Ryan Melton, Ph.D.

- Clinical Director for the Early Assessment and Support Alliance (EASA) Center for Excellence, OHSU
- Started the original 5-county implementation in public managed healthcare system in January 2001
- Associate Professor of Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- Certified in CBT, FIT, SIPS (as a trainer), PSS
- Has authored multiple papers, chapters and presentations on early psychosis identification and treatment.
My Real BIO
Mission of the Early Assessment and Support Alliance

- Keep young people with the early signs of psychosis on their *chosen life paths* by:
  - Building community awareness.
  - Offering easily accessible, effective treatment and support using a public health approach.

- Provides:
  - Network of educated community members & highly skilled clinicians.
  - Most current evidence-based practices modified to meet the developmental and cultural needs of adolescents and young adults.
EASA’s Model of Coordinated Specialty Care for FEP and CHRp

- Counseling (individual and Family)
- Supported employment & education
- Peer support
- Individual and Support Network
- Substance use tx
- Occupational therapy
- Psychiatric
- Case Management
What is EASA?

“Uniting the voices and strengths of young adults and their allies to create a thriving community and a revolution of hope!” – Young Adult Leadership Council
Follow us online!

- Website: www.easacommunity.org
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/easacommunity
IPS Principles

1. Open to anyone who wants to work
2. Focus on competitive employment
3. Rapid job search
4. Systematic job development
5. Client preferences guide decisions
6. Individualized long-term supports
7. IPS integrated with treatment team
8. Benefits counseling included
Augmentations to IPS for Young Adults with Early Psychosis

- Offer help with educational goals/long term career goals
- Keep clients open in IPS even as goals change
- Include families in process/SE can lead MFGs.
- Use youth-friendly modes of communication (e.g. disclosure not necessary but shouldn’t be avoided). Also use text and email
- Avoid stigmatizing service settings
- Work mental health appointments around school and work.
- Use cognitive and sensory assessments (e.g. address neg/associated symptoms)
- Use culturally and age appropriate benefits planning.
- Consider combining Sed and SE and other supports (e.g. homework group)
- Be deliberate in transition planning (other services may not have SE)
Systematic Review of 8 Follow-up Studies of Early Intervention Programs Providing IPS
CSC and IPS fidelity interface standards of practice considerations

- **Case load size:** EASA Mandates no wait list. *IPS suggestion:* temporarily increase caseload until you are able to accommodate a caseload size of 20 or less. *CSC suggestion:* carefully define caseload.

- **Employment services staff:** IPS suggestion: EASA Employment Specialists may facilitate the MFG group or spend time on other activities important to EASA but not necessarily employment (E.g. Case Management) This is especially true in rural counties and may be important to them and not just the EASA program. It may also be important to state why it is important to EASA which includes the evidence that does support shared roles (as long as it isn’t too much) and the evidence of MFG improving employment outcomes. However limit this as ES or make relevant to employment
CSC and IPS fidelity interface standards of practice considerations

• **Role of the employment supervisor.** It is not unusual in EASA for the ES to have an IPS supervisor and a EASA supervisor. Both supervisors should attend training on models and be aware of each other’s fidelity practices.

• **Competitive jobs:** EASA staff at times encourage volunteerism,/internships and the employment specialists may have offered some supports for volunteer/internship positions. IPS suggestion: if the client brings up the topic, an ES can help with a volunteer /internship job, as a step towards a paid job. Or an employer recommends volunteer/internship experience before applying for a job.

• **Individualized follow along supports:** Occasionally EASA clients are referred to IPS right as the job starts, which can create challenges for the ES and client to connect. IPS suggestion: Keep focus or return focus to career level jobs as a part of follow along supports.
Contact Us!

Ryan Melton PhD
Clinical Director EASA Center for Excellence
rymelton@pdx.edu