

How Will Johnny Pay for College?

Bud Buckhout

Onondaga Community Living

Carole Gothelf

AHRC New York City

Matthew Weiler

AHRC New York City

Melissa Riggio Higher Ed Program

- The goal of the program is to provide a wholesome, stimulating and fully integrated environment that supports students in their efforts to exercise choice in their academic, vocational, recreational and social pursuits.
- Activities are designed to encourage students to participate in the larger community and assist them in developing the skills and competencies that enable employment and community life.
- These goals are met by providing opportunity for liberal learning, community membership and support for career development.

Access



- OCL discovered this need and took a path by listening to people and their families who wanted to go to college and a 1:1 Day Hab was formed
- We learned about individuals true goals for higher education and their inability to find the support to achieve that
- We teamed up with University College, SU's School of Education and the Office of Disability Services to help adults participate in college level classes along with other college peers

The Big Picture

- **College is about:**

- *Having one's mind opened to learning*
- *Building self-esteem*
- *Career preparation*
- *Building a social life*
- *Developing relationships*
- *Making choices*
- *Gaining independence*
- *Making a contribution to the community*
- *Being a self-advocate*

It is an easement to the journey to adulthood.

The Details

- **These details are the enabling factors that support the journey to adulthood:**

- *Being organized*
- *Having social boundaries*
- *Managing one's money*
- *Being travel-trained*
- *Having a healthy life style (i.e. food, choices, exercise)*
- *Advocating for one's self*
- *Unpaid internships*
- *Learning job skills*

These details are appropriately funded through day-hab and/or pre-voc.

What is Day Habilitation Services?

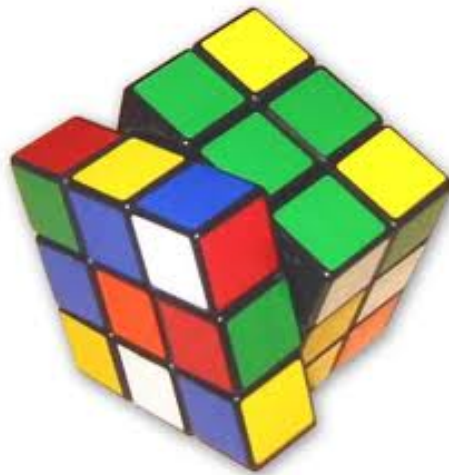
- Day Habilitation is assistance with the acquisition, retention or improvement of self-help, socialization and adaptive skills, which takes place in a non-residential setting
- There are currently two models for Day Hab: Group Day Hab and Individual Day Hab

What is Pre Vocational Services?

- Pre Voc services address a person's vocational interest, people who are interested in joining "the world of work", but whose skills may not enable them obtain competitive employment.
- Pre Voc includes support and training related to the ability to obtain and retain employment.

It's Complicated

There is a very meaningful and complicated relationship between Medicaid-funded day-hab / pre-voc programs and all that the college experience has to offer.



Day Hab and Pre Voc Go to College

- In the context of college, billable services, goals and skills must be invisible.
- Staff must be “mindful” not to interrupt the flow of the college day.
- Staff needs to be “mindful” that they are in a setting over which they have little control.

“Paradox: As students gain skills, their ability makes them more visible on campus.”

