHSS).

Details of the Conference are available at http://www.ucc.ie/en/lawsite/eventsandnews/events/

To register, please email the Conference administrator: n.delea@ucc.ie . Noreen Delea, UCC Law Department, UCC, 021 490 3220, by Monday 16th April 2012. Conference conveners: Dr. Claire Edwards, School of Applied Social Studies, UCC (claire.edwards@ucc.ie) and Dr. Shane Kilcommins, Faculty of Law, UCC (s.kilcommins@ucc.ie)

2012 Science Communication Conference on 14 and 15 May at Kings Place in London.

The theme for this year's conference is 'impact' – the varied programme of talks and workshops will examine impact in various forms from a wide range of public engagement viewpoints. As always, between the sessions, there will be ample time for networking, making new contacts and exchanging ideas. This year, the programme is further enhanced by a special edition of the hugely popular Science Showoff and the programme closes with a gig from geek songstress Helen Arney.

If you'd like to attend the Science Communication Conference, make sure you book before 2 March to take advantage of our Early Bird offer. Concessionary rates and a small number of bursaries to attend the conference are available and for full information on the conference, the online programme and how to book, please visit:

www.britishscienceassociation.org/ScienceCommunicationConference <http://www.britishscienceassociation.org/ScienceCommunicationConference>

Continuing Professional Development

Self-Injury Training & Courses in Dublin 2012

One day programmes

Understanding & Responding to Self-Injury

One Day Training

Dublin: Friday 20th April 2012, 9:30-17:30

Cost: €80 per person (paid in advance)

Supporting People with Intellectual Disabilities who Hurt Themselves

One Day Training

Dublin: Friday 6th April 2012, 10:00-17:30

Cost: €80 per person (paid in advance)

Writing a Self-Injury Policy

One Day Training

Dublin: Tuesday 22nd May 2012

Cost: €85 per person (paid in advance)

Accreditation:

All courses receive a certificate of completion and are accredited by the IASW for CPD

For further information see below or to register contact: Dr Kay Inckle, Tel: 01 8962991 or Mob: 0871427211 Email: kay@kreativeinterventions.com or kinckle@tcd.ie

A Skills Based Approach to Treatment Resistant Depression (Module 1) St Patrick's College Maynooth

2 day workshop 11th - 12th June 2012
€285 (£240) until 11th May €320 (£270) from 12th May Click here for more details Book here http://www.grayrock.co.uk/product.php?xProd=63&xSec=1

A Skills Based Approach to Treatment Resistant Depression (Module 2) St Patrick's College Maynooth

2 day workshop 13th - 14th June 2012
€285 (£240) until 13th May €320 (£270) from 14th May Click here for more details Book here http://www.grayrock.co.uk/product.php?xProd=62&xSec=1

This course is presented in partnership between Pathfinders Holistic Centre, Grayrock and Stanton Psychological Services.

Continuing Professional Development

New Horizons in Safeguarding Children: May 23rd and May 24th Manchester Conference Centre (call for papers)

This forward looking conference will take place at the Manchester Conference Centre on the 23rd and 24th of May 2012. The conference welcomes presentations from participants (practitioners, policy makers, academics, postgraduate research students, service users/service user led organisations, commercial organisations). See website for full details on call and registration: http://www.nspcc.org.uk/inform/newsandevents/cpconferences/new-horizons-safeguarding-children_wda86227.html

8th Annual Conference of the Rehabilitation and Therapy Research Society (RTRS)

8th Annual Conference of the Rehabilitation and Therapy Research Society (RTRS), on Friday 25th May, 2011. Representatives from the professions of occupational therapy, speech and language therapy and physiotherapy across Ireland established the Rehabilitation and Therapy Research Society in May 2004. The aim of the society is to promote cooperation and collaboration on the island of Ireland in developing research activity in these allied health professions. The conference is a great opportunity to be updated on current research in the therapies, be informed of research opportunities, and network with colleagues. This year the RTRS conference will be held in University College Dublin and the theme is "Promoting Health and Wellbeing across the Lifespan". Abstracts welcome by Friday 17th February, 2012 on www.rtrs.org <http://www.rtrs.org/> .

