Introduction

Bonita M. Veysey
Cecile Clark

The Women, Co-occurring Disorders and Violence Study is the first effort to ad
dress the significant lack of appropriate services for women with alcohol and other
drug and mental health diagnoses who have experienced physical and/or sexual
abuse. This program is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Ser
dices Administration’s three Centers: the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment,
the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and the Center for Mental Health Ser
dices. The nine participating sites each developed a services integration interven
tion addressing the multiple needs of women with co-occurring disorders and
histories of violence. As participants in a cross-site initiative, each site created
their interventions within the guidelines established by a Federal Steering Com
mittee. Under these guidelines, interventions must be gender-specific, culturally
competent, trauma-informed and trauma-specific, comprehensive and integrated,
and involve consumers/consumer advocates/patients (CSPs) in substantive and
meaningful ways. In this work, each site describes their strategies for developing
strategies for integrating services at two levels: at the clinical/individual level and
at the services/system level. Within this framework, sites have created programs
that are responsive to the strengths and needs of their own communities.

KEYWORDS: Alcoholism, drug abuse, mental health, women, physical abuse,
sexual abuse, services integration

Integration of Alcohol and Other Drug, Trauma and Mental
Health Services: An Experiment in Rural Services

Bonita M. Veysey
Rene Andersen
Leslie Lewis
Mindy Mueller
Vanja M. K. Sterius

The Franklin County Women’s Research Project is a collaboration among the Western
Massachusetts Training Consortium, the Franklin Medical Center, three Women’s Re
source Centers located across the county, and local consumer/advocates/researchers

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women (CSRs). This project is unusual in two ways: (1) it is a rural site, and (2) the project was designed, implemented and evaluated by CSRs. The program model is based on services at the person level and at the system level. The Women’s Resource Centers are the focal points for women’s support through their peers, including ARMS meetings, resource recovery groups using the Advocating and Trauma Recovery Model (ATRM). The Program is designed, written, edited, and implemented by program staff and women with trauma histories. The guiding question is: What women hold when they find the resources within themselves to address their losses and engage in service and work that is meaningful to them. These women work in conjunction with the former mainstream sources. Services integration is accomplished through the Services Integration Coordinator’s supervision of the mental health, AOD and domestic violence providers, the Community Coordination Council comprised of a wider network of service and support providers, and through the activities of the Trauma Liaison, an employee at Franklin Medical Center who acts as the coordinator and provides consultation on women with trauma histories.

KEYWORDS: Alcoholism, drug abuse, women, physical abuse, sexual abuse, services integration, rural

Creating Alcohol and Other Drug, Trauma, and Mental Health Services for Women in Rural Florida: The Trial

Women’s Project

Colleen Clark
Jaleenine Gierd
Marge Fletche-Bond
Sharon Slavin
Marion Becker
Arthur Cox

Located in central Florida, the Trial Women’s Project is a comprehensive system of care developed to respond to the needs of women and children living in a three-county rural rural area. The women have histories of abuse or violence, co-occurring alcoholism and other drug (AOD) and mental health disorders, and have been high utilizers of behavioral healthcare services. This paper will describe the efforts of collaborating providers, the women themselves, service researchers, and concerned community members to develop services to assist these women in their AOD recovery, their healing from abuse, and their environment in dealing with mental illness. Practical information on establishing consensus, dealing with barriers and setting service goals will be presented.

KEYWORDS: Al Coholism, drug abuse, women, physical abuse, sexual abuse, rural

The Women Embracing Life and Living (WELL) Project: Using the Relational Model to Develop Integrated Systems of Care for Women with Alcohol/Drug Use and Mental Health Disorders with Histories of Violence

Norma Finkelstein
Laurie S. Morkoff

Based on the relational model of women’s development, WELL Project interventions include integrated core facilities providing resource coordination and advocacy services. Seeking Safety trauma groups, Nurturing Families Affected by Substance Abuse, Mental Illness and Trauma parenting groups, and WILL Recovery, a self-help group for women with co-occurring disorders and trauma. Interventions were delivered at three agencies licensed to provide substance abuse and mental health services, impacting three communities. In preparation, customers, providers and coalitions met in Local Leadership Councils in each community and in a State Leadership Council, participating in case-study and collaborative discussions planning for integrated, trauma-informed care.

KEYWORDS: Alcoholism, drug abuse, women, physical abuse, sexual abuse, rural

A Model for Changing Alcohol and Other Drug, Mental Health, and Trauma Services Practice: PROTOTYPES Systems Change Center

Vivian B. Brown
Elke Rechberger
Paula Belpies

Despite the high rates of trauma in the lives of women with alcohol and other drug abuse, and mental health disorders, little is known about best practices for this population. PROTOTYPES, Centers for Innovation in Health, Mental Health and Social Services only focused on demonstrating the effectiveness of a new integrated model of treatment for women with co-occurring disorders and trauma and their children, as well as on ensuring improvement and sustain change. This paper describes the three levels of integration the PROTOTYPES Systems Change Center implemented during the five-year project: services integration, system integration, and container arrangements integration.

KEYWORDS: Alcoholism, drug abuse, women, physical abuse, sexual abuse, integration

Boston Consortium of Services for Families in Recovery: A Trauma-Informed Intervention Model for Women’s Alcohol and Drug Addiction Treatment

Hortensia Amaro
Sarah McGrath
Mary Larson
Luz Lopez
Rita Nieves
Brenda Marshall

Through collaboration among the service agencies collectively known as the Boston Consortium of Services for Families in Recovery, the Boston Public Health Commission implemented an integrated model of trauma-informed services that is culturally and geographically appropriate to the service population of primarily poor urban Latino and
African American women. The enhanced intervention was implemented in five Community-affiliated alcohol and drug treatment programs providing counseling, residential, and inpatient services. Programs adapted trauma-informed service system enhancements and offered trauma-specific and trauma-informed clinical services. The assessment and consensus-building processes, enhanced model components, implementation process, challenges, and lessons learned are described.

