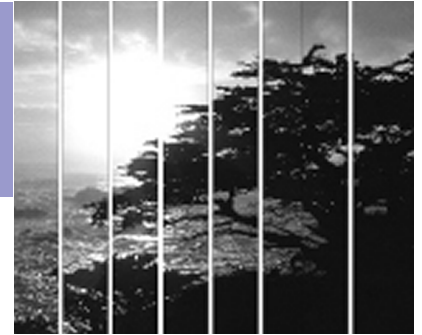




Western Conference on Addictions...



BEST PRACTICES IN TREATMENT AND COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS

Topics and Speakers Include:

- Addiction as a Brain Disease: Why It Matters to Clinicians - Carlton K. Erickson, Ph.D., University of Texas
- Taking a Positive Approach to Behavior Change - Martin Y. Iguchi, Ph.D., RAND
- Domestic Violence - Alyce Dunn LaViolette, M.S., M.F.C.C., Alternatives to Violence
- "Seeking Safety": An Approach for Treating PTSD and Addiction - Lisa M. Najavits, Ph.D., Harvard
- Co-occurring Disorders: What They Are and Why They Matter - Peter E. Nathan, Ph.D., University of Iowa
- Gambling Disorders: Current Research and Treatment - Nancy M. Petry, Ph.D., University of Connecticut
- Methamphetamine: New Knowledge, New Treatments - Richard A. Rawson, Ph.D., UCLA
- New Knowledge on Adolescent Treatment - Paula D. Riggs, M.D., University of Colorado
- Motivational Interventions with Substance Abusing Clients - Allen Zweben, D.S.W., University of Wisconsin

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Universal City, CA

November 11-14

2004

Hosted by: UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs • Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center • Matrix Institute on Addictions • Los Angeles Practice Improvement Collaborative • Pacific Node of the NIDA Clinical Trials Network

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Study Explores Handling of Sexually Transmitted Infections by Substance Abuse Treatment Programs

www.uclaisap.org/ctn/index.html

By Mark Oyama, Project Coordinator

HIV, AIDS, hepatitis C, and other sexually transmitted diseases are no strangers to the substance abuse population, but how does the substance abuse treatment arena address these challenges?

Dr. Lawrence Brown and his team from the Addiction Research and Treatment Corporation of Brooklyn, NY, aim to find out.

They implemented and now manage the Clinical Trials Network (CTN) study "Characteristics of Screening, Evaluation, and Treatment of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C Viral Infection, And Sexually Transmitted Infections in Substance Abuse Treatment Programs" (National Institute on Drug Abuse CTN 0012 protocol).

The goal of this study is to understand the awareness, policies, procedures, practices, trainings, and support that agencies have regarding sexually transmitted diseases and their treatment.

This study is entering its third year. The data collection should be complete by the end of 2004.

The study team (17 research organizations across the country, including the Pacific Node of the CTN at ISAP) is currently working diligently to close the data collection process, as well as prepare for the next stages of the study, including the publication of findings.

To date, the study has collected information from administrators from 35 states and more than 1,500 clinicians and program administrators across the country.

Locally participating treatment programs are the Betty Ford Center, Bay Area Addiction Research and Treatment, Inc., Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, Inc., Matrix Institute on Addictions, and Tarzana Treatment Center. The Pacific Node participants constitute nearly 10% of the study population.



Mark Oyama

The overarching goal of the CTN 0012 study is to heighten the awareness of infectious diseases and the need to address them in the substance abuse treatment arena.

More research is indeed sprouting regarding infectious disease issues. The University of Georgia is launching a similar study that will target 1,000 treatment programs that were not part of the CTN 0012 protocol.

Calendar of Events

November

November 11-14

Western Conference on Addictions: Best Practices in Treatment and Community Interventions

Sheraton Universal Hotel, Universal City, CA
(See Pages 1 and 3 for details.)

November 12

Matrix Institute's 20th Anniversary "Look to the Future" Gala Celebration

Sheraton Universal Hotel, Universal City, CA
\$150 for dinner and silent auction (a portion is tax deductible).

Proceeds will used for treatment scholarships.
Contact: Mike McCauley - (310) 207-4322, ext. 277

November 30 & December 3

California Addiction Training and Education Series (CATES): Engagement and Retention

(See Pages 3 and 8 for details.)

By Thomas Freese, PSATTC Director
(tfreese@ix.netcom.com)

The Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center (PSATTC) is continuing several major training initiatives in the fall of 2004, the main ones being the Western Conference on Addictions and the California Addiction Training and Education Series (CATES).

Western Conference on Addictions

Planning is in the final stages for the Western Conference on Addictions: Best Practices in Treatment and Community Interventions to be held Nov. 11-14 at the Sheraton Universal Hotel in Universal City, CA.

Hosted by UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Programs, PSATTC, Matrix Institute on Addictions, Los Angeles Practice Improvement Collaborative, and the Pacific Node of the NIDA Clinical Trials Network, the Western Conference on Addictions will be a major vehicle for disseminating state-of-the-art information on addictions.

