
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: **Steven Justin Onken**POSITION TITLE: **Associate, Research Specialist**

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	YEAR	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA	B.A.	1978	Social Work
University of Texas at Austin, TX	M.S.S.W.	1983	Social Work: Planning & Administration
University of Texas at Austin, TX	Ph.D.	2000	Social Work: Mental Health

POSITIONS AND HONORS

Positions and Employment:

- 1979-80 Youth Counselor, Youth Employment Service, Direct Care Aide, Settlement Club Home, Austin, TX.
1980-83 Social Worker, Austin-Travis County Mental Health Mental Retardation Center, Austin, TX.
1983-86 Masters Social Worker, Advocacy, Incorporated, Austin, TX.
1986-90 Director, Developmental Disabilities Protection & Advocacy System, Advocacy, Incorporated, Austin, TX.
1991-97 Social Science Research Associate III/Assistant Instructor, University of Texas at Austin, TX.
1996-2000 Research Specialist II, Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation (TDMHMR), Austin, TX.
2000-2006 Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Columbia University in the City of New York, NY.
2006- Research Associate, School of Social Work & Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, HI.

Other Experience and Professional Membership:

- 1995 Principal Investigator, Assessment of Subpopulations, Austin Area HIV Planning Commission.
2001-04 Advisor, Self-Determination Project, National Research and Training Center (NRTC) on Psychiatric Disability.
2001-05 Member, Quality Report Revision Workgroup, Mental Health Statistics Improvement Program (MHSIP).
2002 Consultant, Texas Consensus Conference on Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services, TDMHMR.
2003-06 Steering Committee & Technical Expert Workgroup, Decision Support 2000+ Outcome Module Project, Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS).
2003- Member, Adult Consumer Survey Workgroup, Mental Health Statistics Improvement Program (MHSIP).
2004 Expert Meeting, Recovery Oriented Systems of Care, National Technical Assistance Center (NTAC) for State Mental Health Planning.
2004 Technical Workgroup, 2005 redesign of the Center for Mental Health's Client/Patient Sample Survey (CPSS).
2004 Member, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Collaboration Forum, An Initiative of Partners for Recovery.
2004 Planning Committee, National Consensus Conference on Mental Health Recovery and Systems Transformation.
2005- Advisory Board, Boston University Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation.
2005- Steering Committee, State Incentive Grants to Build Capacity for Alternatives to Restraint and Seclusion, NTAC.
2005- Technical Expert Panel to Identify Core Performance Measures for Hospital-Based, Inpatient Psychiatric Services, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).
2005- Advisory Group, Consumer Operated Services Data Repository Project, NRTC on Psychiatric Disability.

Honors:

- 1973-75 National Honor Society, Valedictorian, Pocahontas High School.
1976 Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society, University of Iowa.
1978 Phi Beta Kappa National Honor Society, Graduated with Highest Distinction, University of Iowa.
1985 Special Recognition Citation, Austin Association for Retarded Citizens.
1986 Volunteer of the Year, Austin Association for Retarded Citizens.
1992 Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, University of Texas at Austin.
1994-95 University Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin.
1998 Phi Alpha Honor Society, School of Social Work, University of Texas at Austin.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Onken, S.J. (1995). *Qualitative Assessment of Populations/ Subpopulations with Special Needs*. Final report for the Austin Area HIV Planning Commission, Austin, TX.
Onken, S.J., McRoy, R.G., Schwab, A.J. & Lewis, C.M. (1995). *Applying for SSI/SSDI Benefits: Technology Application and Consumer Perspectives*. Final report for the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation. Center for Social Work Research, School of Social Work, The University of Texas at Austin.
Onken, S.J. (1998). Conceptualizing violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersexual, and transgendered people. *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, 8(3), 5-24. Also in L.M. Sloan & N. Gustavsson (Eds.), *Violence and social injustice against lesbian, gay and bisexual people*, (5-24). Binghamton, NY: The Haworth Press, Inc.
Henney, S.M., Onken, S., McRoy, R.G., & Grotevant, H.D. (1998). Changing agency practices towards openness in adoption. *Adoption Quarterly*, 1(3), 45-76. Also in H.D. Grotevant & R.G. McRoy, *Openness in adoption: Exploring family connections*, (26-66). Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications.
Onken, S., & McRoy, R.G. (1999). Implications for training: Families and workers. Gusukuma, I., Onken, S., & McRoy, R.G. Foster parent adoptions. In R.G. McRoy, *Special needs adoptions: Practice issues*, (215-231). New York: Garland Publishing.

