Vocational and Independence Program (VIP)

The Vocational and Independence Program (VIP) is a high school transition program with a focus on soft skills, independence, employment readiness, and integrated competitive employment. This holistic program provides hands-on work experiences at Cedarbrook Nursing Home and training in work essential skills, such as appearance, communication, job performance, and community-appropriate behaviors. In addition, the program provides lessons in Independent Community Travel (ICT) and Community Based Instruction (CBI) once a week, where interns go into the community to learn how to travel safely and efficiently, as well as practice taking public transportation and help develop age-appropriate skills for functioning outside the school environment.

1. **Four Days Per Week**
   **Cedarbrook Nursing Home**
   - 8:00 am - 11:30 am  Work in Departments
   - 11:30 am - 12:00 pm  Lunch
   - 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm  Office Time
   - Individualized for each person in the program. The amount of orientation will vary depending on interest and ability.
   
   Classroom topics using curriculum from LCE, James Stanfield, presentations, and problem-solving discussions:
   - Cedarbrook orientation
   - Cell phones in the workplace
   - Roles of the mentors, teachers, and job coaches
   - Differences between high school and work
   - Soft Skills Training focusing on appearance, communication, job performance, and work-appropriate behavior
   - Public bus behavior
   - Relationships in the workplace
   - Keeping an agenda book

2. **One Day Per Week**
   **Independent Community Travel and Community Based Instruction**
   - **Independent Community Travel**
     How to travel safely and efficiently on public transportation, around Cedarbrook Nursing Home and in the community.
   
   - **Community Based Instruction**
     Developing age-appropriate skills for functioning outside the school environment. Academic, communication, and social skills are incorporated into CBI and may include the following:
     - **Domestic** – self care and grooming, wellness, nutrition, cooking, laundry, housekeeping, balancing a checkbook
     - **Vocational** – career exploration, identifying potential employers through site visits, employability skills, OVR sponsored activities, etc.
     - **Community** – advocating for oneself, transportation, libraries, shopping, post office, ordering food in a restaurant
     - **Recreation and Leisure** – crafts, games, parks, YMCA/community centers, bowling, golfing, movies, etc.

3. **Additional Components**
   - Creation of a Person-Centered Plan through the Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living (LVCIL)
   - Support/education for the families to help them gain a better understanding of adult services:
     - Entitlement versus Eligibility
     - SSI/SSD
     - Ticket to Work
     - Family Planning
     - Waivers
     - LANta Van
     - Job Development
   - LVCIL, OVR, and Supports Coordinators are a part of the team

**Contact Information**

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