

Client Centered Support Model Development for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities Who Commit Sexual Offenses

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The presenters will describe the essential components of their treatment agency, Opportunities for Independence Inc. (OFI), which provides services to over sixty individuals with intellectual disabilities and special needs. Most clients have been referred for services by court order or government organizations, and vary widely in their needs and risk levels. Many of the participants continue to draw from the services for years after a legal requirement has expired. The OFI staff members practice a least-restrictive approach possible with their clients to foster healthy independence, while fulfilling the required actions to maintain personal and community safety. They seek to establish rapport with their clients, promote client motivation and autonomy, and facilitate client-centered decision making and involvement in the treatment process. As participants demonstrate progress through the treatment program, their treatment-related support and supervision are reevaluated with the participants and treatment teams, and adjusted to meet the current levels of need and risk. The workshop will show how to assist individuals in the community to manage their risks and maintain safe and offense free lifestyles, while improving their quality of life through skill development and self advocacy. This workshop will examine and discuss the following care and treatment options:

1. A Residential Care Unit with 24-hour supervision
2. A Professional Foster Care Unit
3. A Professional Neighbor Unit
4. A Clustered Living Unit
5. Independent Living with aftercare supports

The workshop will highlight how principles of the “Good Lives” Model and the “Old Me /New Me Model” are incorporated into everyday care and treatment, blending these with risk need principles. Client amenability and risk management will be discussed, along with highlights of a study exploring the experiences of community life for adults with intellectual disabilities who have been involved in sexual offending behaviour.