- Onken, S.J., & Slaten, E. (2000). Disability identity formation and affirmation: The experiences of persons with severe mental illness. *Sociological Practice: A Journal of Clinical and Applied Sociology*, 2(2), 99-111.
- Onken, S.J., Dumont, J.M., Ridgway, P., Dornan, D.H., & Ralph, R.O. (2002, October). *Mental Health Recovery: What Helps and What Hinders? A National Research Project for the Development of Recovery Facilitating System Performance Indicators. Phase One Research Report: A National Study of Consumer Perspectives on What Helps and Hinders Mental Health Recovery*. Alexandria, VA: National Technical Assistance Center for State Mental Health Planning.
- Toprac, M.G., Onken, S.J., Burke, S., & Hoppe, S.K. (2002, October). *Final Report of the Texas Employment Intervention Demonstration Project: Employment Assistance through Reciprocity in Natural Supports*. Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, Austin, TX
- Onken, S.J., Dumont, J.M., Ridgway, P., Dornan, D.H., & Ralph, R.O. (2003, Winter/Spring). Mental health recovery: What helps and what hinders? *Balance, the Journal of the Mental Health Association Queensland, Inc.*, 27-31. (Australia)
- Onken, S.J. (2004). Contextualizing self-determination within a mental health recovery oriented service and support system. In J. A. Jonikas & J. A. Cook, Eds., *The national self-determination and psychiatric disability invitational conference: Conference papers*, (96-128). Chicago IL: University of Illinois at Chicago National Research and Training Center.
- Dumont, J.M., Ridgway, P., Onken, S.J., Dornan, D.H., & Ralph, R.O. (2006, March). *Mental Health Recovery: What Helps and What Hinders? A National Research Project for the Development of Recovery Facilitating System Performance Indicators. Phase II Technical Report: Development of the Recovery-Oriented System Indicators (ROSI) Measures to Advance Mental Health System Transformation*. Alexandria, VA: National Technical Assistance Center for State Mental Health Planning.
- Cook, J.A., Leff, H.S., Blyler, C.R., Gold, P.B., Goldberg, R.W., Clark, R.E., Onken, S.J., Shafer, M.S., Blankertz, L.E., McFarlane, W.R., Razzano, L.A., & Burke-Miller, J.K. (2006). Estimated payments to employment service providers for persons with mental illness in the ticket to work program. *Psychiatric Services*, 57(4), 465-471.
- Cook, J.A., Mulkern, V., Grey, D.D., Burke-Miller, J., Blyler, C.R., Razzano, L.A., Onken, S.J., Balsler, R.M., Gold, P.B., Shafer, M.S., Kaufmann, C., Donegan, K., Chow, C.M., & Steigman, P.A. (2006). Effects of local unemployment rate on vocational outcomes in a randomized trial of supported employment for individuals with psychiatric disabilities. *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*, 25, 71-84.
- Onken, S.J., Craig, C.M., Ridgway, P., Ralph, R.O. & Cook, J.A. (2007). An analysis of the definitions and elements of recovery: A review of the literature. *Psychiatric Rehabilitation Journal*, 3 (1), 9-22.
- Onken, S. J., Franks, C. L., Lewis, S. J. & Han, S. (In Press). Dialogue-Awareness-Tolerance (DAT): A multi-layered crisis and conflict intervention model. *Brief Treatment & Crisis Intervention*.
- Cook, J.A., Mulkern, V., Grey, D.D., Burke-Miller, J., Blyler, C.R., Razzano, L.A., Onken, S.J., Balsler, R.M., Gold, P.B., Shafer, M.S., Chow, C.M., & Steigman, P.A. (In Press). Effectiveness of Supported Employment for Individuals with Schizophrenia: Results of a Randomized Implementation Effectiveness Trial. *British Journal of Psychiatry*.
- Cook, J.A., Razzano, L.A., Burke-Miller, J.K., Blyler, C.R., Leff, H.S., Mueser, K.T., Gold, P.B., Goldberg, R.W., Shafer, M.S., Onken, S.J., McFarlane, W.R., Donegan, K., Carey M.A., Kaufmann, C., Grey, D.D. (In Review). Effects of Co-Occurring Medical Conditions on Employment Outcomes in a Multi-Site Randomized Study of Supported Employment for People with Severe Mental Illness. *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Mental Health Recovery: What Helps and What Hinders? A National Research Project for the Development of Recovery Facilitating System Performance Indicators. (Principal Investigator, May 2000-06) Funding: CMHS, Human Services Research Institute, Missouri Institute of Mental Health, NTAC for State Mental Health Planning, The Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research's Center for Study of Issues in Public Mental Health, Oklahoma Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services, Colorado Mental Health Services.

The project's goals were to increase knowledge about what facilitates or hinders recovery from psychiatric disabilities, to devise a core set of indicators that measure elements of a recovery-facilitating environment, and to integrate these measures into performance evaluation and quality improvement efforts within state and local mental health systems. Conceptualized and directed by five member research team (the majority of whom are consumers), it was a multi-state three phase process consisting of grounded theory inquiry concerning the phenomenon of recovery, creation of prototype systems-level performance indicators, and large scale pilot testing. **Texas EARNS: Employment Assistance Through Reciprocity in Natural Supports.** (Co-Investigator, Principal Investigator: Toprac, 1995-2001). Funding: Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS).

One of eight sites funded under CMHS's Employment Intervention Demonstration Program to increase competitive employment rates among people with serious mental illness. Texas project randomly assigned participants to two types of supported employment programs – Standard Supported Employment (SSE) or EARNS (SSE plus social network/social support enhancement interventions). **Facilitating Consumer Voice in Public Mental Health: Exploring Congruence in Conceptualizing and Prioritizing Services and Supports.** (Principal Investigator, 1998-2000). Funding: Center for Mental Health Services.

Through Concept Mapping technology, this research engaged people with serious and persistent mental illness in conceptualizing, the services and supports they need to maintain their lives in the community. The secondary research question, using pattern matching methodology, explores the extent of prioritization congruence between affiliated consumers (those affiliated with consumer organizations and self-help) and non-affiliated consumers regarding these services and supports.

Defining the Innate Strengths and Resiliency in the Emotional and Mental Health of Gay Men. (Principal Investigator, 2000.)

This research combined a key informant group process (brainstorming, unstructured sorting and rating of the brainstormed items) with Concept Mapping technology to create a conceptual map of the innate resilience and interpersonal strengths of gay men. The goal of this research was a conceptualization of gay men's resiliency and strength grounded in their own words and experiences.