

WE&T Consumer Family Member Training & Support
Operated by Human Resources and Training Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery
Services in Partnership with Modesto Junior College and Community-Based Organizations

In partnership with Modesto Junior College (MJC), the California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies (CASRA) based program provides a structure to integrate academic learning into real life field experience in the adult public mental health system. Before this partnership, MJC did not have a Psychosocial Rehabilitation curriculum. The initiative taken by BHRS to purchase the CASRA curriculum signifies the efforts to fill the gaps for employment of consumers and family members. Students who have received their Skills Recognition Certificate also have the opportunity to become eligible for the National CASRA certification after completing a minimum of 2,500 field experience hours.

The Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program at MJC is a nine (9) unit curriculum that provides individuals with the knowledge and skills to apply goals, values, and principles of recovery oriented practices to effectively serve consumers and family members. The certificated units also count towards an Associate of Arts Degree in Human Services at MJC.

The CASRA Based Stipend Program includes stipends to assist with school fees, bus and parking passes, and school supply vouchers, as needed to participants. There is also a textbook loan program. In addition, CASRA Program participants receive ongoing peer support and academic assistance to maximize their opportunities for success.

Highlights

One of last year's challenges has been met with the hiring of a part time Facilitator for the CASRA Based Stipend Program to manage and assist the CASRA Based Stipend Program participants with stability and reliability to ensure the needs of the program and the participants are being met. We have also hired a part-time assistant to assist both the CASRA and Volunteer Programs. 35 of our participants have been placed in volunteer positions that allowed them to meet the specified hour requirements for each MJC Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program course.

The program is maintaining a steady increase in the recruitment of several other ethnicities into the behavioral health field. All CASRA Based Stipend Program participants are either consumer/family members or they come from a diverse and underserved community. A total of 117 students received CASRA stipends in FY 15-16. Twenty-three (23) CASRA Based Stipend Program participants completed the academic requirements and volunteer hours to receive their Skills Recognition Certificate for completion of the MJC 9-Unit Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program.

Seven (7) additional CASRA Based Stipend Program participants have received their Associate of Arts Degree in Human Services at MJC. Sixteen (16) CASRA Based Stipend Program participants serving as volunteers have been hired in the public mental health system; eight (8) by BHRS and eight (8) by community partner agencies. Among our CASRA Based Stipend Program participants, Twenty-eight (28) are bilingual or multi-lingual.

Challenges

With the increasing amount of participants on the CASRA Based Stipend Program, we endeavor to be able to assist our participants by loaning them textbooks for the courses they are taking at MJC. This is a challenge for our program due to the cost of textbooks being raised each semester by MJC reducing the amount of textbooks we can purchase to accommodate our participants. We are however, looking at alternative avenues to which we will be able to purchase textbooks at a lower cost.

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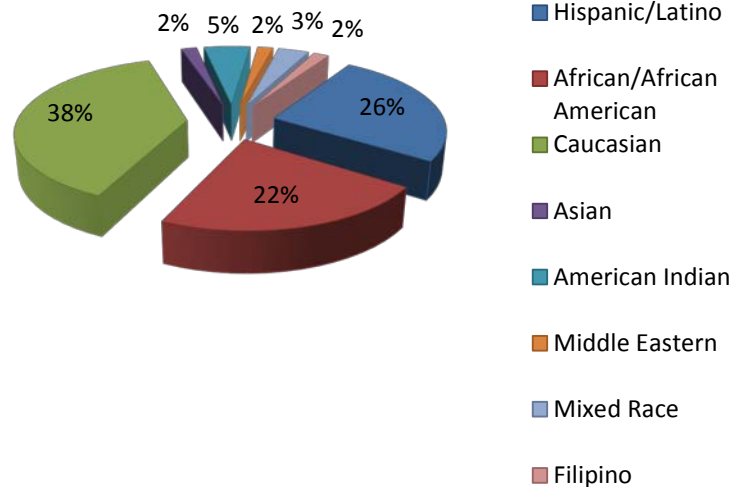
WE&T Consumer Family Member Training and Support



117 Individuals Served

- How Much?**
 - **WE&T Consumer Family Member Training and Support**
 - 117 CASRA Based Stipend Program participants representing diverse ethnicities/cultures received education stipends
 - 21 participants received field placement with BHRS or our community partner agencies
 - 2 CASRA Based Stipend Program orientations and 2 classroom presentations were held at MJC to raise awareness about the program
- How Well?**
 - Collaboration with the Behavioral and Social Science Departments at MJC
 - 100% of CASRA Based Stipend Program recipients have lived experience as consumers, family members of consumers, or are from diverse cultural backgrounds
 - 28 CASRA Based Stipend Program recipients are bilingual or multi-lingual
- Better Off?**
 - 23 CASRA Based Stipend Program participants completed the academic requirements and volunteer/internship hours needed to receive their Skills Recognition Certificate for the MJC 9-Unit Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program
 - 7 CASRA Based Stipend Program participants have received their Associate of Arts Degree in Human Services
 - 4 CASRA Based Stipend Program participants have chosen to continue their education at California State University, Stanislaus
 - 16 CASRA Based Stipend Program participants were hired in the public mental health system; 8 by BHRS and 8 by partner agencies

WE&T CASRA Ethnicity/Race



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117 Individuals Served
CASRA Based Stipend Program Participant
Comments

The helpful thing about the services I received from the CASRA Program is being able to have books for my main classes saves me money and that saved money can go to other books that CASRA does not provide...I appreciate what the CASRA staff has done to help me complete my goals to receive my certificate. Keep doing what CASRA is doing! It helps in so many ways.

I love the CASRA Program. The staff is amazing. Being in the CASRA Program was the best opportunity I have had.

They have helped me with the books and transportation so that I can get to school. And if I needed anything they are willing to help if they can.

The staff has been very helpful. Thank goodness they helped me this semester with a parking pass and book. It helped me be a successful student. I really appreciate it. GOOD JOB ☺

I appreciate the knowledge, support, and direction I have received from the CASRA personnel.

CASRA is totally supporting me with school and has really helped me reach out to the community. Meme has totally supported me a great deal and has been there for me every step of the way. I have nothing negative to say about CASRA at this point. I would not be where I am at in life without their support.

I want to comment on the staff: All of the staff members have been fabulous in helping me with not only my application process, my long-term educational goals, but also in being there when I needed their advice on certain course-load questions; for example in taking certain classes that would not overburden me and set me up for failure. In my interactions with Meme in particular, they have been very valuable in the selection process of my classes. Three cheers for the CASRA program!