

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Friday November 8 | 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

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Steps Towards Integration - Trust Programs

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The “Community Trust Program” was first described in 1991 by Hingsburger and colleagues in their article “Community access for sex offenders with developmental disabilities: A process for dealing with trust, risk and responsibility”. This concept described a structured, data driven, and safe method of introducing intellectually disabled offenders to opportunities to gain independence in their communities while continuing to protect the safety of those who live amongst them.

Sexual offenders with intellectual disabilities (ID) are able to participate in, and benefit from offence specific treatment. But what comes next? How do clinicians or service providers know when it is time to test skills gained in treatment or to generalize them into new settings? When is it time to look at “trust” and finding a way to re-introduce, at some level independence? More importantly, how do we do this in a way that keeps people and communities safe?

The purpose of this presentation is to look at how and when “community trust programs” can be implemented when working with intellectually disabled offenders. The markers for readiness, from data to client confidence, will be outlined. Secondly, designing a ‘trust’ program will be reviewed and participants will learn from in-use practices of a community living agency that supports this population. Throughout this presentation data will be emphasized, from data-based decision making to training staff to recognize what accurate data taking does and how data can prepare people for a life beyond treatment.

Participants will discuss clinical benefits from both a practical and behavioural standpoint. We will demonstrate how the “community trust program” is implemented, how data is taken and assessed as well as the difference in outcomes for those who complete these programs, versus those who do not. Participants will also be provided with suggestions on how to overcome difficulties in completing these programs, and work arounds for those with sanctions pertaining to independent access should they arise.

Learning Goals:

- Participants will gain a basic working knowledge of the “Community Trust Program” and its application with intellectually delayed offenders, including take home examples, and data sheets.
- Participants will recognise indicators of readiness for a “trust program” throughout the use of data.

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- Participants will gain understanding of the structure and implementation of a Trust program, and the usefulness of its data collection in the assessment of treatment success.

Katie Miller, DSW is a Behaviour Therapist at Vita Community Living Services' working primarily with homes for men with intellectual disabilities and / or dual diagnosis who offend sexually. Katie has been in this role for the past 2.5 years and has worked in the field of Intellectual Disability and offending behaviour for the past 10 years.

Miranda Khemchand, B.A. is a Behaviour Therapist at Vita Community Living Services' working with a wide range of individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and / or Dual Diagnosis, including those who have offended sexually. Heather has been in this role for the past two and a half years and has been committed to the disability sector for the greater part of her career.