

**New York State Practice Research Collaborative
New York City Practice Research Network
Meeting Summary
Wednesday – January 23, 2002**

Introduction

This meeting was attended by 14 individuals, which included 5 researchers, 4 practitioners, 1 practitioner/researcher/policymaker, and 4 policymakers. The following is a summary of the discussions and outcomes of this meeting.

Activities

- *Partnering Guidance Document* – Susan Brandau identified this as a means to help the negotiation process between researchers and practitioners. A great many valuable suggestions were made; particularly around grouping the questions around topics like: decision making and conflict resolution; outcomes/products; barriers/pitfalls; IRB assurances/protections; roles and responsibilities; benefits of participation; etc. It was further suggested that the document should be more balanced regarding questions that apply to both sides. The items should be categorized and bulleted.
- *Statewide PIC Advisory Board Meeting*
 - November 29, 2001 – this meeting, held in Albany, was mostly devoted to the events of September 11th and the impact on the chemical dependence system including clients, programs, and staff, in addition to the mental health screening survey. The goal is to get information and literature resources out to practitioners. Latest update on Traumatic Brain Injury Study – there are 11 providers participating and approximately 500 should be screened in February. The study looks at organizational (staff and environmental) readiness to change (Texas Christian University researchers) through a questionnaire of 114 questions. After completing the questionnaire and sending to TCU, the providers get back a profile of their staff. The web site for more information is www.ibr.tcu.edu.
 - February 27, 2002 is the date of the next statewide PIC advisory board meeting, which will be held in New York City.
- *Mini-Grant Update – Melissa Chu – Behavior Modification Pilot Study*

This is an evaluation model to assess and examine implementation of a behavior modification program to bridge the gap between research and practice by initiating the involvement of research staff in the treatment program leading to improvements in clinical practice and changing the

- culture to partner researchers and practitioners. This pilot study was initiated in July 2001. Clients were given points for coming to treatment sessions and could select prizes when a certain total was reached. 140 patients participated and 83% stated that they were satisfied with the project. She explained that there are 140 patients involved in this project.
- *ASAP 2002 Conference* – The next Conference is in Syracuse at the OnCenter, October 27 – 30, 2002.
 - *Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Study – Susan Brandau*
Susan reported that there are 11 providers participating in this client self administered study and approximately 500 clients should be screened for TBI in February. Trainings took place on January 14 and February 8. There are several purposes to this – first doing prevalence for OASAS and then looking at whether this is a useful tool to identify TBI's. The study also looks at organizational (staff and environmental) readiness to change (Texas Christian University researchers) through a questionnaire of 114 questions. After completing the questionnaire and sending to TCU, the providers get back a profile of their staff. The web site for more information is www.ibr.tcu.edu.
 - Frank Guida mentioned concerns he had regarding the validity of the instrument because it appeared that Parts I and III need more than the client to complete it.
 - *Researcher-in-Residence* – The new announcement is out and responses are due at ASAP by February 28, 2002. A total of \$10,000 is again being offered statewide. An initial proposal of one to two pages is what is required.
 - *New Mini-Grant* – This announcement will be out in March for the second year of the three-year grant. The basic idea behind the grant is to support/foster collaboration and get researchers and practitioners talking together. Lala Straussner suggested using the money in the third year round for evaluating the first two years of the project.
 - *General PRN discussion*
 - Joan Standora – indicated that she believed that programs are open to involvement with researchers, but that they get little feedback. As a result, they are now more resistant to participate. Activities such as the PRN work toward breaking down these barriers. She further mentioned that NYU Medical College runs groups in humanistic medicine and they are now working with residents who work with AIDS patients. This is an opportunity for collaboration between medicine, social work, and the substance abuse field.

- Melissa Chu – stated that the way information is presented is important because there is no supervisory relationship between the two roles and each must be aware of potential communication problems. It is not only the results, but the way they are presented that encourage change or the adoption of new practices.
 - Susan Brandau – organizations that participate are not in survival mode, but tend to be a little “better off”.
 - Frank McCorry – the conduct of research itself can/should be looked at as a practice improvement opportunity.
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- **The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 13, 2002 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the OASAS offices.**