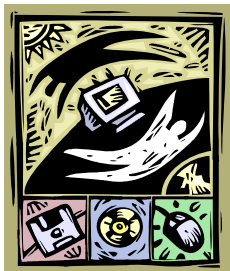


“NET” Snags Promising Results

Employment is a major stepping-stone to recovery from mental illness. Dr. Bruce Wexler and Dr. Morris Bell, who are with DMHAS’ Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC) and on Yale University faculty, have developed a treatment called **Neurocognitive Enhancement Therapy (NET)**. NET is designed to help people with schizophrenia improve their memory, attention, and problem solving skills—and thus improve their ability to obtain and sustain employment. One aspect of NET uses computer-based cognitive exercises (like computer games) to sharpen these mental skills. Participants are encouraged to do cognitive training for up to 10 hours per week for a year.

Drs. Wexler and Bell are currently conducting a study, funded by The National Institute of Mental Health, to determine whether adding NET to a supported employment program will improve employment outcomes. At CMHC, participants are paired with job specialists from local vocational agencies who assist them in finding competitive employment in the community and provide follow-along supports such as job coaching and feedback about work performance.

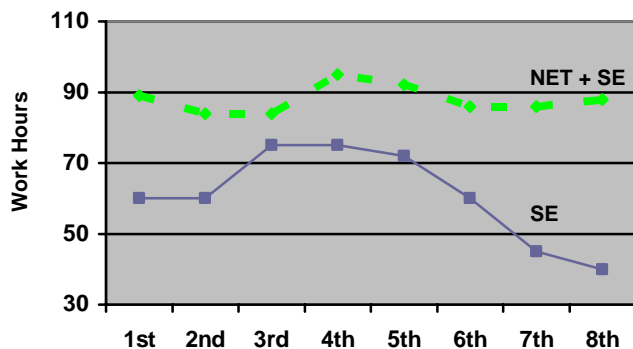


Preliminary Results:

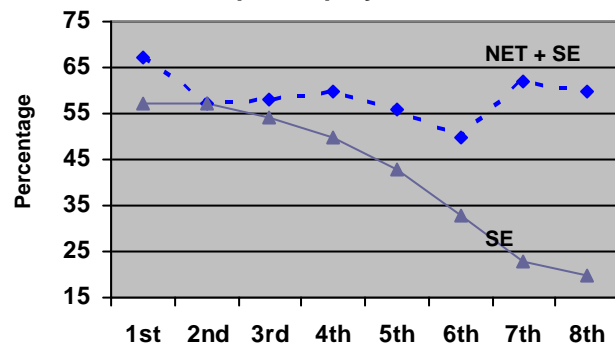
- At two-year follow-up, participants receiving NET plus supported employment were more likely to achieve competitive employment than those receiving supported employment alone. This illustrates that NET continues to show results one year after the completion of cognitive training.
- It seems that NET may help the people who need it most. People who started with low community functioning and received NET were almost 9 times more likely to obtain competitive employment than those who only received supported employment.

Participants receiving NET *plus* supported employment improved more on measures of work performance than those receiving supported employment alone.

Quarterly Work Hours by Condition



% of People Employed in Each Quarter



Next Steps:

Because the preliminary findings are so promising, Drs. Wexler and Bell have applied for a grant from The National Institute of Mental Health to continue their work. The new grant will add an additional site in Stamford, CT. Neurocognitive Enhancement Therapy is now being offered at the DMHAS Bridgeport Mental Health Center.

For additional Information Contact: Dr. Tami Greig, Project Director at (203)-944-7505 or tamasine.greig@yale.edu.