FROM THE EDITOR

ARTICLES

Post-Modern Ideas in Substance Abuse Treatment

Stephen Mott
Timothy Gysin

This article describes the use of post-modern ideas in the treatment of substance abusers at a long term residential and day treatment center. It describes some of the changes that ensued as a result of a transformation from a “therapeutic community” (TC) model to a “solution-focused” model. The TC is a deficit model that focuses on a person’s flaws and weaknesses. Solution-focused therapy, on the other hand, focuses on what a person has done and is doing right and his or her strengths, assets, and resources. This approach not only improves the quality and effectiveness of substance abuse treatment for clients, but also creates a better working environment for staff.

KEYWORDS. Drug treatment, post-modern therapy, therapeutic community, solution focused treatment model, impact on staff

Cognitive Processes: Their Influence on Varying Pathways to Recovery

Sondra Burman

Cognitive processes have been known to have a significant impact on recovery from alcohol and other drugs. From a study of self-changers (natural recoverers) without treatment or self-help groups, analysis of the data has identified beliefs that influenced the change experience—from the evaluation of reasons for drinking and the consequences that instigated the motivation and determination to take action, to the individually-conceived strategies to implement and maintain absti-
nence, and the perceived consequences of abstaining. Belief systems and strategies of recovery are compared across three pathways to recovery—self-change, cognitively-oriented treatment, and Alcoholics Anonymous.

KEYWORDS. Cognitions, natural recovery, self-change, cognitive treatment, alcoholics anonymous, cognitive processes

A Community Social Work Study of Methamphetamine Use Among Women: Implications for Social Work Practice, Education and Research

E. Michael Gorman
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Terry Applegate
Edward Amato
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Despite the widespread and increasing use of methamphetamine among females in the Western, Midwestern and Southern U.S., little research has focused upon women using methamphetamine, particularly from nonclinical or community perspectives. Such use puts women at risk for a variety of health and social problems. In this paper we report on female methamphetamine use that was investigated by using ethnographic methods in a community context. Thirty women were interviewed and their responses analyzed by the research team. Lessons learned suggest that women use methamphetamine for a variety of reasons, several of which may be unique to women. Implications for further research, prevention efforts, and practice are discussed.

KEYWORDS. Methamphetamine, women, substance abuse, health risks, social problems

Co-Occurring Disorders Among Jail Inmates: Bridging the Treatment Gap

Diane S. Young

This paper presents findings based on a retrospective review of health and mental health records of 359 mentally ill jail inmates. Regardless of demographic group, substance-related disorders are the most prevalent disorder. Sixty-seven percent of the sample had a substance-related disorder, 37% an adjustment disorder, 23% a mood disorder, and 12% had schizophrenia or another psychotic disorder. Comorbidity was extensive with close to 45% of the sample having both a substance-related disorder and an additional major mental illness. Study findings indicate that there is a great need to strengthen services and create jail-community linkages for inmates with comorbid mental health and substance abuse disorders. Innovative program and resource information are provided.

KEYWORDS. Dual diagnosis, jail inmates, mental health, substance use, psychiatric disorder

An Exploratory Examination of Spiritual Well-Being, Religiosity, and Drug Use Among Incarcerated Men

Michele Staton
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Carl Leukfeld

This study examines the relationships among spirituality, religiosity, and drug use among incarcerated males. Data were collected from 661 male prison inmates from four Kentucky State Correctional facilities. Spiritual well-being was measured using a modified version of the Spiritual Well-Being Scale (SWBS), and religiosity was measured by worship attendance in the year prior to incarceration. In general, spirituality and religiosity were found to be negatively related to alcohol and drug use, and differed across several individual characteristics that were included in the analysis. Given the relationship between spiritual well-being and religiosity to individual characteristics, such as age and race reported in this study, it is suggested that individual characteristics be considered when examining spirituality and drug use patterns.

KEYWORDS. Spirituality, religiosity, drug use, prisoners, individual characteristics

SPECIAL TOPICS: REFLECTIONS FROM THE FIELD

Treating Addictions in Cyberspace
Elizabeth Zelvin

BOOK REVIEWS

Harm Reduction Psychotherapy: A New Treatment for Drug and Alcohol Problems, by Andrew Tatarsky
Reviewed by Katherine van Wormer

Addiction Treatment: A Strengths Perspective, by Katherine van Wormer and Diane Rae Davis
Reviewed by Suzanne McDevitt

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Harm Reduction: Is It for You?
Belinda Housenbold Seiger