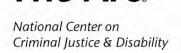
# Employment for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities/Mental Illness: Forensic/Sex Offending Behaviors



Chris Snell, Director of Specialized Employment Services (SES) at CLASS, Inc.

Dr. Paul Van Almkerk, Clinical and Organizational Consultant to the SES program



The Arc

#### Welcome!

- First time using webex?
  - You can communicate with other attendees or the host in the Chat Box and seek technical assistance if needed.
  - You can type questions about the material presented in the Q&A section.
  - You can raise your hand and we'll pause to let you speak if we have time.
- Today's webinar will be recorded and archived on the NCCJD website. Please keep this in mind when sharing information and experiences during the webinar.

#### Introduction of Presenters

Chris Snell Dr. Paul Van Almkerk Achieve with us. 3

### **CLASS Agency Overview**

- Founded in 1976, CLASS Inc. empowers people with disabilities through supports and services to promote personal choice, growth, and full participation in their communities.
- Agency sites in Lawrence and Wilmington serve more than 400 individuals from 40 communities.
- For more agency information please visit www.classinc.org

### **SES Program Overview**

- Located in a former mill building dating back to the 1800's when the city of Lawrence, MA was recognized as a major wool-processing center until the 1950's.
- Environmental setting includes 7 "homebases" that are rooms containing clusters of individuals.
- Each homebase is populated based on specific needs, supervision, compatibility, and vocational skills. These homebases are re-clustered at least twice annually to transition individuals to more appropriate areas dependent on their successes and challenges over the previous six months.

### **SES Program Overview**

- On-site employment opportunities
  - contracted piece work
    - shipping/handling, collating, assembly
    - producing work on looms for social enterprise company
  - in-house vocational opportunities (competitive wage)
    - maintenance
    - mail delivery
    - landscaping external site property
    - warehouse material handling employment

## **SES Program Overview**

- Off-site employment opportunities
  - local lumberyard involving janitorial responsibilities
  - local warehouse assembling production materials

## Polling Question

What is the current number of sex offenders in U.S.?



Achieve with us.

#### **SES Best Practices Overview**

The program Best Practices contain a detailed overview of the program mission and values, as well as a multi-tiered service delivery model of universal expectations and individualized supports for all participants.

### **Agency Collaborations**

- Currently the SES program's census consists of individuals supported residentially by eleven state funded provider agencies.
- The funding sources for these providers-
  - Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
  - Department of Mental Health (DMH)
  - Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission (MRC)
  - Department of Education (DOE)

## Interoffice Mail Vocational Opportunity



## Fabric Loom ~ Social Enterprise



## **Polling Question**

Individuals with ID represent almost 3% of the U.S. population. What percentage is currently represented in prison or jail?



### Program Individuals Profiles

#### Current census of 58 individuals

- 8 Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board (SORB) leveled individuals (5 Level Two, 3 Level Three)
- 5 additional individuals currently on probation
- 7 individuals forensically involved within last two years
- 3 individuals currently residing at regional inpatient stabilization unit
- 2 individuals discharged from regional inpatient stabilization unit to group residences in last six months

#### Individual Profiles

- Most prevalent and challenging diagnoses
  - 18 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
  - 10 Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) / Acquired Brain Injury (ABI)
  - 10 psychotic disorder
  - 6 Personality Disorder

The commonality within the population of individuals supported in the program is that the vast majority are multi-diagnosed.

## **Polling Question**

An English research study examined 103 sex offenders with developmental disabilities. What percentage did they find had re-offended after 6 years?



### **Program Staff Profile**

- 13 FT frontline staff positions (1/2 of staff have at least undergraduate degrees)
- Case coordinator, behavior specialist, program manager, program director
- Supports by production coordinator and employment manager responsible for acquisition and oversight of employment contracts

## **Polling Question**

What percentage of all reported sexual offenses are committed by individuals with developmental disabilities?



## Internal and External Program Challenges

- Funding
- Staffing
- Sheltered and community employment
- Risk reduction
- Managing behaviors vs. supporting/treating the whole person

## **Case Study**



#### **Next Webinar**

- Attend the next webinar on November 20<sup>th</sup>: Laura Usher from NAMI talks about CIT
- Sign up to receive email alerts
- Use I&R/TA service, and refer others
- Share your story and raise awareness

# Contact us at: NCCJDinfo@thearc.org

#### Questions?

#### Survey:

http://fs8.formsite.com/thearcwebinar/form49/index.html

#### **Next Webinar:**

 November 20<sup>th</sup>: Laura Usher from NAMI talks about CIT

#### Contact us at:

NCCJDInfo@thearc.org

