Advocating for Addicted Clients in the Criminal Justice System

2017 Conference

National Organization of Forensic Social Work

PRESENTERS

Lisa Newman-Polk, Esq., LCSW
Law Office of Lisa Newman-Polk
P.O. Box 329
Ayer, MA 01432

Email: lisa@lisanewmanpolk.com
Phone: (978) 862-0462

Sarah B. Coughlin, LICSW, LADC-1
Director, Charlestown Coalition
Massachusetts General Hospital
Center for Community Health Improvement

Email: scoughlin1@partners.org
Phone: (617) 726-0059

Language is SO important!

NO!

- **Substance Abuse**
- Clean vs. Dirty
  Passed vs. Failed
- Drug of Choice
- Addict, Junkie, Drunk

YES!

- Substance Use Disorder (mild, moderate, severe)
- Positive vs. Negative
- Drug of addiction
- A person…
  - with a substance use disorder
  - who uses
  - who is a drug user
  - who is drug addicted

What is a Substance Use Disorder?

- Multi-faceted, complex, chronic condition that varies greatly in its severity, impact, pattern and clinical presentation
- Caused by the interaction between individual genetic, environmental and social risk factors
- Intense cravings and compulsive use that continues **despite negative consequences**
- Relapsing and remitting course similar to many other chronic conditions

Frequently Misused Prescription Medications

OPIOIDS
Fetanyl, Codeine, Morphine, Oxycontin, Percocet

STIMULANTS
Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta

BENZODIAZEPINES
Ativan, Librium, Valium, Xanax, Klonipin)

SLEEP MEDICATIONS
Ambien, Lunesta)

Also…Gabapentin (Neurotin) "Johnnies"

Unregulated Substances

- Heroin
- Crack/Cocaine
- Hallucinogens
- Marijuana
- Superman Pills
- Sizzurp
- Lean or Purple Drank
- N-Bomb or Smiles
- Bath Salts or Flakka
- Synthetic Cannabinoids
- Krokodil
- Molly or Molly Water

Navigating Current SUD Treatment System

Treatment Options

- Detox (entry into treatment)
- Holdings –> Client Stabilization Services (CSS) and Transitional Support Services (TSS)
- Residential –> Therapeutic Communities (TC)
- Halfway Houses
- Sober Houses
- Intensive Outpatient (IOP) and Structured Outpatient Addiction Program (SOAP)
- Outpatient
- Partial Hospitalization
- Inpatient
- On-going support/self-help groups (AA, NA, DAA, Al-A-Teen, AWOL, SMART Recovery, sponsors, Recovery Coaches)
- Family Support (Learn2Cope, GRASP, Al-Anon)

OBSTACLES to Effective Treatment

- Insurance
- Transportation
- Bed Availability
- Medication
- Dual Diagnosis
- Behavioral Regulations of Programs
- Inappropriate access points across continuum of care

Medications for Addiction Treatment

Methadone

Buprenorphine
(Suboxone, Subutex)

Naltrexone
(Vivitrol)

Naloxone (Narcan)

Mandated or Court-Ordered "Treatment"

- Civil Commitment
- Drug Court
- Probation or Parole Conditions

Do JAILS and PRISONS offer real treatment?

<u>Do your research</u>.

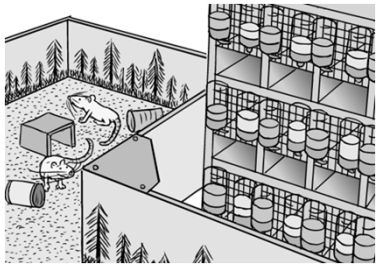
<u>Massachusetts Court Case (2017)</u>

Is it constitutional to order a defendant who suffers from severe substance use disorder to be "drug-free" as a condition of probation and impose incarceration when the defendant relapses?

Possession vs. Distribution

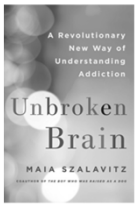
The Connection between
TRAUMA and
SUBSTANCE USE and
why it's important

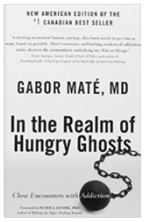
Bruce Alexander's Rat Park



LISTEN

Recommended Reading!





References:

Belfield CR. (2010) The Economic Burden of Crime and Substance Abuse for Massachusetts and the City of Boston.

Drug Abuse and Addiction. In National Institute on Drug Abuse. https://www.drugabuse.gov

Freyer, Felice J. 2016 "Language of addiction itself can hurt, advocates say." The Boston Globe, February 4.https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2016/02/03/finding-right-words-for-addiction/EdNzUNS10KQDinOEk3lQpN/story.html

Helm, Burt 2015. "The end of hitting rock bottom." The Boston Globe, December 6. https://www.bostonglobe.com/ideas/2015/12/06/the-end-hitting-rock-bottom/nE4SAicvgaZ9KuIMypd3PL/story.html

Healthday. "Addiction Starts in Early American Society, Report Finds. *U.S. News and World Report* July 29, 2011

Reference Cont.

Horgan, C. 2001. Substance Abuse: The Nation's Number One Health Problem. Monograph, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, www.rwjf.org

Kelly JF, Westerhoff CM. Does it matter how we refer to individuals with substance-related conditions? A randomized study of two commonly used terms. Int J Drug Policy. 2010;21(3):202-207

Koenigh, Karen R. 2000 "Opening the Door to Addiction." NASW MA Focus September 2000. http://www.naswma.org/?359

Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). 2004. The Economic Cost of Drug Abuse in the United States, 1992-2002. Washington, DC: Executive Office of the President (Publication No. 207303)

Seelye, Katherine Q. 2015. "In Heroin Crisis, White Families Seek Gentler War on Drugs." New York Times, October 30. http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/31/us/heroin-war-on-drugs-parents.html?_r=0

Wakeman, S., Kelly, J., *Principles of effective substance use disorder treatment.* Paper adapted from The World Health Organization (WHO) & National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), MGH, 2015