Keynote speakers include:

- Professor Elizabeth Dean (University British Columbia, Canada) - Attention to Health – The Forgotten Link: Implications for Clinical Practice and Research
- Dr Virpi Timonen (Trinity College Dublin) - Trends in ageing and challenges for the provision of care for older people
- Dr Stephen Bloch (University College London) - Everyday conversation and progressive neurological disorders: Implications for clinical practice

Invited HRB Research Fellows include:

- Ailish Molone (Royal College of Surgeons Ireland) - Gait analysis in cervical spondylotic myelopathy: informing surgery and rehabilitation practice
- Katie Robinson (University of Limerick) - Meeting the Occupational Needs of People with Chronic Pain.

Applications are invited for the Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Fieldwork Practice and Supervision (Social Work) at University College Cork

The Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Fieldwork Practice and Supervision (Social Work) was set up in 2001 and it represents a very import course in terms of the School's mission of creating and sustaining community outreach and partnerships within the context of professional development. The course provides a unique opportunity to social work practitioners to engage in professionally accredited, post qualifying education and training in Practice Teaching and Professional Supervision. Specifically, the course is designed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to become competent Supervisors and Practice Teachers. In a climate where social work practice is coming under increased public scrutiny, the provision of opportunities for continuing professional training and development is essential.

To Apply:- Contact Ms Julianne Moynihan Centre for Adult and Continuing Education, 'The Laurels' Western Road, University College Cork, Cork. E mail:- Julianne Moynihan j.moynihan@ucc.ie or Phone:- 021494707
Applications must be returned by 20th April 2012

Continuing Professional Development

The 2nd Maynooth International Youth Studies Conference National University of Ireland, Maynooth "Representing Young People: Voice, Image, Practice, Power"

Tuesday 26th – Friday 29th June 2012

Conference website and registration at: http://appliedsocialstudies.nuim.ie/
Maynooth is one hour from Dublin airport: http://www.dublinairport.com/home.aspx

Hosted by the Department of Applied Social Studies, NUI Maynooth, in association with the Research Committee on Youth of the International Sociological Association (RC34) and Youth Studies Ireland.

'All Our Children: positive experiences, successful outcomes for looked after and other vulnerable children'

EUSARF 2012 | 4th to 7th September 2012 | Thistle Hotel, Glasgow. Incorporating the 10th International Looking After Children Conference

This conference aims to bring together researchers, practitioners, managers and policy makers, to address topical issues facing vulnerable children and young people, and their families. The programme will highlight three overarching themes: perspectives of children and young people; organisational change and effective intervention.

The call for papers will be available shortly through www.eusarf2012.org <http://www.eusarf2012.org> and we will be accepting abstract submissions from the 31st January. Please continue to check our website for updates and email us at eusarf2012@strath.ac.uk if you have any further enquiries.

If you have a booking enquiry or would like further information, please call us on 0141 950 3683 or email us at celcis@strath.ac.uk. Please continue to visit our website for regular updates and information on our services at www.celcis.org <http://www.celcis.org> . You can also Follow us on Twitter <http://twitter.com/CELCIStweets> and Join us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/CELCIS>

The 3rd International Conference on Survivors of Rape (call for papers)

This two day conference, will be held on November 9th and 10th 2012, with a seminar day taking place on Thursday the 8th, in the West of Ireland city of Galway. Visit www.icsor.org for more information. With ICSoR 2012, we hope to build on the excellence of the previous conferences, which dealt with the treatment of survivors of rape, the enhancement of our understanding of the impact of rape and to improve the quality of multidisciplinary care for survivors of rape. The call for papers opens on 30th January, visit ICSoR 2012 (www.icsor.org) for more information. Closing date for abstracts is the 20th April 2012

Continuing Professional Development

University of ULSTER

ADVANCE NOTICE

2nd International Symposium on:

Decisions, Assessment, Risk and Evidence in Social Work





Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd July 2012
Templeton Hotel, Templepatrick, Northern Ireland
(convenient to Belfast International Airport)

The first Symposium in 2010 attracted over 70 researchers, educators, policy makers, managers and senior practitioners to share current developments and to promote collaborative research, service development and teaching initiatives to improve professional knowledge and skills for the ultimate benefit of clients and families. This second Symposium is designed to build on that event.