Speakers include some of the leading experts in the field of addiction treatment including:

Carlton K. Erickson, Ph.D., University of Texas at Austin, "Addiction as a Brain Disease: Why It Matters to Clinicians"

Martin Y. Iguchi, Ph.D., RAND, "Taking a Positive Approach to Behavior Change"

Lisa M. Najavits, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School, "Seeking Safety": An Approach for Treating PTSD and Addiction"

Peter E. Nathan, Ph.D., University of Iowa, "Co-occurring Disorders: What They Are and Why They Matter" and "Treatment Strategies for Co-occurring Disorders"

Nancy M. Petry, Ph.D., University of Connecticut, "Gambling Disorders: Current Research and Treatment"

Richard A. Rawson, Ph.D., UCLA ISAP, "Methamphetamine: New Knowledge, New Treatments"

Paula D. Riggs, M.D., University of Colorado, "New Knowledge on Adolescent Treatment" and "Working with Adolescents in Treatment"

Allen Zweben, D.S.W., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, "Motivational Interventions with Substance Abusing Clients: Two decades of Research"

Domestic Violence Course & CE Credits

Conference participants can take part in a domestic violence course required for licensure by many disciplines. In addition, 15 hours of continuing education credits are available for most disciplines. To register, visit www.psattc.org.

California Addiction Training and Education Series (CATES)

CATES is a series of one-day trainings designed to provide in-depth information to individuals working with substance using populations.

The target audience for CATES is substance abuse and mental health treatment providers, administrators, and other professionals (e.g., researchers, psychologists, educators, law enforcement personnel, nurses, and physicians) interested in the latest information on the impact of substance abuse and effective interventions and treatments.

The next CATES meetings will focus on strategies for engaging and retaining clients in treatment. The trainings will include both didactic presentations of strategies and hands-on skill-building workshops for implementing these strategies.

The CATES meetings on engagement and retention will be held Nov. 30 in Costa Mesa, CA, and on Dec. 3 in Fresno, CA. For more information on the CATES series and to register for these events, please visit www.psattc.org.

By Suzanne Spear, LAPIC Project Director
(sspear@ucla.edu)

The Los Angeles Practice Improvement Collaborative (LAPIC) has been my life for the past four years.

LAPIC, which was funded by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment from 2000-2004, will be ending this September.

It was through my job with LAPIC that I learned about the challenging work of substance abuse treatment. I have worked with researchers, service providers, and policymakers on one of the biggest challenges in the field—to bring science-based interventions into mainstream practice. I learned to talk like a substance abuse researcher, using terms such as “technology transfer” and “cognitive behavioral therapy.”

I’ve witnessed many interesting moments during this time—working in the community is never boring! The most rewarding moments were when new ideas and projects were developed that excited both researchers and providers.

Now that LAPIC is in its final months, it’s time to reflect on what we have done and what lies ahead.

LAPIC Accomplishments

We have organized training programs for service providers, networked with Los Angeles County providers to enhance local resources, and studied new interventions for drug and alcohol counselors.

Through our LAPIC and L.A. Partnerships meetings, we brought together community providers, researchers, public defenders, policymakers, and community activists. We shared ideas about research and



Elder Ronald Simmons (far right), Executive Director of Free ‘N’ One, and church volunteers attending the Aug. 19 LAPIC training session on blending a faith-based model with cognitive behavioral interventions. From left: Bobby Blue, Rochelle Collins, Elder Jon Taylor, Lanita Hamilton, Gretchen Lewis, Karen Gilmeno, Carrie Sanders, and Debra Johnson (not shown is Lem Wafer).

practice and developed relationships that led to grant proposals, publications, and training events.

What Lies Ahead

Some LAPIC projects will continue. Dr. Rawson and I will implement the Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) screener in primary health clinics.

The Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Center (PSATTC) will take over the quarterly Los Angeles County Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA) lecture series.

Jeanne Obert, Executive Director of Matrix Institute on Addictions, Ronald Simmons, Director of Free ‘N’ One, and I plan to expand the faith-based Free ‘N’ One/Matrix project, which brings together cognitive behavioral techniques, the

12-step principles, and Christian principles.

For more information on these projects, current training opportunities, and LAPIC publications, visit www.psattc.org.

Thanks!

The relationships we have built through LAPIC will endure for years to come. ISAP thanks the many individuals who helped LAPIC projects come to life:

Gayl Anglin • Ken Bachrach • John Bacon • Lydia Becerra • Cheryl Branch • Alison Hamilton Brown • Derrick Brown • Natasha De Veauuse Brown • Richard Browne • Rose Clark • Desirée Crèvecoeur • Beth Finnerty • Thomas Freese • Cheryl Grills • Lisa Guzman • Angela Hegamin • Kathryn Icenhower • Lillian Jeffries • Craig Kelley • Douglas Longshore • Earl Massey • Cynthia Munguia • Mike Neeley • Jeanne Obert • Brian Perrochet • Kevin Pickett • Bethany Plain • Elke Rechberger • Jesus Romero • Daryl Rowe • Amber Setrakian • Ron Simmons • Jackie Stinnett • Wayne Sugita

By Desirée Crèvecoeur, LACES Project Director
(desireec@ucla.edu)

The first phase of LACES is complete. The second phase has begun.

