An Exploration of Case Management Courses in University Curricula

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Case for Case Management

- CM is an essential part of a care for people with severe mental illness.
- Research indicates CM can be effective at:
  - Increasing retention in treatment
  - Decreasing time spent in the hospital
  - Increasing housing stability and community tenure
  - Improving symptomatology and quality of life

Case Management Training

• Training at Universities is scarce.

• On the job training is most often provided by Community Mental Health agencies.

• Having to provide CM training for new hires can be a burden to agencies.
Early Case Management Study

“Study by Berkley Planning Associates (1977) found that though many aspects of case management can be learned after being hired, advanced formal education seemed to make case managers more effective.”

(Scheyett & Blyer, 2002, p 87)
Rational for This Study

• Examine the current state of case management education in university settings.
• Explore number and types of case management courses offered within university curricula across the country.
• Explore characteristics of case management courses offered within university curricula across the country.
University Selection

- 2 largest public universities in each state and District of Columbia were chosen.
- Total of 100 universities were studied (Wyoming and District of Columbia each only have one public university.)
Data Collection

• Data collected by reviewing course descriptions for both undergraduate and graduate courses across helping professions.

• Course descriptions obtained from university web page catalogues.

• Data extracted using standardized date extraction form created by authors.
Helping Profession Disciplines Studied

- Counseling
- Criminal justice
- Education
- Nursing
- Psychology
- Rehabilitation counseling/therapy
- Social work
- Other (e.g. special education, family studies)
Results

• In the 100 universities studied 194 case management courses were identified
  -courses specific to case management (28%)
  -courses including case management content among other topics (72%)
• 65% of case management related courses were graduate level courses.
Content of Courses