

New York State Practice Research Collaborative
Central New York Practice Research Network
June 14, 2002
Prevention Network Offices, Syracuse, New York

Meeting Summary

Attending:

This meeting was attended by 8 individuals – 4 practitioners, 2 researchers, 1 policy maker, and 1 staff. Barry Lentz facilitated and Susan Adair took and wrote up these notes.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, August 9, 10 AM to noon, at Prevention Network, 1050 W. Genesee, Syracuse.

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PRACTICE RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE UPDATE

Susan Brandau explained that the PRC Advisory Consortium meets four times a year. The last meeting was May 22nd in NYC and the next meeting is tentatively September 4 in Albany. In response to feedback at previous PRC meetings, more time will be given to the regional PRNs at the September meeting.

The reason why the May meeting was suddenly changed to NYC is that John Coppola (ASAP), was able to have the new chief administrator of SAMHSA, Mr. Charles Curie, speak for 1.5 hours about the shift in focus from practice research to practice improvement and capacity building. They are being made aware of the need for research and training in order to adopt practices, and that personal contacts are needed for effective trainings. Frank McCorry (head of clinical services at OASAS over Susan) is asking providers what their research interests are. A meeting summary is available from Adam Kirkman at adamkirkman@oasas.state.ny.us.

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WORKING WITH HUMAN SUBJECTS

Susan said that the CNY -PRN is the only mini-grant recipient to not need IRB (Institutional Review Board for Human Subjects) approval to do their project. She recommended that everyone take the National Institute of Health's free on-line course on the treatment of human subjects. Even focus groups need IRB approval. Most PRNs have a link to a university for access to an IRB. OASAS uses SUNY Buffalo.

The course takes about an hour to complete and certificates are available following completion. The course is entitled "Human Participant Protections Education for Research Teams" and is available at <http://cme.nci.nih.gov/>.

Field CodeChanged

SURVEY OF PROVIDER TRAINING NEEDS

The current issue of "Research Roundup" published by the Institute of Behavioral Research at Texas Christian University has an article called "Surveying Provider Training Needs" by Dwayne Simpson who did the Organizational Readiness for Change instruments. All issues of *Research Roundup* are on-line at www.ibr.tcu.edu/

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CSAT'S SUPPORT OF NEW YORK'S PRC

Susan Brandau said she is on the Grantee Committee at the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and that the meeting has been postponed to December because a GFA [NOTE: WHAT DOES THIS STAND FOR?] is coming out in October. This means there will be a shift in the support of Practice Improvement Collaboratives, but OASAS and ASAP intend to keep the PRN networks going. The third year implementation grant is already approved and OASAS/ASAP understand this is a long-term effort, so the concern is to provide continued support.

Also, mini-grants will no longer have funds released in three 1/3 installments. Instead, all \$5000 will be released up front. What is due when the award is given includes:

- a project time-line
- an abstract
- a finalized budget with any adjustments that need to be made

- a letter outlining the project's deliverables

There was some concern expressed about the kind of research the government prioritizes which doesn't always look at what practitioners already know from experience. Susan said that OASAS/ASAP's PRC keeps talking about the bi-directionality of research (from both researchers to practitioners and practitioners to researchers) which is reflected in Section 4 of the *National Treatment Plan*. However, SAMHSA's focus is now on implementation. NIDA and NIAAA will be increasing their research activity and they won't award any more grants unless providers are involved in the design of the application/study as true partners beyond just a letter of support. CSAT and CSAP will be decreasing their research activity in order to fill in the gaps that exist, according to Mr. Curie.

There's not much information on evidence-based practice outside of NIDA's *National Treatment Plan* book. Alan Kott calls "best practices" the activity of synthesizing what seems to work for clients. Susan has his list of what he considers best practices, which OASAS is using to encourage everyone to get on the same page without telling them what to do. She does a presentation on what are the issues. For example, no one knows who or how many providers in New York State are using addiction medicine. Susan wants OASAS to be a resource for information on best practices without mandating them and let the drug and alcohol treatment providers adopt them because they see better outcomes with their clients.

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RESEARCHER/PROVIDER COLLABORATION QUESTIONS

This is the list of questions that the PRN was asked to comment on early in the year. Adam Kirkman at OASAS is working on it since Lynn Wilson left. The design is shifting into a sequence of questions (storming, norming, forming) and may link them to stages of change phases. They might design a brochure and have the same questions for both researchers and providers rather than two different sets of questions. Susan said that some form of this collaboration tool will be available to hand out at our conference in November.

