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The Society for Adolescent Substance  
Abuse Treatment Effectiveness (SASATE)  
2nd Annual Meeting  
Bal Harbour, FL  
June 20, 2003

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## ANNOTATED AGENDA

The Society for Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Effectiveness (SASATE) 2nd Annual Meeting will be held on June 20, 2003, in Bal Harbour, Florida. The 2003 meeting will include seven individual presentations on breaking adolescent treatment research, four concurrent small group roundtables for networking over lunch, two moderated discussion forums, and a business meeting. The meeting registration and meal expenses are being sponsored by SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, although attendees will be responsible for their own travel, lodging, and other expenses. The meeting is being held as a satellite meeting after the College on Problems of Drug Dependence ([www.cpdd.org](http://www.cpdd.org)) that includes an additional symposium and posters on adolescent substance abuse treatment. Direct questions, topics for the business meeting, and information on other presentations at CPDD or the Research Society on Alcoholism (meets the following week) to Tonya Smith at [tsmith2@northropgrumman.com](mailto:tsmith2@northropgrumman.com) or (301) 294-5413. Below is a short list of the specific topics for the SASATE meeting. A registration form and logistics fact sheet are attached.

**MEETING:** Sheraton Bal Harbour Beach Resort

**LOCATION:** Caribbean Ballroom  
9701 Collins Avenue  
Bal Harbour, FL 33164  
Phone: (305) 865-7511

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

**8:30 a.m.–11:50 a.m. Individual Presentations on Breaking Research**

**9:00 a.m.–10:15 a.m. Research Presentations**

**The Role of Acculturation in AOD Treatment Effectiveness with Latino Adolescents:  
Practical Considerations, *Andres Gil, Florida International University***

AOD use among immigrant Hispanic/Latino adolescents is affected by their socialization experiences and the experiences of their families in their new environments. This socialization process is known as acculturation. Acculturation is a discontinuous and idiosyncratic process, rather than a monolithic one, and is described as segmented assimilation by Portes and Zhou (1993). In this framework, the family plays many important roles (e.g., as stressors promoting AOD use, as buffers against AOD use). Nearly every study concerning the role of acculturation in adolescent AOD use has documented its significance. With adolescent populations, most studies have found positive relationships between level of acculturation and acculturation stress and AOD use (Vega & Gil, 1998; Gil & Vega, 2002). However, very little is known about how acculturation level and acculturation stress may influence the effectiveness of substance abuse interventions for adolescents. Our discussion will focus on several acculturation factors that may influence AOD treatment with Hispanic/Latino adolescents. These factors include: The impact of nativity on AOD use, and cultural congruence; The development of cultural congruence in the "structure" of treatment interventions; and The measurement and use of acculturation as amenability to treatment factors

**Brief Family Therapy for Adolescent Substance Abuse: A Treatment Development Study,**  
*Howard Liddle, University of Miami School of Medicine*

This presentation reports on the progress of a study funded under NIDA's recent initiative: Modifying and Testing Efficacious Behavioral Therapies. The four-year study aims to develop and test a brief version of an existing efficacious family based therapy for adolescent substance abuse. Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) is a treatment system that has been adapted and formulated in different versions and tested in several controlled studies, including a prevention trial (non clinical high risk sample), and early intervention study (clinically referred early adolescents), and controlled trials with co morbid samples and samples referred for residential care (subjects received MDFT or residential treatment). This presentation covers early stage findings in our attempt to transform the MDFT approach into a highly prescribed and structured, 8 sessions treatment for substance abuse teens. Overall the presentation is meant to be a story about the empirical and systematic development of a new brief treatment, and thus it will have relevance for those researchers engaged in similar treatment development and adaptation efforts. Specifically, the presentation will cover theory and treatment development issues, therapist issues in the adaptation of an existing therapy into a brief treatment format, client data on acceptability and outcomes, and overall feasibility and acceptability of the new approach.

**The Effectiveness of Community-Based Adolescent Treatment Programs Evaluated under CSAT's Adolescent Treatment Models Program: Propensity Score Adjusted Analysis of the Relative Effectiveness of Eleven Treatment Programs,**  
*Andrew Morral, RAND Corporation*

In 1998 and 1999 CSAT funded longitudinal evaluation studies of 11 community-based adolescent treatment programs across the county. These coordinated studies monitored the behavioral and psychosocial outcomes of 1XXX youths from treatment admission through a one-year follow-up assessment, successfully completing follow-up interviews with over 90% of the sample. Although the ATM data provide the best basis yet for establishing the relative effectiveness of different treatment modalities and individual treatment programs, direct comparisons across treatment programs are misleading due to differences in client severity, backgrounds, and other pretreatment characteristics. In this presentation we describe the relative 12-month effectiveness of programs on a range of outcomes after adjusting for differences among treated samples using propensity score adjustments derived from nonparametric regression models of selection bias. This powerful new approach to "case-mix adjustment" provides some of the best evidence yet for the differential effectiveness of various approaches to treating adolescent substance users.

