



### 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.

## Vocational Services

**Professional Practice Leader (West 5th):**  
**BRUNO DIFRANCO, M.Ed., CVRP(F), RRP**

**Number of Members of Discipline:**

SITE	FTE	PTE	POSITION
West 5th	8		Vocational Counsellor

## Major Achievements

### CARING

#### Clinical Practice:

- Collaborated with Therapeutic Recreation to offer gardening group for outpatients with primary mood disorders; continued work with City of Hamilton and SJHH leadership to build and initiate a community garden program at T. Melville Bailey Park.
- Partnered with occupational therapy to offer cooking skills group for outpatients with primary Mood Disorders.
- Offered ongoing volunteer-based groups in the community with local agencies geared to client interests and needs.
- Co-facilitated interprofessional group programming on Waterfall 1, Mood Disorders.
- Collaborated with occupational therapy to explore merits of a community of practice for employment services at SJHH; offered some virtual resource education sessions for interested staff members.
- Continued engagement in team care approaches and processes on inpatient units across MHAP where needed to support quality patient care; Offered consult vocational counselling services on Orchard 1.
- Engagement on inpatient and outpatient group committees with Mood Disorders Program.
- Support unit through participation as Hand Hygiene auditor, Safewards participant, contribute to weekly team meetings, unit searches, community meetings.
- Complete vocational/education related spot checks for forensic psychiatry clients.

## **CARING Continued...**

- Collaborate with employment service providers, refer to programs, support job searches – March of Dimes, Goodwill, Mission Services.
- Collaborate with temporary agencies for opportunities, prepare patients for upcoming employment opportunities.
- Continue to offer opportunities in the Forensic Enclave such as Tuck Cart Program and redeveloped the Greeting Card Program.
- Engaging patients in secondary school coursework, provide support, attend graduations.
- Connect patients with peers for support with studies ie same patient in same course.
- Continue to provide supported employment opportunities to patients through Rainbow's End – Lawncare and Grounds Keeper.
- Continue to work with Mohawk College to facilitate a City School course at St. Joe's Campus.
- Provide support with NSLSC to take old loans from collections back to NSLSC and RAP funds off – help build patient credit profile.
- Attend pre-board hearings, prepare Ontario Review Reports and attend ORB's.
- Attend eHarm meetings to determine risk and level of privilege a patient can have – this allows me to seek opportunities for patients on grounds and community.

## **LEARNING**

### **Clinical Education:**

- Continued affiliation agreement with York/Seneca Rehabilitation Services Certificate program.
- Orientating new unit staff and interprofessional learners to the vocational counselling role
  - Hamilton ACTT2 had 2 administration assistant students, two BsCN students, one concurrent disorders student, one MSW student
  - All students were integrated to the comprehensive and multi-disciplinary team of ACTT2 and were able to work alongside members of the team in their respective college/university practicum requirements

### **Research:**

- Collaboration with other disciplines in running therapeutic groups on Forensic Psychiatry – this includes participating in related research (Scribl).

## **BUILDING**

### **Staff:**

- One member maintained RCSS and RVP designation.
- One member attended DBT Workshop in December 2022.
- One member maintained College of Vocational Rehabilitation-Fellow [CVRP(F)] designation.
- One member maintained Registered Rehabilitation Professional (RRP) designation.

## BUILDING Continued...

### Internal Education:

- Providing ongoing updates on community employment services and programs to interprofessional at SJHH that support clients with these linkages.

### Professional Practice Development:

- Virtual Vocational Practice Council (VPC) sessions.
- Ongoing opportunities to build knowledge and capacity around vocational rehabilitation, best practice vocational rehabilitation approaches, community resources and programs that support vocational rehabilitation practice.
- Collaborated with occupational therapy to explore merits of a community of practice for employment services at SJHH; offered virtual resource education sessions for interested staff members.
- One member and PPL oversees transfer of accountability practices via self-audit collection and review.
- One member completed Introduction to DBT – Individual Therapy; 2-day Workshop that was presented by Dr. Kerri Bojman.

## LEADING

### Presentations:

- Provided presentation about ACTT2 Program with Hamilton Police Social Navigation Program in December 2022.
- Attended Job Fairs to educate community on our programs, build connections with employers.

### Committees:

- Professional Advisory Committee.
- Employment Assistance Resource Network.

## Major Initiatives for 2023:

### CARING

- Continue to offer unit programming and program specific initiatives that will assist persons in recovery with vocational rehabilitation in areas of return to work, continuing education, volunteering.

### LEARNING

- Explore viability of building new partnerships (and affiliation agreements) with vocational/career counselling education programs to support clinical education.

### BUILDING

- With no centralized MHAP vocational services, continue to explore ways to:

- Continue building employment supports knowledge and capacity among vocational counsellors and other pertinent staff/referral sources across MHAP.
- Engage in team building and collaborative initiatives/pursuits among remaining counsellors.

### LEADING

- Continued engagement with community employment partners and programs to develop and maintain partnerships while facilitating supported employment practice.

2022-23