

**NEW YORK STATE PRACTICE RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE  
NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK PRACTICE RESEARCH NETWORK  
MEETING SUMMARY  
APRIL 9, 2001**

**INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was attended by (21) individuals, which included (6) researchers. The following is a summary of the outcomes of the Northeastern New York PRN 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS****1. WHAT PROVIDERS NEED AND WANT FROM RESEARCHERS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pat Lincourt, Chair – Hope House

- This subcommittee met once between the third and fourth Northeastern PRN Meetings and plans on meeting again between the fourth and fifth Northeastern PRN meetings. The issues of self-assessment by Northeastern PRN members, participation of consumers-appropriate roles, policy makers and policy influence regarding provider agencies, and how providers can become better consumers of research-to be better critical thinkers, were topics discussed at the first subcommittee meeting. The need for greater specificity of prevention issues as part of this subcommittee's work was identified at the fourth Northeastern PRN meeting.
- In addition to the initial members of this subcommittee, new members joined at the meeting:
  - INITIAL MEMBERS:
    - Doug Terbeck- Prevention Team
    - Lori Thornton – Council for Prevention
    - Michael Roona – Social Capital Development Corp.
  - NEW MEMBERS:
    - Tim Moon – The Prevention Council
    - Kathryn Martin – Capital District Area BOCES

**2. DATA SUBCOMMITTEE**

Lloyd Lininger, Chair – SUNY, School of Public Health

- This subcommittee did not meet between the third and fourth Northeastern PRN meeting, but plans to meet between the fourth and fifth Northeastern PRN meetings. The discussion about how to proceed with the work of this subcommittee at the fourth Northeastern PRN meeting focused on the need to determine the highest priority areas on which to analyze provider effectiveness. While knowledge of diverse data sets, their ability to be retrieved and their ability to be applied to answer specific research questions are important, and are capabilities that research members of the Northeastern PRN have, the researchers need input from the providers on the types and specific evidence –based inquiries they are most interested in pursuing for the efforts of the researchers on this subcommittee to be most effective.
- In addition to the initial members of this subcommittee, new members joined at this meeting:
  - INITIAL MEMBERS:
    - Ed Waltz – SUNY, School of Public Health
    - Michael Roona – Social Capital Development Corp.
    - Cheryl Bachus – OASAS
    - Dawn Oliver –

- NEW MEMBERS:
  - Nancy Jones – Capital District Area BOCES
  - Pat Lincourt – Hope House
  - Doug Terbeck – Prevention Team

## **REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

### **1. ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON GRANT**

- Michael Roona, Social Capital Development Corporation, reported on a five-year Robert Wood Johnson grant –Reclaiming Futures a \$ 21 million award cycle addressing youth in the juvenile justice system who have substance abuse problems. The focus will be on youth development – example how youth return to the public schools system, how treatment programs coordinate with other institutions, i.e. public schools, and how to establish a continuum of care including prevention. The grant response focus which Mike Roona is contemplating would be Albany County. It would be appropriate for interested substance abuse providers from the PRN to join Michael Roona’s organization in their consideration of a grant response.
- The consensus of the PRN was that this RWJ grant proposal represented an excellent opportunity for substance abuse providers in Albany County who are PRN members to collaborate with juvenile justice agencies to establish better linkages between the two systems than currently exists, which would have a long term positive impact as well as the shorter term positive impact of successfully implementing the grant activities. A subcommittee to work on the development of a Northeastern N.Y. PRN participation in a RWJ grant submission prepared by the Social Capital Development Corporation was formed at the meeting including the following individuals:
  - Shad Maruna- SUNY, School of Criminal Justice
  - Pat Lincourt – Hope House
  - Kevin Kirby – Albany County Department of Mental Health
  - Nancy Jones – Capital District Area BOCES
  - Kathryn Martin- Capital District Area BOCES
- The submission of a five-page preapplication proposal is due May 18th

### **2. PRESENTATION ON INCREASE IN PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE AND ABUSE**

- John Eadie, of the New York State Health Department and a PRN member, made a presentation on the growth of the problem nationally of prescription drug misuse and abuse, especially among youth, over the past decade. These trends, which in the case of some prescription drugs represent dramatic increases in misuse and abuse, have not received attention proportionate to the size and importance of the problem. This is in large part due to the fact that there are some conflicts of interest in reporting and responding to the problem of prescription drug misuse and abuse because the manufacture and sale of the substances in question are legal and are a profitable segment of a multi-billion dollar industry eager to preserve a favorable public image. The abuse which Mr. Eadie reported on comes from accidental or purposeful use of the drugs other than as medically recommended, or by individuals for whom legitimate prescriptions have not been written.
- There was significant interest in this presentation and as a result of the interest of prevention providers present at the PRN meeting, Mr. Eadie has been invited to give a longer version of this presentation to the Schenectady County Prevention Partnership on May 15.

