

BOOK REVIEWS

WORK AND MENTAL ILLNESS: Transitions to Employment

Bertram J. Black

*Johns Hopkins University Press (1988), 701 West
40th Street, Baltimore, MD 21211.
241 pp., \$36.50*

In this exhaustive survey of work and mental illness, the author first defines the need for work to be a part of the rehabilitation of the mentally ill and explains the notion of "productive participation in society." The history of work programs and attitudes regarding work for the mentally ill are then presented. As the history progresses to present day, the changing terminology is sorted out and thoroughly defined. Descriptions are given of programs as examples of all the different kinds of work programs. The following are included: sheltered workshops, work activity centers, transitional employment programs, fairweather lodges, projects with industry, and supported work. All applicable public laws are identified by number, year of enactment, and conditions surrounding their initiation. They are then further defined through example. The manpower training programs of CETA, job-training partnerships, and volunteer work are presented, again with examples. Overlap between programs and program types is pointed out. Where applicable, cross-references are made to other sections of the book, tying together the web of information. Since all examples in the first half of the book are from the United States, a later section documents programs in Western Europe. Finally, the theory of rehabilitation of the mentally ill and the place of work in that theory are discussed.

Black also defines the professionals and rehabilitation programs that relate to preparing a patient/client for work. Descriptions include: functional assessments, milieu and group therapies, occupational therapy, activities therapies, dynamic intervention, behavior modification, competency training, social skills training, and work therapy. The hallmark of this book is that specific examples provide the reader with a

clear understanding of the material. All current vocational evaluations are listed. Vocational counseling, training in activities of daily living and personal adjustment, work adjustment, and job placement procedures are described. For the reader not aware of all the business and economic aspects of setting up a work program within the context of rehabilitation, there is a chapter replete with information on federal laws, assigning wages, procuring work, cost accounting, marketing and sales, hiring appropriate personnel, standards, and accreditation.

Because of its thoroughness, this book is recommended to professionals considering adding a work dimension to an already existing rehabilitation program for the mentally ill. It would also be helpful to those interested in knowing how their program compares to others or how their program could be changed to be of more long-term benefit to the client.

Linda Duncombe, MS, OTR/L

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION OF PERSONS WITH PROLONGED PSYCHIATRIC DISORDERS

**Jean A. Ciardiello, EdD, and Morris D.
Bell, PhD, editors**

*Johns Hopkins University Press, (1988), 701 West
40th Street, Baltimore, MD 21211.
285 pp., \$45.*

Persons with prolonged psychiatric care are in need of multiple services and can be viewed from various theoretical perspectives. This volume's objective is to provide "a hopeful message that persons with prolonged psychiatric disorders can lead productive lives and that rehabilitation can significantly alter the course of psychiatric disorder."

This book has attracted an impressive array of contributors who are nationally recognized experts, including academicians and clinicians in the area of vocational rehabilitation and mental health. While much has been written in the field of rehabilitation, this volume has successfully integrated various treatment assumptions

and presents an updated review of current thinking and research in this topic.

Consisting of four sections, the book is well organized with clearly stated summaries for each chapter and section. The first segment provides a historical review including defining the shifting chronic population and reviewing various conceptual controversies and recent public policy. Section 2 presents six different approaches to viewing the psychiatrically impaired client, ranging from a psychoanalytical and ego function approach to a general psychiatric rehabilitation model as discussed by Anthony and Jansen. Social and learning techniques are reviewed by Lieberman and Muesern, and a family system approach is described by Johnson with focus on integrating the family into the vocational process. Finally, transitional employment such as the Fountainhouse program is described, including an evaluation of the program and future recommendations. The third section explores aspects of the vocational process common to all the approaches (such as vocational assessment, medication, and ego function) with a stimulating discussion of the rehabilitation alliance. In the final section, a comprehensive critique of 21 research studies is presented with a discussion of patient outcome and future program development. Ciardiello concludes by emphasizing the importance of increasing funding for rehabilitation programs and having policymakers encourage work trials. The author calls for more research and better professional training but simultaneously feels psychiatric rehabilitation has advanced significantly over the past 30 years.

The structure and purpose of this book are well stated, and the book itself is extremely read-

able. Both editors state that one of their objectives in this work is to "identify the boundaries of this interdisciplinary field and to explore the territory within it." But as an occupational therapist and coordinator of a work readiness program in a psychiatric facility, I am concerned by the omission of occupational therapy. The profession was founded in work with the psychiatric population and a firm commitment to work adjustment. As the American Occupational Therapy Association position paper "The Role of Occupational Therapy in the Vocational Rehabilitation Process" clearly states, occupational therapy "is based upon the fundamental belief that engagement in purposeful activity (occupation), including both the interpersonal and environmental dimensions, may prevent or remediate dysfunction and elicit maximum performance in the work role adaptation."¹

Still, this book presents a timely, comprehensive, and readable overview of the development of vocational rehabilitation covering 30 years that followed deinstitutionalization. The variety of topics covered could be extremely beneficial to students and clinicians as an introduction to the field of vocational rehabilitation and treatment for the chronically ill. I am only sorry that occupational therapy was not identified among the interdisciplinary fields treating persons with prolonged psychiatric disorders.¹

Joan Feder, MS, OTR/L

1. Ad Hoc Committee of the Commission on Practice: The role of occupational therapy in the vocational rehabilitation process: Official position paper. *Am J Occup Ther* 1980; 34:881.