The purpose of the Los Angeles County Evaluation System (LACES) is to evaluate and provide feedback to all Los Angeles County funded substance abuse treatment programs.

Phase I Recap

From 1999-2004, the first phase of the evaluation focused on the development, testing, and revision of the evaluation plan and activities.

During this period much was accomplished, including the training of more than 900 individuals in the administration and interpretation of a scientifically valid assessment tool (the Addiction Severity Index); revision of the county's admission and discharge questionnaire, making it more comprehensive; and completion of the LACES Phase I report (available at www.laces-ucla.org).

Phase II Goals

Now, the evaluation heads in a new direction. A renewed contract with the Los Angeles County Alcohol and Drug Program Administration (ADPA) will keep the LACES team busy over the upcoming three years.

The next phase will include the distribution of semi-annual site reports to every agency that provides alcohol and other drug treatment services under contract with Los Angeles County.

The reports will compare treatment participants' responses at admission to their responses at dis-

charge regarding questions on alcohol and drug use, medical and psychiatric concerns, and employment and family conflict.

LACES will also begin to take a closer look at substance abuse treatment agencies in order to ascertain the training and educational levels of their staff and the number and types of services provided to their participants.

In addition, LACES will begin to produce semi-annual reports that will

examine the in-treatment changes of those individuals who are involved in court-mandated treatment such as through a drug court or the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act (Proposition 36).

These reports will augment the state funded evaluation of Proposition 36 by ISAP that is

already underway (see "Evaluation of the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act 2002 Report" under "ISAP Research Updates" at www.uclaisap.org).

This evaluation and feedback system is one of the most extensive in the United States. Through LACES, treatment providers will learn how well their treatments work, the Los Angeles County ADPA will learn how well its treatment programs perform, and all of Los Angeles County will have a better understanding of the value of substance abuse treatment.

If you have questions concerning LACES, please feel free to contact the project director, Desirée Crèvecoeur at (310) 312-0500, ext. 345, or visit our Web site at www.laces-ucla.org.

From UCLA ISAP and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, Alcohol and Drug Program Administration:

LACES Status Report: Phase I

is available at the LACES Web site:

www.laces-ucla.org.



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By Ilan Goldstein, Student Intern from Brentwood School for Edythe London, ISAP Principal Investigator

ISAP's Edythe London led a team of researchers from the UCLA Departments of Psychiatry and Neurology in two important studies of methamphetamine abuse.

Using neuroimaging, Dr. London has shown metabolic and structural deficits in the brains of people who used methamphetamine chronically.

Methamphetamine's Effect on Mood

An article about the first study was published in January in the *Archives of General Psychiatry*, with Dr. London as the lead author ("Mood disturbances and regional cerebral metabolic abnormalities in recently abstinent methamphetamine abusers." Vol. 61, pp. 73-84).

Positron emission tomography (PET) demonstrated irregularities in the pattern of how the brain used glucose for energy production.

The study showed abnormal glucose metabolism in important regions of the brain that control mood and feeling state: the anterior cingulate, amygdala, and ventral striatum.

Anxiety and depression were related to glucose metabolism in these regions. These data indicate that methamphetamine abuse affects the limbic system and that alterations here affect emotional state.

Methamphetamine and Brain Deterioration

Paul Thompson was the lead author on a follow-up study, published June 30 in *The Journal of Neuroscience* ("Structural abnormalities in the brains of human subjects who use methamphetamine." Vol. 24, Issue 26, pp. 6028-6036).

He found structural abnormalities in the brains of chronic methamphetamine users. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scans showed white matter hypertrophy (exaggerated growth) throughout the entire brain, along with gray matter deficits in the hippocampus and cingulate cortex.

The reason for the abnormal growth of white matter is not known, but the finding does indicate a clear difference from a "normal" situation. The brain region of most interest was the cingulate, where a decrease in function was observed in the earlier study.

These studies have shed new light on the physical and chemical effects stimulants have on brain function.

The information may be pertinent to the treatment of anxiety and depression in individuals in the early stage of withdrawal from methamphetamine.

Additional studies are needed to establish how these neurobiological changes are linked to methamphetamine dependence.

Further understanding and treatment of addiction is the collective objective in ISAP, and these recent findings are a bold step toward that goal.

The Social Construction of a Gay Drug: Methamphetamine Use Among Gay and Bisexual Males in Los Angeles

by Cathy J. Reback, Ph.D.

is now available at the ISAP Web site:

www.uclaisap.org

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Save the Date!

California Addiction Training and Education Series (CATES) Engagement and Retention

November 30, 2004

Westin South Coast Plaza
Costa Mesa, CA

and

December 3, 2004

Radisson Hotel and Conference Center
Fresno, CA

Topics will include various strategies, including motivational interviewing and contingency management, that treatment providers can use to engage and retain clients in substance abuse treatment.

For information, visit www.uclaisap.org or www.psattc.org.

Sponsored by:

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