



**Acquired  
Brain Injury  
Network**

**November 3-4, 2008**  
*Hilton Toronto • Toronto*

### **Conference Presentation Abstract ~ Podium Presentation**

**Date/Time/Room:** Monday, November 3, 2008 10:30 am – 11:15 am Carmichael / Jackson

**Abstract ID:** 1d

**Title:**

**Mentoring Offenders with Cognitive Deficits**

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**Summary:**

The Rehabilitation unit part of an accredited mental health facility operated by Correctional Service of Canada. It was designed to address the special mental and physical health needs of federal male offenders in the Pacific Region. Recent research has supported the contention that a significant number of federal inmates demonstrate neuropsychological deficits. The etiology of these deficits include both pre and post natal brain injuries and, in a number of cases, may be significant enough to impact the individual's ability to gain from traditional cognitively based correctional programming, therefore programming is based on an experiential model. In the Rehabilitation unit, we have developed a peer mentorship program to assist offenders with cognitive impairments to manage their activities of daily living and learn appropriate social interactional skills. Mentors provide guidance and support in life skills such as budgeting, balanced lifestyle, communication and conflict management and employment skills. Integration to other environments is facilitated by the expansion of the program to minimum security facilities.

This presentation will outline the mentorship model, including selection and training of mentors, supervision and support of the program and will conclude with some preliminary data on the success of transitions facilitated through mentoring. The applicability of this kind of program in other environments will be discussed with examples of similar institutional and community programs.

**Outcomes/Objectives:**

Sharing best practices of working with offenders with a variety of cognitive deficits.