

Abstracts from Hebrew

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# Breaking the Cycle of Chronicity in the Almog Young Adult Psychiatric Unit for the Development of Life Skills and Vocational Rehabilitation

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An emotional crisis during young adulthood interrupts the continuity of normative development and the maturation of identity. Thus, although youths who experience a severe emotional crisis may be socially disadvantaged upon reaching adulthood, Thus, those who experience a severe mental illness (SMI) may be socially disadvantaged upon reaching adulthood, due to high expectations regarding their ability to participate in community living and the world of work. Work is a significant occupation and constitutes a measure for distinguishing between health and illness. Moreover, work is considered to be a significant component in recovery from a psychiatric illness and an essential element in ensuring successful integration within the community. Employment rates among this population are about 10%-20%. These vocational difficulties occur mainly as a result of limited or nonexistent work experience as well from being challenged by various disabilities. Cognitive deficits are directly related to the ability of a person coping with a psychiatric disability to function in general, and specifically to function at work. Thus, rehabilitation services must address this issue so that consumers may realize their employment potential. Almog Rehabilitation Center provides services for young adults coping with psychiatric impairments in the areas of employment, education,

social communication, community skills and functional independence. It enables young people to progress in any area of daily life in which they lack the necessary skills with an emphasis on developing their vocational identity. The Almog Youth Center combines practical experience, knowledge acquisition and metacognitive awareness to promote improved adaptation and integration in future endeavors. In this article a case study of a young adult who completed the program is presented.