

# Vocational Services

## Professional Practice Leader (West 5th):

Bruno Di Franco, M.Ed., CVRP(F), RRP

## Number of Members of Discipline:

SITE	FTE	PTE	POSITION
West 5th	10		Vocational Counsellor

## Scope of Practice

*Vocational Rehabilitation professionals assist individuals with overcoming barriers to accessing, maintaining or returning to employment or other useful vocational roles. Professionals utilize evidence-based, client-centered processes and services to assist persons with or at risk of functional, psychological, developmental, cognitive and emotional impairments or health conditions.*

## Clinical Practice Achievements

### Quality & Safety

- Worked with Dovetale team to create standardized initial assessment and consultation builds.
- Maintained Canadian Vocational Rehabilitation Professional, Fellow designation [CVRP(F)] with the College of Vocational Rehabilitation Professionals (x1).
- Achieved and maintained Registered Vocational Professional (RVP) Designation with Vocational Rehabilitation Association (VRA) Canada (x1).
- Maintained Certified Psychiatric Rehabilitation Practitioner (CPRP) designation with Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (x1).
- Facilitated development of and implementation of SOC client satisfaction survey to approx. 200 outpatients of this clinic; coordinated schedule for peers involved in implementing survey and provided support /feedback to them.
- Completed TOA audits; achieved 100%.

### Change

- Updated note standards, TOA standards, procedures for student placements.
- Updated vocational counselling interview questions for Forensic Psychiatry, utilized updated version and assisted with interview/hiring of new vocational counsellor.

## Change Continued...

- Delivered information/presentations to health professionals and community (i.e., Hamilton Family Health Teams) to educate on vocational services available via SCIS/CRC clinic.
- Delivered presentation to Mohawk College Accessible Learning Service to continue to build partnerships and capacity to support students with mental health needs in post-secondary education, and to educate on unique needs of clients in forensic psychiatry.

## Community

- Supported employment opportunities set-up with a Tim Horton's franchise in Hamilton.
- Continued partnership with Mohawk College City School, West 5th campus an ongoing pop-up site for general elective college courses, free of charge for eligible students.
  - 17 of 20 clients on Forensic psychiatry successfully engaged in and completed their first college credits while also making connections to key college supports that will assist them as they aim to continue education online and at the Mohawk College campuses.
  - Continued partnership with Mohawk College Finance to have a representative assist with financial needs of the patients.
  - Continued partnership with Mohawk College Admissions to decrease barriers with admissions for patients in Forensic Psychiatry.
  - Engaged in discussions and planning to expand City School Initiative to clients across the Mental Health and Addictions program in 2020.
- Created/maintained ongoing partnerships with Indwell Housing, Threshold School of Building, Good Shepherd Centre, Rainbow's End Community Development Corporation, Mohawk College, Goodwill T.E.A.M. Program, VPI and ODSP Employment Supports Program.
- Developed partnership with 541 Eatery with ongoing volunteer opportunities in customer and food services.
- Continued partnership with Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) Adult Learning Centre.
  - HWDSB Online Education to support patients who cannot attend Adult Day School: vocational counsellors proctoring exams, and assisting with homework submissions.
  - Linking clients across mental health and addictions program to CCE for credit assessment, Prior Learning Assessment & Recognition, Adult Day School, Online D2L.
- Continued advocacy for increase in client wages in line with the Employment Standards Act, recommendations for workplace accommodation to support gradual return to work plans.
- Co-facilitated Give Back Volunteer Group, Mood Disorders Outpatient Clinic.
  - Partnership maintained with the Hamilton Victory Gardens to assist with community gardening activities; group at Mood Disorders assisted in growing/harvesting produce to help feed local families in Hamilton.
  - Continued engagement in Adopt a Park Program; group at Mood Disorders engaged in maintaining T. Melville Bailey Park. Activities included litter clean-up, weeding, park beautification activities, regular environmental scans and reporting; Sign installed at the park thanking St. Joseph's Mood Disorders Program for volunteer work and upkeep.

## Community Continued...

- Application submission for installation of community gardens at T. Melville Bailey to support future park engagement and group-based initiatives.
- Partnership maintained with Good Shepherd Venture Centre; with group assisting with day-to-day food bank operations.

