

Community Reintegration Program: Service Learning

Service Learning is a nationally accepted program that combines service objectives with learning objectives with the intent that the activity changes both the recipient and the provider of the services. This is accomplished by combining service tasks with structured opportunities that link the task to self-reflection, self-discovery and the acquisition and comprehension of values, skills and knowledge content.



It promotes cognitive restructuring and learning through active participation in service experiences.

It provides opportunities for clients to use executive functioning skills and knowledge in real-life situations, solving community problems, that can develop interest in and attainment of possible careers as well as a positive workplace attitude.

It provides structured time for clients to reflect by thinking, discussing and/or writing about their service experience.

It extends content acquisition and client social development from the therapeutic group into the community at large to achieve real objectives.

It reduces isolation, reverses disengagement, fosters cooperation and moves the client toward greater independence.

Service projects have clear goals that require clients to acquire and apply concepts, content and cognitive skills from many modalities and disciplines of interest. The projects engage clients in challenging cognitive and developmental tasks. Service tasks have clear goals, meet genuine community needs and have significant consequences.

Clients have the voice in selecting, designing, implementing, executing and evaluating their service project. Service projects foster communication, interaction and partnerships with the community, thus reducing isolation and disengagement. Clients reflect before, during and after the service project. Reflection encourages critical thinking, cognitive enhancement and executive functioning skills.

Service learning is not an episodic volunteer program or logging a set number of community service hours or a compensatory service assigned as a form of punishment by the courts. The program is facilitated by a qualified professional, with the hours of engagement in the project determined by the scope of the project, client preference and as stamina permits. All sessions are documented in a progress note, including dates, times and signature of the client.