BEATING BURNOUT, BEING KIND – OAK

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Introduction There is increasing evidence of burnout among healthcare workers (HCW). Workers engagement is one solution to burnout with positive outcomes towards patient care and work satisfaction. Simple, low key positive activities have been shown to make differences to people in a pressurised environment. Our intervention aims to establish whether acts of kindness at work can affect workers engagement.

Methods Occasional Acts of Kindness (OAK) was a pilot intervention programme trialled in a large tertiary hospital in December 2016. All HCWs were invited to attend the 2 hours session when participants take a break from work in a friendly atmosphere, sit for a while, engage with one another and ask colleagues about how they were coping with work and life. The effectiveness of this intervention was evaluated using a validated staff engagement questionnaire, Utrecht Work Engagement Scale. Participants were also encouraged to leave their own comments regarding the intervention.

Results 65 HCWs of varying grades and departments participated. 97% of participants agree that the intervention boosts collegiality and strengthens relationships at work, 90% agree it would make them more likely to take the initiative to help a struggling colleague, 80% agree it boosts their energy at work, 83% agree it increases their mental resilience at work, 90% agree it enhances their enthusiasm at work, 87% agree it helps them persevere even if things are not going well, 63% agree it helps them continue working even for long period, 84% agree it helps instil a sense of pride in workplace and 93% agree it boosts overall morale at work. Their additional comments regarding the intervention were also cohesively positive.

Discussion Our intervention proved that acts of kindness at work have multitudes positive effects on workers and work. A culture of kindness is one solution to the growing issue of burnout among HCW.
composing an intervention programme will be planned in joint effort by a constructive dialogue between employee and supervisor. The aim of this qualitative study was to assess the needs of employees and supervisors towards the aforementioned approach to improve sustainable employability of nurses.

**Method** A structured needs assessment was performed to answer the question of what are the realistic, attainable and useful characteristics of an intervention, in which nurses and their supervisors have a constructive dialogue on sustainable employability. The so-called Vitality Scan is filled out beforehand and used as a starting point of the dialogue, during which customised follow-up actions are arranged if appropriate. We performed six focusgroup interviews, three amongst employees (n=13) and three amongst supervisors (n=15).

**Qualitative data analysis was performed using Atlas.ti.**

**Results** Both employees and supervisors perceived a safe psychosocial working environment as most essential. We found a positive attitude and intention towards the characteristics of the Vitality Scan and dialogue. The (time) effort and amount of self-efficacy amongst supervisors were considered potential barriers as well as facilitators. Thorough training of the supervisors was considered necessary.

**Conclusion** Nurses and supervisors are positive towards working on sustainable employability of nursing staff using the designed intervention. Several existing facilitators and barriers in the organisation were addressed and practical improvements were suggested.

**Abstracts**

**750 PSYCHOSOCIAL RISKS IN TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES**

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**Introduction** Quantitative studies reveal that trade union representatives are dealing with a number of specific psychosocial risk factors. The existing literature leaves many questions unanswered on the underlying reasons for these psychosocial risks and on difficulties in addressing them. A qualitative research could offer an opportunity to tackle this knowledge gap and to provide deeper understanding of this subject.

**Methods** Eight semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with trade union representatives from the 2 largest Belgian unions: ACV (Confederation of Christian Trade Unions) and ABVV (General Federation of Belgian Labour). A purposeful sample of participants was recruited from a wide range of sectors and types of work organisation. Template analysis was used to examine their unique job demands and job resources.

**Results** Using the job demands-resources model as a conceptual framework it was possible to map the unique psychosocial risk factors experienced by trade union representatives. Quantitative, qualitative and emotional overload, role conflict, role ambiguity and a conflictual relationship with their employers were found to be the major job demands. Social support from the workers, other representatives and the trade union were found to be the most important job resources, as well as having the knowledge and skills, experiencing success and having strong trade union beliefs. The findings of this study also suggest that workplace restructuring could profoundly impact the job demands and job resources experienced by trade union representatives.

**Conclusion** A rich and complex account of the experiences of the participants could be created. In general the results fit the existing literature but they add a deeper understanding of how and why trade union representatives are experiencing certain job demands and job resources. The study resulted in a wide range of propositions to improve the prevention of psychosocial risks in trade union representatives.

**694 EFFICIENCY OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR WORKERS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW ACCORDING TO THE PRISMA GUIDELINES**

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**Introduction** Unemployment is common among people with schizophrenia and contributes most to the economic cost of the condition. This study was aimed at (1) reviewing the available tools to facilitate the vocational rehabilitation of workers with schizophrenia and (2) describing their specific opportunities.

**Methods** A search of PubMed for original, peer-reviewed articles published from 2006 until January 31, 2016, yielded 643 citations. Exclusion criteria were patients less than 18 years or older than 65 years of age, patients with additional diagnoses, studies conducted in developing countries, lack of an adequate study design, systematic reviews or case studies, no work related studies, and other major analytic inadequacies. The remaining 24 articles were assessed in qualitative synthesis using the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (score ≥2+), Critical Appraisal Skills Program or Prediction Model Risk of Bias Assessment Tool checklists.

**Results**

- Only seven quantitative and one qualitative study could be included. The number of study participants with schizophrenia varied substantially (n=7 in the qualitative study, n=100 in the largest quantitative study). Most studies were conducted in the United States (n=5), as well as two in Canada and one in Japan.
- Cognitive remediation programs (Neurocognitive Enhancement Therapy) combined with supported employment were significantly more effective (p<0.005) than supported employment by itself. Next, Individual Placement and Support (the manual version of supported employment) and cognitive behavioural therapy (Indianapolis Vocational Intervention Program) were, by themselves, more effective than conventional vocational rehabilitation, regardless of whether it was for competitive employment.

**Discussion** Combining cognitive remediation programs with supported employment programs significantly improved the vocational outcomes of workers with schizophrenia, especially