

Social Network Analysis Training: Overview

Theory

Strength of weak ties

An individual's acquaintances are more likely to lead to employment opportunities than the individual's close friends and family.

Acquaintances have access to different information than the individual. The individual is likely to have access to the same information and resources as close friends and family.

This theory has been proven highly effective. However, it has not been applied to people with disabilities

Interview Tool

We have developed a three part interview tool designed to map out an individual's social network.

Part I: Identify the target job and specific job knowledge.

Part II: Identify contacts who work in or near the customer's target job.

Part III: Identify friends and family who have access to people in the target job or who are willing to help the customer. This is used more to expand the customer's social network.

Customer Responsibilities

The customer must be job ready and have a target job.

customer must spend time outside of the VR job developer making contacts or speaking with current contacts about the target job.

In order to progress, the customer needs to be working on this at least weekly.

Job developer Responsibilities

Go through the process with the customer, teaching the customer what to do.

Weekly 15 minute phone calls with the customer to get updates on the customer's progress.

Four questions

Who did you talk to this past week?

What did you learn from them?

Based on what you learned, what are you going to do next?

Who are you going to talk with or meet this week?

Responsibilities for Pilot Study

1 hour training on the interview tool either online or in person.

Using the interview tool with customers.

Keeping notes on what works, what doesn't work, ways to change the tool, etc.

After 4 weeks complete a short 10 question usability survey on the interview tool.

After 8 weeks complete the survey again and participate in a 1 hour focus group.

Researchers will be available to answer any questions and provide technical assistance during the entire study.

Job developer or job coach will receive CEU credits for each training