Making College Suitable for Day Hab and Pre Voc

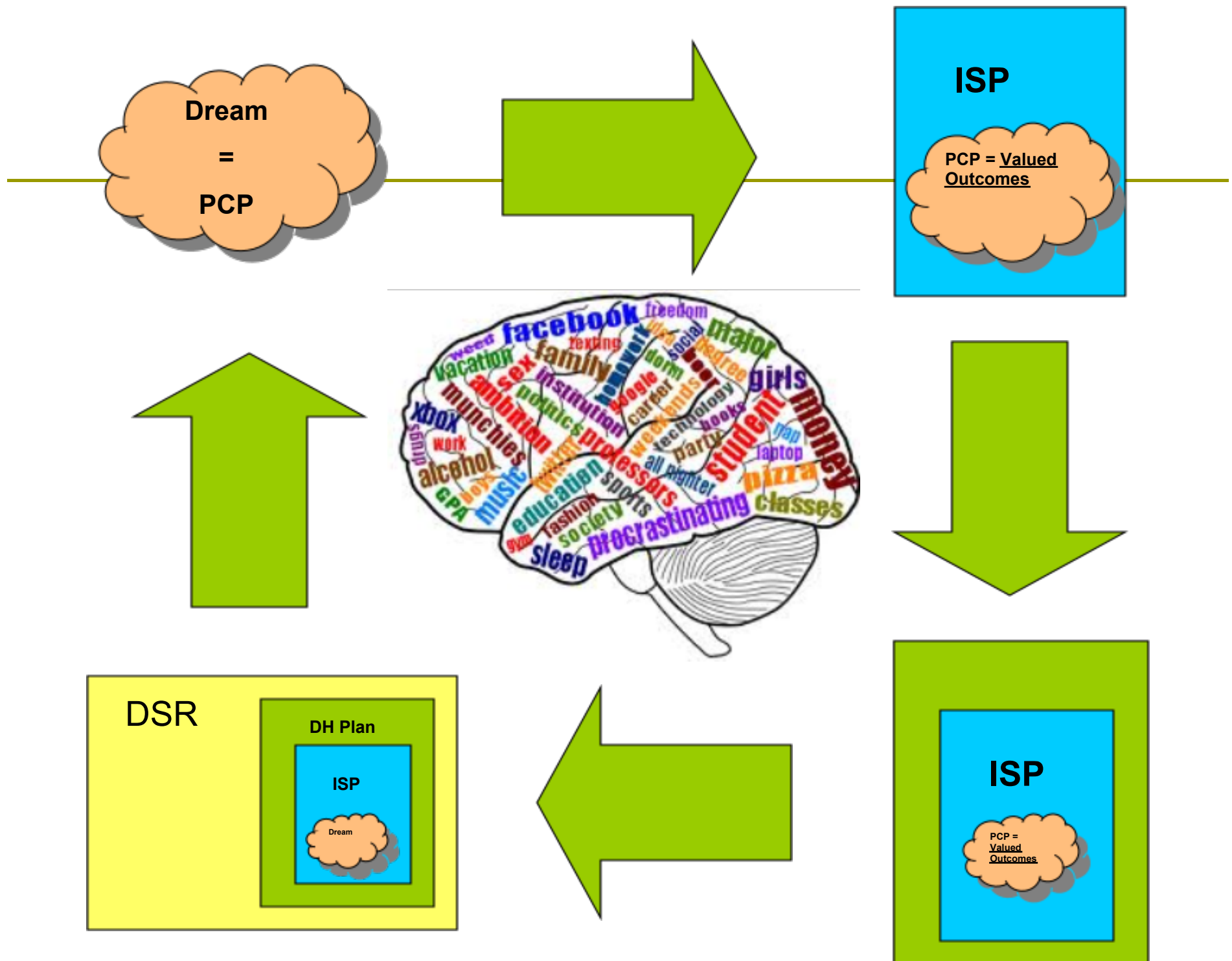
- Person Centered Planning (PCP) - Goals and Dreams are explored to be acquired.
- Individualized Service Plan (ISP) – Within the plan, the PCP goals and dreams are added as Valued Outcomes for the individual to work on.
 - Johnny's dream is "to have a girlfriend". His dream becomes a "valued outcome" on his ISP.

Making College Suitable for Day Hab and Pre Voc

- Day-hab plan - we break the dream into enabling components, goals (i.e. social skills), services and skills.
 - *Johnny wants a girlfriend, however he needs assistance in developing meaningful social relationships.*
- This becomes three components that will be worked on daily/sequentially on the Daily Service Record (DSR).
 - Social Skills: 1-Staff will assist Johnny to identify his interests. 2-Staff will accompany Johnny to activities of his interest. 3-Staff will facilitate Johnny in talking to girls with shared interests.

Making College Suitable for Day Hab and Pre Voc

- DSR's are evaluated monthly. Once one component is achieved, staff will move on to the next.
 - Because you are taking quantitative data daily, you will see trends.
 - These trends cause you to stop, re-evaluate, change directions, or keep going.
- Minimum of two yearly meetings, with student, MSC, family, program supervisor and (maybe) mentor.



2 Models



Let's take a closer look!

AHRC Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program

- Group Day Hab Model
- Medicaid bills Daily – ½ day = 2-4 hrs, Full day = 4+ hrs
- College absorbs cost of courses
- Melissa Riggio Staff does College and Career Advisement
- Career focused internships
- Job Placement upon graduation
- One year alumni services
- Age range 21-25

ACCESS

- Individual Hab Model
- Medicaid bills hourly and supports 120 hours or units for billable support
- Student pays 1/3 of the audit credit rate, University 1/3, School of Education 1/3
- Students Choose classes under the guidance of a University College Academic Advisor
- Age range 24-48

Shared Attributes

- The program is open to anyone interested in auditing classes that has a developmental disability and is Medicaid eligible
- Each student is pair up with a Campus Mentor who assists the student with whatever he or she needs to be academically successful
- Each student has an own education plan
- Staff works with each student, their professor, and campus mentor to ensure that the best learning opportunities are made.

Shared Attributes

- Students audit classes and graduate with a certificate of completion through the University based on their areas of studies.
- Each student is supported in classes during spring and fall semesters and participates in a variety of activities during the summer that enhance the studies students are engaged in.
- Staff meets with mentors, students and faculty to discuss modifications of assignments while maintaining academic integrity of coursework

Outcomes

- Students have greater knowledge and have expanded their academic ability
- Faculty is open to having a more diverse student population in the classroom
- Authentic Inclusion
- Increased self worth, self esteem, and self determination
- Universal design
- Employment

Every day is a mystery, no telling what is going to happen....What could be better than that!!

-Kristen, Class of 2012. Melissa Riggio Higher Education Program at the College of Staten Island

