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The Society for Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Effectiveness (SASATE)  
3rd Annual Meeting  
Caribe Hilton  
San Juan, Puerto Rico  
June 18, 2004

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**ANNOTATED AGENDA**

The Society for Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Effectiveness (SASATE) 3rd Annual Meeting will be held on June 18, 2004 at the Caribe Hilton, San Geronimo Grounds, Los Rosales Street in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The 2004 meeting will include 6 individual presentations on breaking adolescent treatment research; 5 concurrent small group round tables for networking over lunch, 1 moderated discussion forum, and a business meeting. The meeting registration and meal expenses are being sponsored by SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, though attendees will be responsible for their own travel, lodging and other expenses. The meeting is being held as a satellite meeting after the College of Problems on Drug Dependence ([www.cpdd.org](http://www.cpdd.org)) that includes additional symposia and posters on adolescent substance abuse treatment. Please direct logistical questions to Joan Unsicker at Chestnut Health Systems by phone at 309-820-3543 X83413 or by e-mail at [junsicker@chestnut.org](mailto:junsicker@chestnut.org). Questions pertaining to the meeting program may be directed to Michael Dennis, Ph.D., Chestnut Health Systems, by e-mail at [mdennis@chestnut.org](mailto:mdennis@chestnut.org).

**7:30 a.m.–8:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**8:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m. Individual Presentations on Breaking Research**

**Future Directions of Health Services Research at NIDA**

*Jack Stein, Ph.D., National Institute on Drug Abuse*

In May 2003, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) convened the Health Services Research Blue Ribbon Task Forces to review the portfolio of health services research and to advise the Institute on strategies for increasing its relevance and facilitating the utilization of research-based prevention and treatment interventions into practice and policies. This presentation will summarize the major recommendations of the report and discuss how they will impact on future directions of health services research at NIDA.

**The Changing Face of Research-to-Practice**

*Stephanie Galfano, Editor Counselor, The Magazine for Addiction Professionals*

For more than 20 years, *Counselor* has stayed true to its mission of translating the latest research into easy-to-read, hands-on articles for frontline counselors to apply in everyday practice. The advent of new technologies (e.g., word-processing, e-mail, the Internet) is changing and improving our ability to carry out this mission. Our peer-reviewed magazine is embarking on some interactive outreach efforts that are changing the face of research-to-practice in the addictions -- together; we will explore the details of our efforts to date, as well as potential avenues of progress, in this interactive presentation.

### **Traumatic Victimization Among Adolescents Presenting for Substance Abuse Treatment - It is Time to Stop Ignoring the Elephant in our Counseling Room**

*Michael Dennis, Ph.D. Chestnut Health Systems*

Child maltreatment (including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse) is the norm for adolescents presenting to substance abuse treatment. Yet most clinics and research staff resist asking about it and do not assess it in a standardized way. This presentation will demonstrate the feasibility and desirability of measuring victimization even at intake, review its prevalence and examine the clinical implications increasing as a function of severity of the trauma (e.g., repeated exposure, someone trusted involved, multiple people involved, fear for life, sexual penetration, etc.) in terms of co-occurring disorders, outcomes and treatment matching. It will conclude with a discussion on the implications of these findings for practice.

**9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. Break**

### **10:00 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Research Presentations**

#### **Adolescent Clients Treated with Methadone and Buprenorphine for Heroin Addiction**

*James Bell, Carolyn Mutch, Jozef Blaszczyk, The Langton Centre*

The Langton Centre is a specialist facility for treatment of people with problems related to use of alcohol and other drugs. The Centre formerly treated only adults, but in 1999 began discussions with other community services about offering treatment programs for adolescents, and established a Family and Adolescent Team. Prior to January 2001, opioid-dependent people seeking maintenance treatment received methadone, but buprenorphine was introduced in January 2001 as the first-line treatment for adolescents.

This report outlines the experience of all 61 adolescents (age range 14-17 at time of commencing treatment) treated for heroin addiction at The Langton Centre since January 2000. 35% reported having been diagnosed with a psychiatric order in addition to drug problems – most commonly, depression (21%) and ADHD (14%). Mean age of initiation of heroin use was  $14 \pm 1.3$  years (range 11-16). Females (60%) and Aboriginals (25%) were over-represented compared to adult clientele presenting to the Centre. These 61 subjects had a total of 113 episodes of treatment – 30 with methadone, 56 with buprenorphine, and 27 with symptomatic (non-opioid) medication. Subjects treated with methadone had significantly longer retention in treatment than subjects treated with buprenorphine (288 days vs. 101 days,  $p < 0.01$ ), attended on more days in the first month ( $t = 4.2$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ), were more likely to drop out without consultation with staff ( $\chi^2 = 9.9$ ,  $df = 2$ ,  $p < 0.01$ ). Compared to subjects receiving buprenorphine or methadone, those whose first treatment episode was with methadone were less likely to return for a subsequent episode of treatment (Chi square 6.06,  $df = 2$ ,  $p = 0.048$ ).

These findings are consistent with an earlier report that young patients treated with buprenorphine tend to have recurrent, short episodes of treatment. While this was not a randomized trial, the results suggest that methadone treatment was more effective at retaining adolescent patients and reducing premature discharge and subsequent return to treatment.

