



Submitting an eCast item or [Conference Board](#) announcement to the BU / CPR

Address the following questions within your item. (Total: 90 - 120 words)

1. Which group(s) of people benefits most from its use (e.g. consumers, researchers, practitioners)

2. Describe the ways in which their lives/jobs will go better if they use the product

3. Describe the product

4. How do they access the information/product (e.g. your name, email and/or a web address)

You may also post information, in brief, on our Facebook page.



Examples, eCast items

New Homelessness Resource Center Web Site Launched

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) new [Homelessness Resource Center \(HRC\) Web site](http://homeless.samhsa.gov/) launched this week. Targeted toward providers who work with people who are homeless, the website shares state-of-the art knowledge, evidence-based practices, and practical resources. It provides an interactive learning community for researchers, providers, consumers, and government agencies at all levels. It is an easy-to-manage resource with content that informs, features that engage, and training that is useful. These elements are brought together to promote recovery-oriented and consumer-centered services for people who are homeless. Explore the variety of resources available at <http://homeless.samhsa.gov/>.

The Contribution of Self-Direction to Improving the Quality of Mental Health Services

This report, developed by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the US Department of Health and Human Services, focuses on adults with serious mental illnesses who are served by the public mental health system. It aims to identify and describe the range of self-directed care (SDC) programs for this group that are currently being pursued by states; and brings together existing evidence relating to the impact of these programs on individuals and on state resources. In doing so, it attempts to contribute to ongoing debate about effective strategies for improving the quality and outcomes of the public mental health system. The report is aimed primarily at state and local-level policymakers and individuals in consumer or other advocacy organizations who are interested in self-direction and want to learn from the experiences of other states in shaping their own approach to self-direction. The report is available at <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/reports/2007/MHslfdir.htm>

Parenting & Child Custody Issues Toolkit for People with Behavioral Health Problems

The UPenn Collaborative on Community Integration has developed a free tool kit for parents with serious mental illnesses. Research indicates that mothers with serious mental illnesses are almost three times more likely than mothers without such illnesses to have been involved in the child welfare system or to have lost custody of their children. The tool kit helps parents who have lost custody or are at risk of losing custody of their children, helps parents in recovery from mental illnesses with parenting issues, and offers guidance for professionals as well. The tool kit, "Helping Behavioral Health Clients with Parenting & Child Custody Issues," may be downloaded at http://www.upennrrtc.org/resources/view.php?tool_id=185 .

For information, contact us at <http://www.bu.edu/cpr/contact/index.html>