**Reclaiming Futures: Building Community Solutions to Substance Abuse and Delinquency**  
*Jan Embree-Bever, Reclaiming Futures Advisory Board*

Reclaiming Futures is 5-year, 21 million dollar initiative of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation which seeks to build comprehensive, individualized and innovative systems of care for youth in the juvenile justice system with substance abuse problems. Recognizing that youth in this situation represent a growing number of adolescents in need of substance abuse treatment across the U.S., Reclaiming Futures seeks to both improve the availability of treatment services as well as the quality. In addition, it seeks to build new levels and types of community support to provide opportunity and access to prosocial activities for youth during and following their treatment experiences. As the program is in its start up phase, the evaluation is in its formative stages. However, this session will present the salient research questions that have been identified and discuss the challenges (and models) associated with evaluating complex community and systems change efforts as critical adjuncts to the more traditional focus on adolescent behavior change.

10:15 a.m. - 10:10 a.m.      **Break**

10:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.      **Research Presentations**

**Using Hierarchical Linear Modeling to Compare Effectiveness among Community-Based Adolescent Substance Abuse Treatment Programs,** *Patricia Shane, Public Health Solutions*

Funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment in 1998 and 1999, the Adolescent Treatment Models initiative was designed as a 10-site prospective, longitudinal, multi-wave study with a cohort of 1,592 adolescents. To evaluate adolescent treatment models based, in part, on client-level baseline and outcome data, researchers gathered data, using a standardized instrument (the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs), at common assessment points over a 12-month period beginning at intake. Differences in client characteristics and case mix among the programs preclude direct comparison of treatment programs' effectiveness and require innovative analytic techniques. Using a three-level hierarchical linear model, quantitative empirical rankings of treatment program effectiveness will be presented as a function of a range of dependent variables. This analytic technique provides the basis for modeling time and its relationship to participation in treatment (Level 1). Individual client characteristics are modeled at Level 2. And individual programs or levels of care are modeled at Level 3.

**Analysis of Timeline Follow Back Data from Adolescents,** *Eric Wagner, Florida International University*

The Timeline Follow Back Interview (TLFB; Sobell et al., 1980; Sobell & Sobell, 1992, 1996) is a widely used research and clinical assessment tool with good reliability and validity for adults with alcohol and other drug use problems. Data from the TLFB yield the following variables: total number of alcohol use days; total number of drug use days; number of days abstinent from alcohol; number of days abstinent from drugs; average number of drinks per drinking day; latency to first drink following treatment; and latency to first drug use following treatment. Despite widespread use with adolescent populations, scant research has examined the utility, reliability, or validity of the TLFB with teenagers. In this presentation, we will present TLFB data from three different NIAAA-funded projects evaluating the efficacy of adolescent substance abuse treatment. Our presentation will focus on addressing practical, psychometric, and methodological issues associated with using the TLFB in substance abuse research studies with teenagers.

**Brief Interventions for Mild-Drug Abusing Adolescents,** *Ken Winters, University of Minnesota*

The gap between treatment need and treatment availability appears to be significantly increasing for adolescents, particularly for those who present with mild or moderate substance use behaviors. Fortunately, brief and relatively inexpensive interventions have been shown recently to be effective as stand-alone therapies for adult substance abusers (Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, 2000), and early investigations with young adults are promising. We are pilot testing a brief intervention for use in school settings for adolescent students who show mild or moderate drug abuse behaviors. Our brief presentation will focus on our preliminary findings from the study, including the relative effectiveness of two protocols (2-session youth only versus 2-session youth plus 1-session parent).

**Buprenorphine/Naloxone as an Aid to Psychosocial Treatment in Opioid-Dependent Persons Aged 14–21,** *George Woody, University of Pennsylvania*

There has been an increase in opioid use, abuse and dependence among young persons during the past five years. Usual treatment consists of detoxification followed by abstinence-based treatment that is carried out in inpatient or intensive outpatient settings. Agonist treatment with methadone or LAAM is possible under current regulations, but the few programs that have this treatment available are reluctant to use it for patients in this age group since they have often been addicted for only a few years. Providers report very high dropout and relapse rates using these drug-free strategies but feel they have few other options. Buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone) is a partial opioid agonist that has a less intense withdrawal abstinence syndrome than full agonists, such as methadone, and a higher

margin of safety. Its pharmacological properties could make it especially useful as an adjunct to psychosocial treatment for opioid-dependent persons aged 14–21. The design of such a study in the NIDA Clinical Trials Network will be presented.