**Group Characteristics Governing Outcomes in Two Treatment Groups From A Randomized Clinical Trial: A Qualitative/Quantitative Study**

*Brett C. Engle, M.S.W., Mark J. Macgowan, Ph.D., Eric F. Wagner, Ph.D.  
Florida International University*

Group-based treatment outcome research should be guided by empirically-based models that govern therapeutic outcomes. This presentation gives an example of a model consisting of five factors (formal change theory, small group processes, structural factors, client and leader variables)(Burlingame, Mackenzie, & Strauss, 2004) that guided a qualitative-quantitative inquiry into an examination of two groups involving adolescent substance abusers. These two groups were selected for their negative outcomes at posttest on AOD indicators. The two groups were part of a larger randomized clinical trial involving the 10 session school-based Teen Intervention Project (Wagner, Kortlander, & Leon Morris, 2001; Wagner & Macgowan, in press). Qualitative examination consisted of the rater listening to all sessions of both groups and ratings along the five domains. In addition, quantitative measures of leadership, interaction, and group climate were applied. Comparisons between the two groups on these instruments were undertaken and the qualitative descriptions augment the interpretability of the findings. This presentation will include preliminary data from the two groups along these five domains to help interpret findings of these groups. This presentation highlights the application of a heuristic model to guide an inquiry into possible explanations for outcomes using two groups.

**A Review of Selected Process Measures for Group-Based Interventions**

*Mark J. Macgowan, Ph.D., LCSW, Associate Professor, Florida International University*

Examinations of trends in psychotherapy process research over the years (Hill, Nutt, & Jackson, 1994) have noted that relatively few empirical studies examine both outcomes and processes, suggesting that “the integration of these two enterprises is not easily achievable” (Greene, 2000, p. 25). Yet many researchers today recognize that it is important to move away from a black box approach to evaluation and toward an approach that can illuminate the mechanisms through which changes in the outcomes operate (Feldman, Caplinger, & Wodarski, 1983; Harachi, Abbott, Catalano, Haggerty, & Fleming, 1999). Perhaps one reason why the relationship between process and outcome in groups has not been examined is that measures of group dynamics are perceived as complex, time- and resource-consuming, and not readily available. However, there are measures that are relatively easy to administer and score, which can provide a rich source of additional data in understanding the mechanisms of change in groups. This presentation identifies a selection of instruments concerning cohesion, alliance, group climate, therapeutic factors, and group engagement, and discusses their psychometrics, relationship to outcomes, and suitability for adolescent groups.

**11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.                      Concurrent Roundtable Discussions Over Lunch**

**NIDA Funding Opportunities for Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Research**

*Melissa W. Racioppo, Ph.D., National Institute on Drug Abuse*

This interactive networking discussion will highlight NIDA's funding priorities regarding behavioral treatment research, with an emphasis on opportunities for adolescent substance abuse treatment research. Participants are encouraged to bring to the discussion specific questions about NIH funding and ideas for grant projects. Participants with interest in treatment research will be matched with appropriate funding opportunities. For junior-level researchers, the discussion will provide opportunities to identify appropriate mechanisms of funding, better understand the review process, and learn other tips for maximizing funding success.

**Opportunities for Services Research on Adolescent Drug Treatment at NIDA**

*Jack Stein, National Institute on Drug Abuse*

This roundtable discussion will provide an opportunity to learn about NIDA's health services research priorities related to adolescent drug treatment. Available services research and training opportunities will be discussed, including program announcements and relevant requests for applications. Tips on getting through the application process will be provided. Existing and new NIDA investigators are encouraged to attend and to bring research concepts for discussion.

**How to Write for *Counselor* in 50 Words or Less**

*Stephanie Galfano, Editor Counselor, The Magazine for Addiction Professionals*

The best *Counselor* articles come from professionals who utter the infamous first words to me: "I've never published an article before. I don't know where to begin." No doubt, publishing is key to promoting both your work and your professional development. This roundtable presents the steps of *Counselor's* editorial process (from fuzzy article-idea to clear, solid publication) in 50 words or less. If you are someone, or know someone, who aspires to publish articles in *Counselor* or in general, the editor of *Counselor* would like to invite you to lunch.

**Information on the Adolescent Program Support Site ([www.chestnut.org/li/apss](http://www.chestnut.org/li/apss)).**

*Michelle White, M.S., Chestnut Health Systems*

The Adolescent Program Support Site ([www.chestnut.org/li/apss](http://www.chestnut.org/li/apss)) is designed to support over 100 adolescent substance abuse treatment programs and demonstration grants that are implementing manualized treatment and/or evaluating their programs using the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN) under funding from the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and several other federal, state, local and non-profit sources. The public side of the site includes over a dozen evidence based adolescent treatment manuals that can be downloaded for free, as well the files for the Society for Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Effectiveness (SASATE). On the private side are areas for several different programs/grantees including: the 10 Adolescent Treatment Models (ATM) grants, 12 Strengthening Communities for Youth (SCY) grants, 17 Adolescent Residential Treatment (ART) grants, 10 Reclaiming Futures (RF) grants over 30 Effective Adolescent Treatment (EAT) grants, 28 providers in the state of Wyoming treatment system and over a dozen other individual Treatment Capacity Expansion (TCE), HIV, Earmark, NIDA, and NIAAA grants. These grantees represent an important emerging network that can share information (since they use the same assessment) and have experience replicating common protocols.

**Developing a Trans-dialectical Version of the GAIN in Spanish**

*Janet C. Titus, Ph.D. Chestnut Health Systems*

Over the past few years, the number of requests to translate the GAIN instruments into Spanish has grown greatly, especially as more and more sites serving Spanish-speaking clients have been funded. In response to this need, we are currently leading a project to create Spanish language versions of the GAIN instruments. Our goal in doing so is to create instruments that could be used across various Spanish-speaking communities in the United States. The tenets of translation science and how we are using them to create culturally equivalent assessments will be discussed.

**12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. Moderated Discussion on Group Therapy**

Led by Yifrah Kaminer, M.D., M.B.A. University of Connecticut Health Center and Holly Waldron, Ph.D., Oregon Research Institute

**2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Business Meeting**

Chaired by Michael Dennis, Ph.D., Chestnut Health Systems