

A-Visions Vocational Training Program

People with psychiatric disorders are often misunderstood, feared and shunned by society. Finding employment can be difficult for these individuals who are willing and able to work — even if they are undergoing or have completed treatment.

We established the Scripps A-Visions Vocational Training Program, to help decrease the stigma of mental illness. The program helps people receiving mental health treatment by providing vocational training, potentially leading to a greater level of independence.

A-Visions is an individual-centered program with three distinct phases — individual assessment, vocational training and vocational placement.

Individual Assessment

Potential members of the program are evaluated through interviews with staff members. Physician approvals are also obtained before individuals are accepted into the program. We work in collaboration with the Family Health Centers of San Diego Concentrated Mental Health Program.

Vocational Training

Once accepted into the program, each member is assigned a mentor who offers guidance and facilitates training. Members receive specific vocational training in a volunteer capacity. The curriculum includes stress management, communication, grooming, interpersonal skills, customer service skills and refresher courses in general work ethics. Members may select or be assigned to food and nutritional services, environmental services or areas within the hospital where clerical support is needed. All members receive 60- and 180-day evaluations, as well as support from the program coordinator, for approximately one year.

Vocational Placement

After successfully completing 180 days of vocational training and successful completion of the program, members are considered for paid employment. The program coordinator facilitates placement within the hospital or with outside businesses when available.

A-Visions volunteers complete the same orientation as all Scripps employees. The benefits of the program include:

- Vocational training in a therapeutic and supportive setting.
- Potential paid employment.
- A personal commitment toward better mental health.

For more information about the Scripps A-Visions Vocational Training Program, please contact:

**Behavioral Health Services
Scripps Mercy Hospital,
San Diego**

4077 Fifth Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
619-686-3734

scripps.org/mentalhealth

Caring For You

Mental illness affects not only the brain, but every aspect of a person's life: mind, body and spirit. It can alter the way one thinks, feels and acts, eventually becoming so overwhelming that it interferes with work, relationships and normal day-to-day activities. Mental illness can affect anyone, regardless of age, economic status or ethnicity. Fortunately, great advancements have been made in the understanding and treatment of mental illnesses, and most people can now be successfully treated. Scripps Behavioral Health Services offers care for adult patients with psychiatric conditions.

Inpatient Care

Sometimes people suffering from acute psychiatric disorders are unable to live independently or may even pose a danger to themselves or others. In such cases, hospitalization may be the most appropriate alternative. Scripps Behavioral Health Services offers the acute care inpatient program, which helps patients and their loved ones work through short-term crises, manage mental illness and resume their daily lives.

Experienced Professionals

Our team of specialists includes:

- Psychiatrists
- Psychologists
- Marriage and family therapists
- Nurses
- Social workers
- Activity therapists
- Occupational therapists
- Chaplains
- Pharmacists

To learn more about Scripps Behavioral Health Services, please call **619-260-7005**, or visit **scripps.org/mentalhealth**.

For more information on other health care services available at Scripps, visit **scripps.org** or call **1-800-SCRIPPS (727-4777)**.