**12 noon –1:00 p.m.                      Concurrent Roundtable Discussions Over Lunch**

**New Technology for Evaluating Adolescent Treatment Effectiveness,** *Elaine Blechman, University of Colorado at Boulder*

An Internet information system, the Caregiver Alliance Toolbox, is now available for implementing treatment for substance-abusing youth and for evaluating treatment effectiveness. At intake, a youth receives a client account and, with parent or guardian, authorizes selective 24/7 account access to family caregivers, health and human services providers, and enterprise representatives. Through the client account, authorized users store, search, and share medical records and legal documents; schedule and monitor service delivery; collect multi-method multi-source data; structure and implement evidence-based treatment protocols; measure protocol adherence of youths, family caregivers, and provider; and alert supervisors about unacceptable protocol adherence. A provider account, available to each user authorized on multiple client accounts, offers automatic generation of editable clinical reports and data exporting. An enterprise account, available to institutions authorized on multiple client and provider accounts, offers aggregation of statistical data, automatically generated preformatted statistical reports, data exporting, and a single integrative point of entry to other databases. Toolbox functionality is illustrated through sample pages and sample reports related to substance-abusing juvenile offenders.

**Current Research Funding Opportunities at NIAAA,** *Harold Perl, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)*

This roundtable will highlight current research funding opportunities at the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA). Consult with NIAAA program officials on current areas of research emphasis as well as on prospective future initiatives. Program officials will also discuss the different types of research grants and career development mechanisms and provide some tips on maximizing probabilities of obtaining NIAAA/NIH funding. Facilitator: Harold Perl, Ph.D., Chief, Health Services Research Branch, NIAAA.

**Opportunities for Research on Adolescent Treatment at NIDA,** *Jack Stein, National Institute on Drug Abuse*

We propose to conduct a small group networking session on opportunities for research on adolescent treatment at NIDA. Discussions will include a review of relevant program announcements, requests for applications, and opportunities for training in the area of health services research on adolescent drug treatment. The goal is to let potential applicants know about our interest in building on recent studies of drug abuse treatment for adolescents to improve and expand the delivery of efficacious treatments to drug-abusing youth. We will particularly encourage development of studies that (1) investigate ways to broaden youth access to treatment services; (2) examine improvements in treatment delivery, including breadth, integration, and targeting of services for adolescents at different developmental stages in both their own maturation and their drug use and treatment careers; (3) develop, modify, or test behavioral treatments, or combined behavioral and pharmacological treatments, targeting adolescent drug abusers; and (4) analyze strategies for translating efficacious clinical treatments into effective community interventions. This informal networking session will include staff from NIDA as well as at least one leading adolescent treatment researcher. New investigators will be particularly encouraged to attend and to bring research concepts for discussion.

**Research Dissemination on Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Treatment, *Cherry Lowman, National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA)***

In 2003, CSAT and NIAAA will initiate a multi-year project to identify and develop effective means for the dissemination and transportation of adolescent substance abuse treatment from science to service. Interactions between scientists and practitioners will be encouraged every step along the way. The 2003 knowledge transfer activities include (1) development of a dissemination research workshop to identify the most promising vehicles for the dissemination and transportation of evidence-based adolescent treatments to practice and (2) development of a knowledge transfer document to guide identification of adolescent treatments or treatment components suitable for transport to practice. CSAT and NIAAA staff consider the SASATE networking roundtable an exceptional opportunity to obtain feedback from researchers and practitioners interested in issues related to knowledge transfer while this project is still in the planning stage. This session will be open to discussion after a brief update on challenges faced by the project as of June, 2003.

**1:10 p.m.–1:10 p.m.                    Moderated Large Group Discussion I**

**Group Therapy for Adolescents with Alcohol and Other Substance Use Disorders**

*Holly Waldron, Oregon Research Institute, and Eric Wagner, Florida International University*

This session will include two brief presentations summarizing recent research on the effectiveness of group therapy and be followed by an extend discussion among the participants about where the field needs to go next and brainstorming about how to get there.

**1:15-:10:10 a.m.                    Break**

**2:20 p.m.–3:20 p.m.                    Moderated Large Group Discussion II**

**Aftercare for Adolescents with Alcohol and Other Substance Use Disorders, *Yifrah Kaminer, University of Connecticut Health Center, and Mark Godley, Chestnut Health Systems***

This session will include two brief presentations summarizing recent research on aftercare for adolescents and be followed by an extend discussion among the participants about where the field needs to go next and brainstorming about how to get there.

**3:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.                    Business Meeting**

*Chaired by Michael Dennis, Chestnut Health Systems*

- Approval of Minutes from Last Year
- Report on SASATE List Server
- Report on SASATE Website Development
- Feedback on Conference and Suggestions for Next Year
- Discussion of whether to make the organization more formal or just keep informal (i.e., as is).
- Other New Business