KEYWORDS: Trauma services, alcohol and drug addiction treatment, mental health services, African American women, Latina women, service integration

The Portal Project: A Layered Approach to Integrating Trauma into Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment for Women
Sharon Cadiz
Andrea Savage
Diane Bonavota
James Hollywood
Erica Batters
Michelle Neary
Laura Quiros

Palladium, Inc. is a not-for-profit, multi-service agency, located in New York City, serving primarily African-American and Latina communities. Palladium's Portal Project, in collaboration with the evaluation team from Hunter College School of Social Work (HCSW), participated in the national Women, Co-Occurring Disorders and Violence study. We studied 270 women with co-occurring issues of alcohol and other drug (AUD) problems and mental illness, who had histories of violence, and were high users of service. Palladium built an integrated system of care and implemented a comprehensive trauma-informed intervention that is designed to put trauma and safety first to assist women in surviving in treatment. Primary of trauma in the early stages of treatment constitutes a major philosophical shift within the traditional residential drug treatment setting. The focus of the engagement and treatment process is on the role of trauma in the woman’s life and its relationship to patterns of AUD abuse and mental illness. Another key feature of the Portal model is the emphasis on normalizing the adaptations which the woman have made in response to interpersonal traumatic life events. The women feel recognized and included. They are encouraged to see their former coping and adaptive behaviors as strengths rather than maladaptive weaknesses, deficiencies or character flaws. Support for the women in their parenting and family roles and stress as individual perceptions of culture are also part of the intervention. Portal blends narrative intervention, policy development, research, and evaluation for effective service delivery. The collaborative work of this project has produced a replicable model that configures specific direct service enhancements and service system improvements, using the active involvement of consumers, practitioners, service providers and policy-makers.

KEYWORDS: Alcoholism, drug abuse, women, physical abuse, sexual abuse, integration, urban

New Directions for Families: A Family-Oriented Intervention for Women Affected by Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse, Mental Illness and Trauma
Nancy R. VanDeMark
Ellen Brown
Angela Bornemann
Susan Williams

In conjunction with the SAMHSA-funded Women Co-Occurring Disorders and Violence Study, Appalachian House refined and evaluated an intervention integrating treatment for substance dependence, mental illness, and trauma for women and their dependent children. The New Directions for Families program combines comprehensive residential and outpatient treatment with parenting and self-sufficiency skills development. The program provides gender-specific, culturally sensitive, and strengths-oriented services for families in a two-phrase program over eight months. Services include treatment for individual recovery at each of the three problem areas—mental health, alcohol and other drug abuse, trauma basic needs of the family including employment and social and family support systems. Consumers are involved in all aspects of the project in designing and implementing the intervention and evaluation and in governing the project through participation on the project’s local and national meeting committees.

KEYWORDS: Alcoholism, drug abuse, women, physical abuse, sexual abuse, children, residential

Allies: Integrating Women’s Alcohol, Drug, Mental Health and Trauma Treatment in a County System
Jennifer P. Heckman
Frances A. Hutchins
Jennifer C. Thom
Lisa A. Russell

Allies, one of nine sites participating in the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration’s Women, Co-Occurring Disorders and Violence Study, was developed through collaboration between California’s San Joaquin County Health Care Services and SF&H Associates. Allies was charged with developing and implementing integrated services for women with AUD disorders and abuse histories within the County. Stakeholders identified service enhancements that were implemented in alcohol and drug treatment programs, integrated case management, trauma groups, and integrated parenting classes. Approximately 400 providers attended training activities; 174 women participated. Allies experienced barriers and successes. Lessons learned may be useful for future change efforts.

KEYWORDS: Alcoholism, drug abuse, women, physical abuse, sexual abuse, children, integration
ABOUT THE GUEST EDITORS

Bonita M. Veysey, PhD, is Assistant Professor and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education at Rutgers University-Newark. She is also Director of the Center for Justice and Mental Health Research. Prior to her current position at Rutgers, Dr. Veysey was a Senior Research Associate at Policy Research Associates in Delmar, New York. During that time, she was the Director of the Women’s Program Core and the Associate Director of the National GAINS Center and a research associate in the area of mental health and juvenile justice systems interactions. Dr. Veysey’s research is focused on behavioral health and justice issues, including policy interactions with persons with mental illnesses; psychiatric practices in jail and parole; diversion and treatment services for youth with behavioral health problems; and the effects of trauma.

Colleen Clark, PhD, is Research Associate Professor in the Department of Mental Health, Law and Policy at the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida in Tampa. Dr. Clark is the Project Director and Principal Investigator from USF for three national collaborative mental health services research projects: (1) the Boley Homelessness Prevention Project, (2) the Triad Women’s Project of the Women and Violence study, and (3) the Manassas Homeless Families Project. She is the coordinator of the Florida Task Force on Trauma Services and a founding member of the National Trauma Consortium. She is a licensed clinical psychologist with a private practice in the Tampa area since 1989 and was associated for many years with Mental Health Care, Inc., a large urban community mental health center, both as Division Director and as a member of the Board of Directors. She is a long-time member of the Tampa Bay Association of Women Psychotherapists.