### **3. NIDA GRANT**

- Barry Loneck, SUNY, School of Social Welfare, and a member of the PRN, presented the details of a submission for a NIDA grant that he is developing entitled Social Work Research Development Program

Grant Application: Child Welfare And Substance Abuse Research Network. The purpose of the grant is to develop research capacity which leads to improvements in the access and delivery of substance abuse treatment and prevention services for families involved in the child welfare system. The proposed grant activities will fall into the following three areas:

- Development of a research infrastructure dedicated to investigating substance abuse issues in the child welfare system
  - Development of a consortium consisting of the SUNY School of Social Welfare, state agencies, community-based treatment and prevention agencies to develop, deliver and evaluate effective interventions and to propose innovative regulatory and service system models to enhance the effective collaboration of the substance abuse and child welfare systems
  - Development of a research agenda, centered on (1) evaluation of the impact of current regulations on treatment delivery, parental recovery, and family reunification; (2) adaptation and evaluation of empirically-based treatment methods for substance abusers in the child welfare system; (3) adaptation and evaluation of empirically-based prevention methods for children in the child welfare system.
- Under this proposal, the Northeastern PRN would receive the opportunity of having providers of substance abuse treatment and prevention services participate in focus groups to help develop instruments for determining how the grant proposed activities to provide more effective collaboration between the substance abuse and child welfare fields can best be refined, and receive training along with local child welfare agencies on how best to implement the new models. Some of the activities of this proposed project will include participation by substance abuse and child welfare providers in all of the other six PRN regions of the state.
  - There was a consensus at the PRN meeting that alcoholism and substance abuse providers- prevention and treatment – consider improving the effectiveness of collaboration between the substance abuse and child welfare fields as extremely important to the improvement of services to individuals and families who are in need of services from both systems.
  - Because this NIDA grant proposal by Barry Loneck of the SUNY School of Social Welfare advances three key principals of the PRC/ PRN initiative in New York State, it received endorsement from the Northeastern PRN which will be expressed in a letter of support signed by the Northeastern New York PRN representative, Pat Lincourt. The three key principles are: alcoholism and substance abuse providers are equals with researchers in establishing research partnerships; alcoholism and substance abuse providers should know what tangible benefits they will receive for participating in research projects prior to their committing to be a part of the project; through participation in research collaborations, alcoholism and substance abuse providers should begin to play an active role in setting the regional and statewide research agenda.
  - Lisa Good- Family Institute-Homer Perkins Center- indicated that she would be particularly interested in working with this NIDA grant if it is funded.

#### 4. MINI-GRANTS

- There is an opportunity for each of the 7 Regional New York PRNs to spend \$ 5,000 a year for each of two years, or to pool the funds, to support small pilot initiatives developed and selected by members of their individual PRNs. These pilot projects can advance any research to practice issues or activities which the PRN considers the highest priority, and the funds can potentially be distributed among more than one pilot project, if that is determined by an individual PRN to be the best way to support its activities over the next year. The funds this year need to be expended by September 30th. Each PRN needs to quickly develop guidelines for the awarding of their Regional PRN's Mini-Grant pilot projects, which needs to be completed prior to the fifth Northeastern New York PRN meeting.
- Pat Lincourt offered to create a work group from her subcommittee which is meeting on April 23rd to work on the development of Mini-Grant opportunities.

5. SUNY UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY CENTER FOR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT- PRN RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

- The SUNY, University at Albany, Institute for Health and the Environment, which is headed by Dr. David Carpenter, former and founding Dean of the School of Public, Health at the University at Albany has offered to have his Institute play a significant role, along with other researchers in other schools of the University at Albany, in providing research leadership within the Northeastern New York PRN. Specifically Dr. Carpenter has indicated that his Institute would help to organize a group of research scientist from different disciplines who could be available for consultation on a short- term basis to assist providers with immediate technical assistance on research and evaluation issues. This has been consistently identified at all of the PRNs as a major immediate need for many providers.
- Because of a previous out-of town commitment, Dr. Carpenter could not be at the fourth Northeastern New York PRN meeting, but he should be available to make a brief presentation at the next PRN meeting.

**NEXT MEETING**

1. The proposed date for the fifth Northeastern New York PRN meeting is Monday June 25<sup>th</sup>.
2. The final agenda for the next Northeastern PRN meeting will be finalized by Pat Lincourt in advance of the next meeting, and suggestions for agenda items should be sent to Pat by PRN members sufficiently in advance of that meeting so that the PRC Management Team can make certain it reaches all PRN members prior to the meeting.
3. The following is a set of preliminary agenda items for the June 25th Fifth Northeastern New York PRN meeting:
  - Update on National and State Initiatives
  - Subcommittee Reports
  - Status of RWJ And NIDA Grant submissions
  - Mini-Grant Guidelines
  - Research Leadership- Dr. Carpenter- SUNY Institute for Health and the
  - Environment