NEW YORK STATE PRACTICE RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE

LONG ISLAND PRACTICE RESEARCH NETWORK

MEETING SUMMARY
HAUPPAUGE, NEW YORK
MAY 8, 2001

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was attended by (11) individuals, which included (1) researcher.

1. The following issues were discussed at the meeting:

   - The Long Island PRN needs to establish an effective strategy for increasing the number of researchers who participate in the PRN and to create a core of researchers who can provide research Leadership. This activity should build on the work already begun by Joe Gallagher to contact various colleges and universities in the Long Island Region.
   - The Long Island PRN needs to identify a means of creating greater cooperation between the provider coalitions of Suffolk and Nassau counties.

REGIONAL FOCUS/ OPPORTUNITIES

1. Institutional Review Boards (IRBs)

   - There was a discussion about whether it was desirable for the Long Island PRN to developing a capacity to serve as an IRB. The consensus of the PRN was that the use of IRBs is not well established as a high priority need among Long Island Region providers, and it is premature to pursue such an assignment for the Long Island PRN.

2. Traumatic Brain Injury Overlap with Substance Abuse

   - A summary was given of the presentation by Dr. Wayne Gordon of Mt. Sinai in New York City at the May 7th meeting of the New York City PRN indicating that studies he has done show a 25-30 % co-morbidity factor between traumatic brain injury and substance abuse. Dr. Gordon's presentation further indicated that there are important cognitive issues that individuals with traumatic brain injury can have which may significantly interfere with treatment. The presentation also indicated that screening instruments can be employed which are successful and not expensive, and that Dr. Gordon was interested in identifying providers in the New York City area who are desirous of receiving relevant training.
   - There was a consensus at the meeting that it would be worthwhile to invite Dr. Gordon to do a presentation at a future Long Island PRN meeting. The following individuals indicated particular interest in pursuing this opportunity:
     - Joe Gallagher
     - Susanne Smoller

3. Brain Cocaine Study

   - There was a brief discussion about cocaine brain studies being done in Brookhaven- Talbot House, and a strong indication that more about this work should be shared with the Long Island PRN.

4. Data Collection, Research and Evaluation

   - There was a discussion at the meeting regarding the Long Island Region's need to get technical assistance for providers on data collection, research and evaluation, and to pursue available resources to accomplish this. The Northeastern New York PRN has developed such a resource through the participation of researcher Dr. Lloyd Lininger of the SUNY, University at Albany.

5. Researcher in Residence Program

- There was a discussion at the meeting of areas of interest to the Long Island PRN members in attendance for pursuing possible additional Federal funding to support a replication in New York State of the successful current Researcher in Residence initiative which might be available within the next few months. The area that was of greatest interest at the meeting was how to bring about and sustain quality improvements in individual providers- treatment and prevention- in a systematic way.

6. Mini-Grants

- The discussion at the PRN meeting was to develop a Mini-Grant application from the Long- Island PRN which brings together the provider consortiums of Nassau and Suffolk counties. Kathy Ayres-Lanzillotta agreed to coordinate the work group to pursue this effort and a date was set of June 25th for the group to convene.

7. SUNY, University at Albany NIDA Grant Submission

- There was a consensus at the meeting to support the School of Social Welfare at SUNY, University at Albany NIDA Grant to bridge the collaboration between the fields of Substance Abuse and Child Welfare. The Long Island PRN members were impressed by the design of the grant which emphasizes the equality of importance of providers and researchers in the design and implementation of the research needed to pursue the goals of the grant.

NEXT MEETING

1. The date for the next Long Island PRC meeting was tentatively set for September 25, 2001, in conjunction with the coalitions of providers in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

- Agenda items for the September meeting will be discussed at the July 25th meeting to pursue the PRN Mini-Grant possibilities for the Long Island Region set for June 25th. The following agenda items were identified as possibilities for the September PRN meeting:
  - Invitation to Dr. Gordon to do a presentation on Traumatic Brain Injury
  - Invitation for Dr. Lloyd Lininger, Chair of the Department of Biometry and Statistics at the SUNY, University at Albany and member of the Northeastern New York PRN to present on data collection research and evaluation
  - Mini-Grant report