

**NEW YORK STATE PRACTICE RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE
NORTHEASTERN NEW YORK PRACTICE RESEARCH NETWORK
MEETING SUMMARY
ALBANY, NEW YORK
JUNE 25, 2001**

INTRODUCTION

The meeting was intended by (8) individuals, (2) of whom were researchers.

1. The following issues were raised at the meeting:

- At the most recent PRC meeting, there was a discussion about the potential benefits of having a forum in which a number of representatives from each of the seven Regional PRNs could meet to discuss, at greater length than time permits at the PRC meetings, issues that are of interest across the seven PRNs. The intention is for the PRNs to share their perspectives, questions and where they have been developed, solutions to various research to practice issues. There was a lengthy discussion and the consensus was that it was an excellent idea. Mike Roona indicated that such a meeting might be of particular interest to researchers who would be have access to a number of PRN providers from around the State. An unveiling of a new enhanced PRC/PRN Website at such a meeting would be ideal, as well as some presentation –brief- by each or the PRNs regarding their key achievements and or challenges would also be productive. An expert content presented in relationship to some of the topic areas for discussion might also work well. Showcasing the Mini- Grants in this meeting was also raised as a possibility. It was suggested and by consensus agreed to that the ideal time to have the meeting was in conjunction with the ASAP annual conference in October in Saratoga.
- The two possible times that were suggested were immediately after the conference ends in the afternoon on Wednesday, or during the conference itself. The advantage of the first of these two possibilities was that it might be easier to schedule, and the advantage of the second is that it would probably be possible for more PRN members from the seven Regional PRNs to attend. It was decided that the endorsement of the idea raised at the PRC meeting, with the two possible times would be shared with John Coppola and the planning committee for the conference at their meeting later the same week. Pat Lincourt and Bob Ross agreed to split up the names of the other PRN representatives to poll them on their reaction to this idea and to share the results of that poll with John Coppola and the conference planning committee as well.
- There was a consensus that more needs to be done to maximize the use of the PRC/ PRN Website and Listeserves. It was specifically discussed that training may be helpful for staff of some agencies, and that assistance from the PRN in terms of policy development for agencies on how to stimulate positive use of computers for research to practice activities would be helpful to many agencies. Also raised was the fact that it may be helpful for OASAS to provide some positive incentives in this regard.
- Mike Roona indicated that he had recently heard that NIDA was developing a new approach to the review of future grants in which potential grant recipients would be given higher scores in their reviews for demonstrating a positive link to community agencies who worked with them in the development of the research project and would work on the implementation of the grant and the dissemination of its findings. There was a short discussion on how the Northeastern PRN and the NYS PRC as a whole could best make use of this new approach by NIDA.

REGIONAL FOCUS/ OPPORTUNITIES

1. Mini-Grants

- The Mini-Grant Subcommittee met developed and submitted a proposal for \$ 5000 under the PRC Mini-Grant Application process. The purpose of the grant is to “assess the interventions currently employed by the PRN member agencies providing services to at-risk or substance abusing adolescents, their organizational structures and caseload capacities, and the institutional linkages between member agencies and other organizations in their communities that serve youths and their families.” At the

community level the goal of the Northeastern New York PRN Mini-Grant is to “build the capacity of the Northeast PRN to develop and implement research studies involving the coordination of service delivery across agencies providing treatment, prevention, and other services to youths and their families that will more fully engage the family and community in referral for screening, relapse prevention, positive youth development, and the maintenance of wellness.” At the treatment agency level the goal of the Northeastern New York PRN Mini-Grant is to “encourage contemplation about current practices by staff who intervene with youth to promote deliberation about current and alternative treatment modalities for youth to promote deliberation about current and alternative treatment modalities for youth and research regarding their effectiveness.”

- The PRC is expected to notify the applicants within a very short time.
2. Prescription Drug Abuse Trends
 - Following a brief presentation on current trends in Prescription Drug Abuse at the previous Northeastern PRN meeting on April 9th, John Eadie of the NYS Department of Health, was asked by the Schenectady Coalition on Prevention to make a more detailed presentation on the topic to interested prevention agencies in the area. The presentation, which was made at Conifer Park was a success and was well attended.
 3. Data Subcommittee
 - The Data subcommittee, chaired by Dr. Lloyd Loninger, Chairman of the Department of Biometry and Statistics of the School of Public Health, SUNY, University at Albany has not yet met, but will in the near future to focus on what types of data collection, analysis and evaluation activities are of greatest need to provider agencies, both prevention and treatment.
 4. Northern Tier Providers Conference
 - The Northern Tier Providers Annual Conference is to be held in Lake Placid October 3-5. There was a discussion at the PRN meeting about whether the Northeastern PRN would want to make some presentation at the meeting. If there is an interest in the Northern Tier establishing either its own PRN, or establishing a separate working subcommittee constituting the Northern Tier agencies and researchers, there would be an opportunity to pursue such a discussion at the Conference. Contact should be made with Chip who has pursued this idea to date.
 5. SUNY, University at Albany NIDA Grant Submission
 - Barry Loneck, the principal investigator from the School of Social Welfare at the University at Albany, presented an update on the NIDA Grant which he and his colleagues are preparing which addresses the need to bridge the substance abuse and child welfare fields. Barry indicated that the decision has been made to submit the grant at a later date and to convene a community advisory group to advise the grant writers on how to improve the grant from the perspective of increasing the degree to which the provider agencies have input on the design and implementation activities. The advisory group will be convened soon and will include representatives from PRNs and the PRC. The intention is to also focus more on prevention. The consensus of the meeting was that the adjustments in the grant preparation outlined by Barry Loneck would in fact improve the ability of the grant to more meaningfully involve researchers and providers on an equal basis, one of the main goals of the PRNs.
 6. Prevention Subcommittee
 - There was a consensus that there is a need to convene a prevention subcommittee to pursue an active prevention agenda within the Northeastern New York PRN.
 7. Robert Wood Johnson Grant (RWJ) Update
 - Mike Roona gave a report on the letter of intent for the Reclaiming Futures grant for the Albany area which has been submitted. Mike indicated that Albany coalition, which has at its core the involvement of the Northeastern PRN, has made it to the second level of review, and that notification should be fairly soon as to whether the Albany group will in fact be in the finalist group.

NEXT MEETING

1. The tentative date of the next meeting of the Northeastern PRN was set for September 6th. It was suggested that the meeting be held at the Conifer Park facility.
 - The following items were identified as possibilities for the agenda:
 - Recruitment of additional members
 - What are the priorities for the PRN activities?
 - Report on Mini-Grant
 - Report on RWJ Grant status