FROM THE EDITOR

ARTICLES

The Role of Social Workers in the Treatment of Addictions: A Brief History
Shulamith Lala Ashenberg Straussner

This article describes the history of social workers' involvement in the treatment of addictions in the United States. Beginning with Mary Richmond, the "mother of social casework," social workers have played an increasingly important role in the treatment of individuals with alcohol and other drug problems and of their family members. Today, social workers are important players not only in program development, administration, and treatment of chemical addictions, but also in "process" addictions, such as eating disorders and gambling. Moreover, social workers are increasingly involved in addictions research and policy arenas.

KEYWORDS. History, role of social work, addictions treatment, process addictions
Systemic Barriers to the Employment of Social Workers in Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Agencies: A Statewide Survey
An-Pyung Sun

Literature suggests a low number of social workers employed in the field of alcohol and other drug (AOD) treatment. This study shows that social workers with undergraduate degrees (BSWs) have higher rates of employment in AOD than bachelor’s degree holders from other disciplines. Master’s level social workers (MSWs), however, have a much lower involvement than their counterparts with counseling degrees. Six factors are inferred to partially explain MSWs’ low involvement in the field: (1) low education requirements; (2) low pay; (3) absence of “social worker” positions; (4) competition among different disciplines; (5) lack of MSW interns; and (6) state certification requirement. Suggestions to increase the employment of social workers in the AOD field are offered.

KEYWORDS. Social workers, AOD treatment, BSWs, MSWs, counselors, employment, systemic barriers

Juvenile Violence and Addiction: Tangled Roots in Childhood Trauma
Annaclare van Dalen

Adolescents commit more than 50 percent of the nation’s crimes, and their use of substances both accompanies and facilitates criminal activities. Juvenile offenders exhibit three prominent features: drug involvement, a history of family violence, and intrinsic neurological and/or cognitive vulnerabilities. This article documents the connection between physical abuse and its impact on cognitive and intrapsychic functioning, as well as the physiological impact on brain function and body chemistry. The implications for the clinical treatment and prevention of juvenile violence and addiction are described.

KEYWORDS. Juvenile offenders, family violence, adolescent substance abuse

Self-Sufficiency and Sobriety: Substance-Abusing Women and Welfare Reform
Irene R. Bush
M. Katherine Kraft

Substance abuse presents formidable challenges to a welfare reform that has employment as its primary goal. This study reviews the literature on substance abuse and women and reports what substance-abusing women on welfare perceive as unmet needs and barriers to their recovery and ability to join the workforce.

KEYWORDS. Women, welfare reform, Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), alcohol use, drug use, addiction

Incorporating Spirituality and the Strengths Perspective into Social Work Practice with Addicted Individuals
Joshua Nosa Okundaye
Pamela Smith
Claudia Lawrence-Webb

In the last two decades, the social work profession began to confront the professional avoidance of alcoholics and other drug addicts, and discussions of spirituality. While acknowledging the importance of 12 Step Programs of Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous, we also acknowledge that spirituality is a major aspect of addiction and recovery from an addiction. The authors present the Strengths Perspective and apply key concepts to Steps 1-3 of the 12-Steps to increase our understanding of addiction and recovery from alcoholism and other drug addiction. The article concludes that social workers must continue to increase their understanding of the recovery and spiritual issues of alcoholics and other drug addicts.

KEYWORDS. Spirituality, strengths perspective, social work practice, alcoholism and other drug addiction, 12-step programs

Natural Recovery from Substance Dependency: Lessons for Treatment Providers
William Cloud
Robert Granfield

The literature on cessation of drug and alcohol dependency without benefit of treatment or participation in self-help groups spans nearly forty years. While this literature is substantial and analyses of the processes of natural recovery well-developed, discussions directed at treatment providers around the value of these analyses for practice has been sparse. Drawing on our study as well as the research of others, this paper explores two dimensions of natural recovery that hold important implications for treatment providers who work with substance dependent clients. These include the common strategies used by remitters and the concept of recovery capital as a way to capture the embeddedness of these natural recovery strategies within a unique structural context of personal attributes and social environments.

KEYWORDS. Alcohol and drugs, drug abuse, drug dependency, natural recovery, recovery, substance abuse

Comorbid Substance Abuse and Mental Illness: Diagnosis and Treatment
Carolyn Hilarski
John S. Wodarski

Literature concerning assessment and treatment of comorbid substance abuse and mental illness is reviewed. Currently, comorbidity is under-diagnosed and dually diagnosed clients are under-served. Those clients, who are so diagnosed, are most often offered dichotomous parallel or serial interventions. However, research suggests that an integrated approach is preferable. Enhanced training of mental health and substance abuse professionals is urgently needed as is further research.
concerning the efficacy of various treatment modalities. Improved identification and

treatment of comorbidity may reduce the revolving door effect among these individu-
als and thereby lower health care costs.

KEYWORDS: Dual-diagnosis, comorbidity, alcoholism, mental illness, diagno-
sis, treatment

SPECIAL TOPICS

Harm Reduction and Abstinence Based Recovery:
A Dialogue
Elizabeth Zelvin
Diane Rae Davis

BOOK REVIEWS

Primer for Treating Substance Abusers, by Jerome David Levin 135
Reviewed by Katherine van Wormer

Helping Women Recover: A Program for Treating Substance Abuse (Special Edition for Use in the Criminal Justice System), by Stephanie Covington 137
Reviewed by Katherine van Wormer

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Secrets of the Therapeutic Relationship
Elizabeth Zelvin