Case Studies Applying Best Practices in Community Programs

This plan got the team on the right track, thinking about long-term outcomes with Tammy. They can frame their high school activities in relation to this initial transition plan and then adjust as needed.

Analysis of Occupational Performance

The current education team includes Tammy, her parents, and teachers; they have a long history with Tammy, which enables them to plan her transition to adulthood more easily. They decide to review her history at school, at work, with friends, with family, and with community activities to obtain additional details for planning. The team decided to use the Canadian Occupational Performance Measure (COPM) to gather additional information from Tammy and her parents. The COPM is an outcome-based assessment in which people/caregivers identify the five most important issues in areas of self-care, productivity, and leisure. Parents rate performance and satisfaction on a scale from 1 to 10. Goals for intervention are based on the problems identified by the parents. After intervention, parents again rate performance and satisfaction on the previously identified issues. The difference (change score) between the initial and post-intervention scores indicate whether outcomes are met. A change score of two or more is considered clinically significant (Law, Baptiste, Carswell, McColl, Polatajko, & Pollock, 2005; Law, Polatajko, Pollock, McColl, Carswell, & Baptiste, 1994) (Figure 9-14).

Supported employment is defined in federal statute as a highly individualized approach for assisting individuals with significant disabilities to obtain and maintain employment. Supported employment includes three essential components:
1. Paid work.
2. Employment in integrated community settings.
3. The availability of on-going support and training as needed to assure job retention or subsequent job placement.

Supported employment frequently operates through the Vocational Rehabilitation system within states. Some community developmental disability organizations also provide these types of supports, so be sure to investigate in your area. For example, in Kansas, Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) oversees this process.