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Plenary Speakers:
Professor Hazel Kemshall, De Montfort University Leicester who has published widely on risk assessment and management with adult client groups including criminal justice.

Professor Aron Shlonsky, University of Toronto who has published widely on risk assessment and predicting harm in child welfare, and on evidence based practice in social work.

Call for abstracts is now open at http://www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/irss/dare2012/abstracts.html

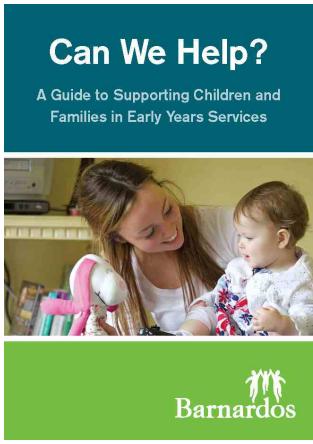
Further information will be added to our website over the coming months:
www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/irss/dare2012

If you would like your name to be added to the list for publicity, email:
Mrs Sharon Lucas at: dare@ulster.ac.uk

Registration now open:
http://www.socsci.ulster.ac.uk/irss/dare2012/

New publications and policy reports

Can We Help? A Guide to Supporting Children and Families in Early Years Services



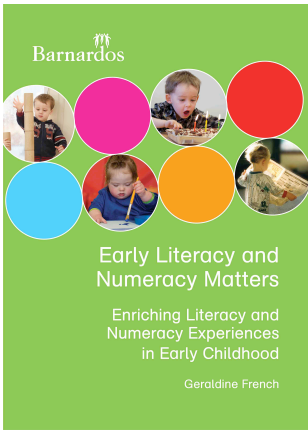
Price: €25.00, ISBN: ISBN 978-1-906004-22-4

The role of early years services in supporting families centres on the early learning and development needs of children. Early years services need to work in partnership with parents, using an approach that supports parent-child relationships and strengthens the capacity of parents to respond effectively to their child's learning and development needs.

Where families need additional support, early years services are in a unique position to empower parents through information and social support, and also to act as a bridge between families and other services in the community.

The aim of this publication is to assist those working in early years to increase their knowledge and understanding of the range of challenges and stresses facing children and families today and what they can do to support families effectively.

Early Literacy and Numeracy Matters: Enriching Literacy and Numeracy Experiences in Early Childhood by Dr. Geraldine French



Early Literacy and Numeracy Matters provides up-to-date theory and research on the critical importance of the development of both literacy and numeracy in early childhood and outlines the links with national documents such as Síolta, Aistear and The Literacy and Numeracy Strategy. It explores the relationship between the development of language, early literacy and early numeracy and the importance of sharing information on children's learning in these areas with families. It also gives practical guidance to early childhood educators on how they can enrich young children's literacy and numeracy. €25 plus €3 p&p. ISBN 978-1-906004-21-7

Report of Disability Policy Review, Prepared by Fiona Keogh PhD. on behalf of the Expert Reference Group on Disability Policy, 2011

This report is an output of the Expert Reference Group which was convened to facilitate and support the policy review aspect of the overall Value for Money (VFM) review of disability services. A review of the efficiency and effectiveness of Disability Services funded from the Health Vote is currently underway, as part of the Government's Value for Money (VFM) and Policy Review Initiative. The Review is overseen by a Steering Committee. In order to inform the Steering Group in its deliberations, particularly with respect to any changes that may be necessary, an Expert Reference Group was established to review current policy in relation to disability services. This report is an output of the Expert Reference Group.You can find a link to the review here: http://www.dohc.ie/publications/pdf/ERG_Disability_Policy_Review_Final.pdf?direct=1

Statement of Strategy, Department of Youth and Children, March 2012.