## Interconnection

- Created partnership with CRRC/TR to distribute recreation calendars to programs at West 5th; engaging clients to complete essential duties as a component of vocational rehabilitation.
- Completed research study with psychology and occupational therapy: Effectiveness and feasibility of using the Progressive Goal Attainment Program in Anxiety & Mood Disorders.
- Created Program to create and sell greeting cards to patients, staff, visitors (friends and family of these as well) at West 5th Campus.
- Revised and continued tuck cart (confectionary items & hygiene products) program on Forensic Psychiatry – offering items to individuals whom are unable to leave the units.
- Continued ongoing outreach with community employers for job development and placement opportunities.
- Co-facilitated client lunch group; co-facilitate cinema chat group.
- Co-facilitated interdisciplinary working toward recovery group.
- Continued collaborative group facilitation with nursing, occupational therapy, recreation therapy, art therapy in inpatient and outpatient programs.
- Continued inpatient and outpatient group committee involvement, Mood Disorders Program.

## Academic Pursuits

### Formal Teaching:

- Taught and provided hands-on instruction and education - Non-violent Crisis Intervention Training (x1).

### Internal Teaching:

- Oriented learners in recreation, occupational therapy, social work, nursing, psychiatry to vocational counselling role.
- Oriented new unit staff to role and scope of vocational counselling.
- Updated student recruitment package to students of York/Seneca Rehabilitation Services Certificate program, maintained academic affiliation with this education program.

# Academic Pursuits

## Continuing Education:

- Completed Online Addiction Medicine Diploma Program, British Columbia Centre on Substance Abuse (2019) (x2).
- Completed recertification training course to instruct Non-violent Crisis Intervention training.
- Engaged in and completed Project Management Course (x1).
- Completed/maintained additional education including:
  - Annual Information session for Adopt-A-Park adoptees.
  - Capacity Building Team Concurrent Disorders training
  - Trauma informed care training.
  - Non-violent crisis intervention & code white training.
  - Gentle Persuasive Approach (GPA) training.
  - Crisis Intervention Team training.
  - WHMIS training.
  - PHIPA training.
  - Prevention Risk Screening Tool.
  - Naloxone Certification (Recertification).
  - CPR Level C.
  - Completed Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) for Beginners, Psych Wire.
  - Scanning, Wandering, and Searching Forensic Psychiatry Program.
  - Community Workers Safety Strategies Training Certificate.
  - Course on Job readiness: Preparation, Employment and Disclosure.

# Scholarly Pursuits

## Research:

- Completed research study with psychology and occupational therapy: Effectiveness and feasibility of using the Progressive Goal Attainment Program in Anxiety & Mood Disorders.

## External Committees:

- Membership with Employment Assistance Resource Network (EARN) Committee.

## External Presentations:

- Delivered presentation to Mohawk College Accessible Learning Service to continue to build partnerships and capacity to support students with mental health needs in post-secondary education, and to educate on unique needs of clients in forensic psychiatry.

## Leadership:

- Professional Practice Leader supporting PAC related activities and initiatives.
- Represented discipline on SJHH Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) initiatives with SCIS including: Inpatient Quality and Patient Safety Council, Admission/ Discharge patient flow, Health Quality Standards Ontario Standards for Schizophrenia., Accreditation Preparation.
- Working with public affairs at SJHH to create volunteer opportunities for inpatients and outpatients of the mental health and addictions program.
- Submitted and reworking proposal for space at West 5th site for patients engaging in their vocational goals (i.e., homework, exam proctor, job searching, resume writing etc.).
- Co-chaired SOC Outpatient Quality Council; Organize and co-lead Vocational Orientation sessions at SOC.

## Discipline Goals 2020

### Quality & Safety

- Continued work to standardize practices among vocational counsellors, utilizing tools and templates via Dovetale with continued emphasis on initial consultations, APSO note writing format, outlining employment plans using the Dovetale care plan function.

### Change

- Continue to enhance vocational opportunities for inpatients at West 5th campus in areas of employment, volunteering, continuing education, and employment via onsite initiatives with SJHH and community partners.

### Community

- Enhance partnership with Mohawk College via City School Initiative onsite. Provide post-secondary education access to eligible clients across the mental health and addictions program, with emphasis on those unprepared for or unable to engage in studies on campus.

### Research & Education

- Rounds presentation to provide updates and information on vocational counselling services and initiatives. Continued community presentations to educate public on vocational services.