

New Mental Health Rehabilitation/Community Certification Requirements-- Vocational Aspects of Disability:

DHHS Office of Adult Mental Health Services (OAMHS) is updating the requirements for the Mental Health Rehabilitation/Community (MHRT/C) certification. As of January 1, 2009, a Vocational Aspects of Disability (or comparable) course will be required for all individuals seeking MHRT/C certification. The Group Process course will not be accepted after that date.

Recently, a stakeholder session was held with consumers, providers and academic institutions to provide feedback and to prioritize the competencies. The stakeholder session, along with written feedback from providers, contributed to the final approved competencies. Starting January 1, 2009 MHRT/C certificate candidates must complete coursework that includes these competencies in order to earn a full MHRT/C. The final approved competencies for the Vocational Aspects of Disability requirements are as follows:

1. Has working knowledge of the National Consensus Statement on Mental Health Recovery and the ten fundamental components of recovery as they relate to employment. (www.samhsa.gov).
2. Understands that research shows that most people with psychiatric disabilities want to pursue employment opportunities and that a consumer can be successful in competitive employment regardless of diagnosis, symptoms, disability status, prior hospitalizations, or co-occurring substance abuse.
3. Familiarity with resources and roles of people involved in the employment support system for consumers with psychiatric disabilities, including job developers, job coaches and community work incentives coordinators.
4. Understands the role of a MHRT/C in supporting an individual pursuing a vocational goal.
5. Knowledgeable about the current and evolving research regarding evidence-based practices in employment of individuals with psychiatric disabilities, including supported employment.
6. Working knowledge of engagement and motivation techniques to assist consumers in pursuing employment.