The mission of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) is to lead the effort to improve outcomes for children and young people in Ireland. Our approach will be based on the best possible evidence of what works in meeting needs. Therefore, we will begin this Statement of Strategy by reviewing what the evidence currently tells us about children and young people in Ireland. You can find a link to the strategy here: http://www.dcya.gov.ie/documents/publications/DCYA-Statement-of-Strategy-2011-2014.pdf

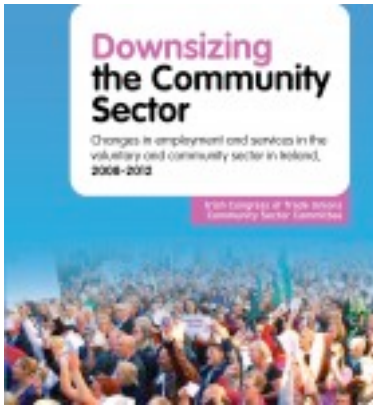
The ethics of sustainable health and social care: Towards a framework for decision-making, December 2011, (UK)

This report breaks new ground in examining the ethical challenges potentially posed by factoring environmental outcomes into different levels of health and social care decision-making, including resource allocation and treatments. The environmental and climate change ethics literatures are considered in conjunction with health and social care ethical principles in order to inform the development of a new sustainable health and social care ethical framework. It also reports the deliberations of two expert seminars convened to help devise and review these principles, jointly hosted by SCIE, the King's Fund and The Ethox Centre at the University of Oxford.

You can find a link to the report here: http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report51.pdf

New publications and policy reports

Downsizing the Community Sector: Changes in employment and services in the voluntary and community sector in Ireland, 2008-2012



Written by Brian Harvey, the report is an examination of the cumulative impact of the cuts in spending on the voluntary and community sector in Ireland over 2008-12, specifically examining their effect on employment. Full report: http://www.cwc.ie/2012/02/ictu-launch-downsizing-the-community-sector/

European Report on Preventing Elder Maltreatment, World Health Organisation, 2011

The report highlights the numerous biological, social, cultural, economic and environmental factors that interact to influence the risk and protective factors of being a victim or perpetrator of elder maltreatment. There is some evidence of effectiveness, and examples include psychological programmes for perpetrators and programmes designed to change attitudes towards older people, improve the mental health of caregivers and, in earlier life, to promote nurturing relationships and social skills learning. The evidence base needs to be strengthened, but much can be done by implementing interventions using an evaluative framework. Prevention and social justice for older people can only be achieved by mainstreaming this response into health and social policy. Surveys show that the public and policy-makers are increasingly concerned about the problem, and the policy response needs to be strengthened to meet this demand. You can find a link to the report here: http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/144676/e95110.pdf

The involvement of users and carers in social work education: a practice benchmarking study, December 2011.

Since 2002 higher education institutions (HEIs) have been required to develop service user and carer involvement (SUCI) throughout the design and delivery of degree programmes. This small-scale study aims to provide a benchmark of how practice is progressing across the 83 HEIs in England which offer the social work degree, and to support the development of guidance for social work educators. You can find a link to the report here: http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report54.pdf

Think child, think parent, think family: final evaluation report, March 2012.

The mental health and wellbeing of children and adults in families where a parent has a mental health problem are closely linked. Not all families need health and social care services. However, those that do often struggle to get accessible and effective support that addresses children's needs and recognises the parental responsibilities of many adults with mental health problems. In July 2009, the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) published a guide entitled Think child, think parent, think family: a guide to parental mental health and child welfare to help services improve their response to parents with mental health problems and their families. This document and its overall ethos are here referred to as 'think family'. This is the final evaluation report of the project, documenting the progress made by the sites involved, and making recommendations for future activity.

You can find a link to the report here: http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report56.pdf

Practice signposts: data sources to support practice



Practice signposts are new permanent pages that will appear in every edition of *Practice Links*. The aim of this page is to provide sign posts to high quality research-informed databases. Some of the databases at a quick glance may seem too medical/health orientated, but also contain great resources to support social work and social care practice also.

