

**NEW YORK STATE PRACTICE RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE  
NEW YORK CITY PRACTICE RESEARCH NETWORK  
MEETING SUMMARY  
NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK  
MAY 7, 2001**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was attended by (16) individuals, (5) of whom were researchers.

1. The following issues were raised at the meeting:

- The New York City PRN needs to make a concerted issue to increase the number of researchers who participate, and to develop a core of research leadership
- For the New York City PRN to be more a more representative and therefore more effective group, it needs to identify a process for identifying effective consumer representatives and to recruit those representatives as soon as possible
- There is a need for more gay and lesbian practice-based research, and there is a need to develop strategies for engaging more research interest in gay and lesbian treatment and prevention issues
- In addition to increasing attendance of researchers at PRN meetings, more providers should be encouraged to attend research meetings
- The NYS PRC/PRN Website needs to be more effectively used by providers and researchers to post the successful experiences they have with both research results and the use of various survey and evaluation instruments

## **REGIONAL FOCUS/ OPPORTUNITIES**

1. Researcher in Residence Program

- The following individuals expressed an interest in exploring potential projects that might qualify for additional Federal funding to support a replication in New York State of the successful current Researcher in Residence initiative, which could be available as soon as the next few months:
  - Tom Hill
  - Peter Schweitzer
  - Bernadette Hackett
  - Frank Guida
- Specific areas which were identified as possible areas to focus on for such researcher in residence initiatives include:
  - Time intensive training for MET implementation
  - How to effectively implement changes in clinical practice

2. Mini-Grants

- There was support for the NYC PRN quickly developing a Mini-Grant proposal for implementation prior to the end of October 2001. The approximate size of the Mini-Grants is \$ 10,000, and funding for second and third year projects under the Mini-Grant initiative are planned for interested PRNs. The guidelines for submission were distributed and discussed briefly at the meeting. The following individuals expressed an interest in pursuing this opportunity:
  - Harry Zerler
  - Melissa Chu

– Peter Schweitzer

3. SUNY, University at Albany NIDA Grant Submission

- The School of Social Welfare at SUNY University at Albany is preparing a NIDA Grant response for funding to plan and implement an initiative in various parts of New York State to build effective collaborative bridges between the child welfare and substance abuse fields. This grant opportunity is intended to have applicants indicate how they would identify provider and researcher partners in both the child welfare and substance abuse fields, and develop focus groups and other collaborative tools to achieve the project goals.
- The emphasis in these grant applications is meant to be on the quality of collaborative efforts among equals between researcher and provider and equality between the substance abuse and child welfare fields. There was a consensus for the NYC PRN to support the SUNY, University at Albany NIDA Grant application by writing a letter which can be part of the SUNY, University at Albany application, and to have some of the New York City substance abuse providers and researchers actively participate in the implementation of grant activities, if SUNY, University at Albany School of Social Welfare receives the grant award.

4. Institutional Review Boards (IRBs)

- There was a lengthy conversation about whether it was possible and desirable to consider having the NYC PRN serve as an IRB. There was some genuine interest in exploring this possibility, as it might provide a more favorable and supportive IRB opportunity than some providers currently have access to. Jonathan Porteus expressed special interest in pursuing this possibility

5. Presentation by Dr. Wayne Gordon of Mt.Sinai on Traumatic Brain Injury Overlap with Substance Abuse

- Dr. Gordon presented an interesting set of findings regarding research he and colleagues have done which shows a 25-30% co-morbidity factor between traumatic brain injury and substance abuse. Dr. Gordon identified that there were important cognitive issues that individuals with traumatic brain injury can have which may significantly interfere with treatment and therefore need to be effectively accommodated in developing treatment plans.
- Screening instruments can be successfully employed that are not expensive, nor time consuming, but can add to the effectiveness of treatment plans for patients who are suffering from both traumatic brain injuries and substance abuse. There was a great deal of interest in what Dr. Gordon presented, and the potential for him to do some staff training in this regard, and a consensus that it would be worth following up with Dr. Gordon at greater length at a subsequent NYC PRN meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

1. The date for the next NYC PRC meeting was tentatively set for September 17, 2001.

- Key items identified for inclusion in the agenda for that meeting were:
  - Development of research leadership possibly including NYU
  - Mini-Grant progress