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GRANTS AVAILABLE

Susan said that ATTC has money available for grants (varying in size from \$1000 to \$20,000) and only six have been taken so far, so they are looking for applications. There is no application deadline which means they are continuously open. Susan handed out Northeast ATTC's "Resource Link" newsletter which has more information on sending in proposals, or you can go to www.ireta.org/attc.

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CONFERENCE MINI-GRANT UPDATE

Award Letter

Susan Brandau said she had a sample award letter with her and, since we didn't have any human subjects, our award letter had to be revised from what other PRNs are getting. Our award letter goes to Marsha Weissman as the director of CCA (Center for Community Alternatives) which is administering the grant. The conference is scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2002, at Thronfield Conference Center in Cazenovia.

Purpose of the Conference

Susan Adair handed out and reviewed the notes from a conference committee meeting in May and asked for input from the larger PRN membership on issues that the committee wanted to bring to the larger membership. The conference was clarified in the discussion as having the purpose of coming up with specifically fundable projects to pursue as a collective and to identify what are the critical issues around research and practice in central New York. The design was clarified as having a more general topic in the morning around the process of collaboration and in the afternoon getting more concrete about collaboration projects.

Attracting Researchers to Attend

Susan Adair next handed out a list of academic institutions in the area with some names of researchers to contact which the committee started to generate because getting the interest of researchers is more challenging than getting practitioners to come to the conference. Discussion followed on the likelihood of a big-time researcher from SU in attending the conference. It was suggested that perhaps they could be invited as a keynote speaker, or that their graduate students would be interested in exploring potential

dissertation projects at the conference. Out of this discussion a list was generated that identifies the kind of academics most likely to attend the conference:

- newly appointed faculty looking for a research niche
- graduate (Ph.D.) students looking to launch a research career
- a seasoned faculty/researcher between grants
- faculty advisors looking for possible dissertation projects for graduate students
- community researchers (e.g. action researchers and evaluation researchers)

Researchers need a draw for them to come such as a keynote speaker who could inform them of how to go about collaboration and access funding. Those mentioned as possible speakers or panelists include: Peter DeLaney (NIDA), Jan Howard, Jack Loretto (NIAAA), Kate Carey (a seasoned NIAAA researcher at SU), and Jay Lynn Tarkin from the University of Buffalo who has gotten grants for getting started in evaluation research. A NIDA/NIAAA speaker could be a draw for researchers who want to make a contact with someone in those agencies and to ask questions in an informal atmosphere. Susan Brandau said she can be the contact person for a speaker from NIDA or NIAAA.

An overview of the collaborative research process might attract researchers: What is the nature of collaborative research? How is it developed? What do you need to know to do it? How do you get funding to do it? Researchers could be attracted by describing the conference in the following terms:

- an opportunity to network with treatment and prevention professionals and other researchers
- an opportunity to present their research ideas and get some feedback
- a chance to hear what kind of research that treatment providers and prevention agencies are interested in for improving practice
- a chance to hear about the nuts and bolts of collaboration and funding and how to launch a research project and a career in this field
- a chance to hear about funding opportunities

Surveying Topics of Interest

There was a brainstorm of questions to ask potential participants in a "survey of interests" so that the topics at the conference will best reflect what participants want to discuss. A number of questions were aimed at what would be of interest to academic researchers. Some themes for topics include:

- the need for practitioners and researchers to develop a common language in order to collaborate (the amount of acronyms used can be overwhelming)
- the need for practitioners to understand the different kinds of research design such as empirical, evaluation and action-based research
- the need for both researchers and practitioners to understand the variety of funding opportunities in different fields of study beyond alcohol and drug treatment related sources, such as nutrition, community social work, youth related organizations, and prevention related sources
- how to implement research and how to get researchers involved in the implementation training for their models

Sponsorship

The idea of soliciting sponsorship for the conference was accepted by the group. Susan Brandau and Adam will go to ATTC to inquire about conference support and write a letter for a "single state" grant. Susan Adair will draft a proposal using material already written from CNY - PRN meeting notes and the mini-grant proposal.

CASAC Credit

Susan Brandau will help get CASAC credit for attending the conference. Susan Adair will initiate that process with her.