Campbell Collaboration

The Campbell Collaboration (C2) helps people make well-informed decisions by preparing, maintaining and disseminating systematic reviews in education, crime and justice, and social welfare. Access to the database in the Republic of Ireland is free as the government of Ireland has purchased a license. http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/

Cochrane Collaboration

The Cochrane Collaboration, established in 1993, is an international network of more than 28,000 dedicated people from over 100 countries. We work together to help health care providers, policy makers, patients, their advocates and carers, make well-informed decisions about health care, based on the best available research evidence, by preparing, updating and promoting the accessibility of Cochrane Reviews. Our work is internationally recognised as the benchmark for high quality information about the effectiveness of health care.
http://www.cochrane.org/

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) - NHS UK

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) provides guidance, sets quality standards and manages a national database to improve people's health and prevent and treat ill health. http://www.nice.org.uk/ . Videocasts: http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/videocasts/videocasts.jsp. Podcasts: http://www.nice.org.uk/newsroom/podcasts/index.jsp

Health Intelligence Unit (HSE)

Health Intelligence is part of the Quality and Clinical Care Directorate within the Health Service Executive and is responsible for capturing and utilising knowledge to support decision-making to improve the health of the population. Website has links to HSE research, databases, facts (census etc.), publications and using evidence effectively. http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/Population_Health/Health_Intelligence/

Evidence in Health and Social Care (NHS)

NHS Evidence is a service that enables access to authoritative clinical and non-clinical evidence and best practice through a web-based portal. It helps people from across the NHS, public health and social care sectors to make better decisions as a result. NHS Evidence is managed by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). http://www.evidence.nhs.uk/

Practice signposts: data sources to support practice



Decision Map.ie

DecisionMap.ie, the new online decision-support tool developed by Ordnance Survey Ireland and Twelve Horses. DecisionMap, currently in beta test release, combines digital mapping from Ordnance Survey Ireland, with visualisation and web delivery tools developed by Twelve Horses, and statistical data provided by the Central Statistics Office and others. It aims to provide decision makers in the public and private sectors instantaccess to easily-consumable, spatially-referenced data about Ireland. http://decisionmap.ie/

Irish Qualitative Data Archive

The Irish Qualitative Data Archive (IQDA) is a central access point for qualitative social science data and provides online access to all new qualitative data generated within the Irish Social Science Platform, and to selected existing data. http://www.iqda.ie/content/welcome-iqda

Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE)

The Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) improves the lives of people who use care services by sharing knowledge about what works. We are an independent charity working with adults, families and children's social care and social work services across the UK. We also work closely with related services such as health care and housing. We gather and analyse knowledge about what works and translate that knowledge into practical resources, learning materials and services. Our work helps to improve the knowledge and skills of those working in care services. This includes managers, frontline staff, commissioners and trainers. People and their families who use these services also use our resources. All of our work is developed in collaboration with experts - including people who use care services and their carers. http://www.scie.org.uk/

Growing Up in Ireland

Growing Up in Ireland is a national study of children. It is the most significant of its kind ever to take place in this country and will help us to improve our understanding of all aspects of children and their development.

The study will take place over seven years and follow the progress of two groups of children; 8500 nine-year-olds and 11,000 nine-month-olds. During this time we will carry out two rounds of research with each group of children.

The main aim of the study is to paint a full picture of children in Ireland and how they are developing in the current social, economic and cultural environment. This information will be used to assist in policy formation and in the provision of services which will ensure all children will have the best possible start in life.

Continued on Pg. 3

Research briefs

Follow-up for improving psychological well being for women after a miscarriage (2012)

Murphy FA, Lipp A, Powles DL.

THE COCHRANE COLLABORATION®

Background: Miscarriage is the premature expulsion of an embryo or fetus from the uterus up to 23 weeks of pregnancy and weighing up to 500 grams. International studies using diagnostic tools have identified that some women suffer from anxiety, depression and grief after miscarriage. Psychological follow-up might detect those women who are at risk of psychological complications following miscarriage. This review is necessary as the evidence is equivocal on the benefits of psychological follow-up after miscarriage.

Objectives: Whether follow-up affects the psychological well-being of women following miscarriage.

Search strategy: We searched the Cochrane Pregnancy and Childbirth Group's Trials Register (31 December 2011), reference lists of all retrieved papers and contacted professional and lay organisations to obtain any ongoing trials or unpublished data.

Selection criteria: Randomised controlled trials only.

Data collection and analysis: All potential trials for eligibility according to the criteria specified in the protocol by screening the titles and abstracts, retrieving full reports of potentially relevant trials for assessment. All review authors extracted data and checked for accuracy. No studies were published in duplicate. When data were missing and only the abstract was available, we attempted to contact the trial authors. We resolved any disagreement through discussion.

Main results: Six studies involving 1001 women were included. Three trials compared one counselling session with no counselling. There was no significant difference in psychological well being including anxiety, grief, depression avoidance and self-blame. One trial compared three one-hour counselling sessions with no counselling at four and 12 months. Some subscales showed statistical significance in favour of counselling and some in favour of no counselling. The results for two trials were given in narrative form as data were unavailable for meta-analyses. One trial compared multiple interventions. The other trial compared two counselling sessions with no counselling. Neither study favoured counselling.

Authors' conclusions: Evidence is insufficient to demonstrate that psychological support such as counselling is effective post-miscarriage. Further trials should be good quality, adequately-powered using standardised interventions and outcome measures at specific time points. The economic implications and women's satisfaction with psychological follow-up should also be explored in any future study.

Full report and further information:

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/14651858.CD008679.pub2/abstract

Research briefs

Adult Employment Assistance Services For Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Effects on Employment Outcomes

, March 2012, John D. Westbrook, Chad Nye, Carlton J. Fong, Judith T. Wan, Tara Cortopassi, Frank H. Martin.

The Campbell Collaboration Library of Systematic Reviews
The Campbell Library

BACKGROUND: The incidence of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) has been increasing over the last two decades. Currently, 1 in 110 children are identified with ASD in the United States (CDC, 2009). ASD refers to a range of neurological disorders that involve some degree of difficulty with communication and interpersonal relationships. The range of the spectrum for autism disorders is wide with those at the higher functioning end often able to lead relatively independent lives and complete academic programs even while demonstrating social awkwardness. Those at the lower functioning end of the autism spectrum often demonstrate physical limitations, may lack speech, and have the inability to relate socially with others. As persons with ASD age, options such as employment become increasingly important as a consideration for long-term personal planning and quality of life. While many challenges exist for persons with ASD in obtaining and maintaining employment, some research is showing that, with effective behavioral and social interventions, employment can occur (Schaller & Yang, 2005). In fact, about 37% of individuals with ASD report having been employed for 12 months or more, four years after exiting high school (Newman, Wagner, Cameto, & Knokey, 2009). However, several studies show that individuals with ASD are more likely to lose their employment for behavioral and social interaction problems rather than their inability to perform assigned work tasks (Dew & Alan, 2007; Hurlbutt & Chalmers, 2004; Unger, 1999). Research has been conducted in the area of autism and employment, but such research has not been reported in a comprehensive evidence review format before. Thus, a systematic review on the effectiveness of adult employment assistance interventions for individuals with ASD would not only demonstrate the extent and magnitude of the interventions' effects, but also provide ideas for further research that can inform implementation and refinement of related employment-focused programs.6 The Campbell Collaboration | www.campbellcollaboration.org

OBJECTIVE: The objective of this review is to determine the effectiveness of adult employment interventions in securing and maintaining employment for adults with ASD.

SEARCH STRATEGY: The comprehensive search strategy used to identify relevant studies included the review of 28 relevant electronic databases. Search terminology for each of the electronic databases was developed from available database thesauri. Appropriate synonyms were used to maximize the database search output. Several international databases were included among the 28 databases searched. In addition, the authors identified and reviewed grey literature through analysis of reference lists of relevant studies. Unpublished dissertations and theses were also identified through database searches. The programs of conferences held by associations and organizations relevant to ASD and employment were also searched.

SELECTION CRITERIA: A two-stage process was used to determine inclusion or exclusion of studies: (1) two reviewers independently reviewed the title and abstract of each identified study, and (2) for studies advanced from the first stage, two independent reviewers reviewed the full text of each study for final determination of inclusion or exclusion. Inclusion criteria allowed the following research designs: randomized controlled, quasi-experimental, and single subject experimental designs.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS: The electronic searches of databases yielded 8,528 citations for the first stage of review. Of these, a total of 77 citations were selected for second stage full-text review of each study. Upon review of the full-text for each of the 77 studies, two studies were retained, having met the inclusion criteria. Of the two included studies, both were quasi-experimental research designs. The studies generally described the effects of a supported employment intervention for adults with ASD on either employment outcomes or aspects of cognitive functioning. The nature of the data provided did not lend itself to a traditional meta-analysis. Given the number of studies, study designs, and the diversity of outcomes across the two studies, it was not possible to aggregate results across studies.

RESULTS

Research briefs (cont/...)

Adult Employment Assistance Services For Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Effects on Employment Outcomes, March 2012, John D. Westbrook, Chad Nye, Carlton J. Fong, Judith T. Wan, Tara Cortopassi, Frank H. Martin.

The Campbell Collaboration Library of Systematic Reviews
The Campbell Library

RESULTS: This review was not able to identify definitive interventions that predictably and positively supported the development of employment outcomes for individuals with ASD.

There were two included studies. One, Mawhood and Howlin (1999), described outcomes directly related to employment by comparing an experimental group (n = 30) who received guidance from a support worker in the form of job finding, work preparation, and communication with the employers with a control group (n = 20) that did not receive any support. At the end of the two-year study period, the authors found that the experimental group demonstrated significantly higher rates of having found paid employment (d = 1.067, 95% CI = 0.123 to 2.010), significantly longer periods of working time (d = 0.684, 95% CI = 0.111 to 1.257), and significantly higher wages (d = 1.177, 95% CI = 0.169 to 0.819). The experimental group also worked more hours per work week (d = 0.328, 95% CI = -0.628 to 1.284), but this effect was not significant.

The second included study, Garcia-Villamisar, Ross, and Wehman (2000), described differential effects of supported employment and sheltered employment for persons with autism. The experimental group received supported employment, i.e., jobs working between 15 and 30 hours per week in their communities and received job coach support services. The control group received sheltered employment, i.e., jobs that were not in their communities and with no job coaching services. Using measures of the Childhood Autism Rating Scale (CARS), the supported employment group was not significantly different from the sheltered employment group after treatment (d = -0.229, 95% CI = -0.764 to 0.306). The study did not report any differences in employment acquisition or maintenance between the two groups.

In an analysis of risk bias of the included studies, it was found that there was a high level of substantial potential for bias across three of the five sources of bias analyzed including unit of assignment, unit of analysis, attrition, fidelity of implementation, and blinding. The methodological quality of both included studies was low. Therefore, these review results should not be interpreted as indicating definitive results related to the development of employment outcomes for persons with ASD.

AUTHORS' CONCLUSIONS: Qualitative and other relevant research studies connected to the employment of persons with ASD were also reviewed and suggest that the following may be elements of successful employment placement for persons with ASD: (1) identification of the most appropriate work settings and placements, (2) provision of effective supports on the job, (3) need for long-term support services for the employer and the consumer, (4) costs for support, and (5) positive effects of employment on persons with ASD. While qualitative studies point to a number of promising issues for future research, they do not provide a definitive statement about what works.

In addition, the authors noted that costs for community-based employment interventions such as those included in this review are more expensive than other employment alternatives such as sheltered non-integrated workshops. However, Howlin, Alcock & Burkin (2005) and others (e.g., Cimera & Cowan, 2009) show that supported employment service interventions, such as those identified in our included studies, are becoming less expensive to deliver. It seems important to note that community-based integrated employment interventions, while expensive, do expand options for mainstream social integration, competitive wages, and community involvement.

Full report and further information: http://campbellcollaboration.org/lib/download/1863/

Web Links and Electronic Publications

Self-Injury Conference Report (Trinity College Dublin)

http://www.selfharmireland.org/. A report of the self injury conference itself can be found here http://www.socialwork-socialpolicy.tcd.ie/news/index.php#si0603 and here http://examiner.ie/ireland/health/self-harming-put-world-on-pause-for-me-says-teen-185854.html

Irish Social Worker's Unite to Win Face Book Page

http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100002283186790

National Home-Sharing and Short Breaks Network

Master Class for those interested in setting up a Host Family Support Service details and a link to new HSE Report of the Working Group on Respite/Residential Care with Host Families in Community Settings (2012) report - http://www.nhsn.ie/news-events.html.

Information for Practice (IP)

To help social service professionals throughout the world conveniently maintain an awareness of news regarding the profession and emerging scholarship. The goals of IP are: to identify and deliver a selection of the highest quality available in each category; regularly deliver an interesting mix of new information; create a more global sense of the profession for users from all locales and serve as an introductory socialization force for students http://ifp.nyu.edu/

Protecting Children Post-Ryan Conference. Watch keynote videos back online

The Biennial Child Protection and Welfare Social Work conference committee are pleased to announce that all of the keynote presentations at our October 2011 conference are now available to view for free on our website. To watch the videos click on this link: http://swconf.ucc.ie/videos/ (please note some organisations may block access to this page as the videos are on YouTube.) The videos will play in 320 quality but can also be viewed in high definition quality by changing the setting in the YouTube panel.

Soundings Free E-book on "The Neoliberal Crisis"

Available free from: http://www.lwbooks.co.uk/ebooks/NeoliberalCrisis.html?utm_source=emailhosts&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=2012-02-28 . A collection of key Soundings contributions on the current financial crisis as a potential moment of rupture in the neoliberal regime.

CONTENTS

Stuart Hall - The neoliberal revolution
Michael Rustin - Reflections on the present
John Clarke - What crisis is this?
Stuart Hall and Doreen Massey - Interpreting the crisis
Doreen Massey - The political struggle ahead
Michael Rustin - The crisis of a social system
Doreen Massey - Ideology and economics in the present moment

Podcasts



What is a Podcast? A multi-media file made available by the internet which can be viewed or listened to on a computer, tablet, MP3 player or CD player.

How do I listen to a Podcast? You can listen to a Podcast straightaway on any PC which has speaker or a headphones or you can download it to listen to later. The file can also be saved to an MP3 player or USB memory stick. Some modern CD players can play Podcasts just like a music CD.

Some Podcasts are updated regularly – how do I get the latest version? You can use iTunes or other services to check regularly to see if the Podcast has been updated. You can also subscribe using an RSS feed which will inform you when the new edition is ready. Some Smartphones can also download and update Podcasts. For more information go to: http://www.bbc.co.uk/podcasts/help

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Online Study: Learn About the Mental Health Act 2001

This is an E-learning study resource which will give participants all they need to know about the Mental Health Act. Ranging across Admissions, Treatment and Tribunals. The programme also awards a certificate of completion: http://mhc.thelearningcentre.ie/menu.asp

Video: World Social Work Day 20/3/12

Message from the IFSW on the upcoming Work Social Work Day at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQpoVN-fAN4 or see a video from the IFSW Secretary-General Dr Rory Truell about a recent visit to the UN in New York: http://ifsw.org/resources/publications/united-nations-nyc/

Audio: Effects of Domestic Violence in the Lives of Children

Part of a series of Podcasts from the University of Buffalo – there are over 90 to choose from. In this edition a nationally known researcher in the field of domestic violence and its effect on children provides an overview of his research around the impact of early exposure to violence: http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/podcast/episode.asp?ep=82 for a full list of the Podcasts available from the same source go to Living Proof series and browse the wide variety of topics at: http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/podcast/index.asp

Audio: Latest from Community Care

For the latest updates and discussions around contemporary issues in a "magazine" type format. The page has links to Podcasts on a variety of topics: http://communitycare.podomatic.com/

Audio: Open University Social Work Podcast Library

Subscribe using iTunes or just download the latest from the OU on a wide variety of subjects. Ranging from Race Issues to an article about Life After Care: http://itunes.apple.com/itunes-u/social-care-social-work-law/id380226866

Audio: Addressing Youth Sexting

Behaviors like "sexting" are not new phenomena but access to technology increases the ease and risks of such behaviors. This podcast explores the prevalence of sexting and discusses an appropriate and balanced approach for practice level and policy intervention: http://www.socialwork.buffalo.edu/podcast/episode.asp?ep=67



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