

**NEW YORK STATE PRACTICE RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE  
WESTERN NEW YORK PRACTICE RESEARCH NETWORK  
MEETING SUMMARY  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK  
FEBRUARY 12, 2001**

**INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was attended by (18) individuals, which included (3) researchers. The following is a summary of the outcomes of the Western New York PRN, Third Meeting.

**STRUCTURE**

1. The Western New York PRN will meet quarterly.
2. Subcommittees were determined to be the most productive way to advance the work to advance the work of the Western New York PRN between meetings.
3. The following areas of interest were identified and discussed at the Western New York PRN, Third Meeting. It was the consensus of the group that additional time beyond what was available at the meeting was required to fully explore the range of issues that the Western New York PRN should consider addressing in the next year, and to prioritize that list. It was determined that a subcommittee consisting of providers and researchers should be established to develop a full set of potential issues for the Western New York PRN to address and to prioritize those issues. (See Subcommittees below)
  - An understanding of the distinctions between research to determine Best Practices, basic original research to test hypothesis and evaluation should be reached by the Western New York PRN, and appropriate activities drawing from these three distinct categories undertaken.
  - More alcoholism and substance abuse prevention and treatment research in the Western New York PRN should be conducted in clinical settings in the future.
  - Research should be conducted into the impact of the gender of the clinician and the patient in terms of treatment outcome.
  - Research should be conducted into *how* clinical staff time is actually spent-distributed between direct patient care and paperwork to determine the optimum distribution to support the best outcome for patients.
  - Existing research should be reviewed and original research conducted to determine *how* clinical staffs can make the changes, identified by research outcomes to achieve better patient care outcomes.
  - Explore how to increase the effectiveness of the use of the RIA Website (and other related mechanisms) to match RIA research interests and capacity with Regional providers research interests, needs and capacity.
  - Expand the Regional capacity for translating research findings into a practical, usable format for providers.
  - Identify and share among providers in the Region, using the Listservs associated with the New York State Practice Research Collaborative and other mechanisms, results of various approaches dealing with dual-diagnosis patients.
  - Identify and share among providers in the Region Capture and Retention strategies that improve provider outcomes with clients.
  - Develop a process for determining appropriate projects, prioritizing the projects and awarding the \$ 5,000- \$ 10,000 in mini-grant funds available to each of the PRNs. It is understood that each of the 7 PRNs around the State have the opportunity of setting up their own process and determining appropriate awards by their own established criteria.
  - Determining how to best utilize evidence-based criteria in dealing with the practical questions regarding third party reimbursement which are at the heart of the financial stability of all providers.
  - How can a process be established whereby providers in the Western New York Region can gain access to preliminary results of RIA research prior to the formal release of final findings?
  - How can providers of alcoholism and substance abuse prevention and treatment services in the Western New York Region be in the forefront of making organizational changes- implementing new procedures,

providing effective in-service training, successful recruitment and retention of the most talented staff, and implementation of effective ongoing evaluation of performance and patient outcomes.

- How can OASAS data, including from the new DATA MART, be sent to decision-makers, at all appropriate levels of government to better inform them on a local, regional and statewide basis of the challenges, needs and performance of alcoholism and substance abuse treatment and prevention providers and individuals and families in need of service. This should include the equity of funding distribution by county measuring identified per-capita need and per-capita allocations.
- Reviewing the new data regarding the effectiveness of treating couples involved in domestic-violence to determine if city-courts and family courts can be better served by providers utilizing the new studies findings. Since some of those new findings directly contradict previously held tenants about “best approaches” staff re-training is an issue that must be addressed as well to fully utilize the results of the new studies on a practical basis at the individual agency level.
- An outreach to providers’ staffs of “Research 101” is most likely to be effective if set up in a format of a series of targeted workshop topics delivered over a series of days to maximize the ease of participation. Topics could include:
  - Where do we get information on “Best Practices”?
  - How do we set up protocols for how research is done and why?
  - How do we distinguish the difference between “research” and “evaluation”?
  - How do we read and best use research? The Western New York Consortium can be helpful in pursuing this initiative.
- What is the best approach to expanding the effectiveness of training staff regarding ethics of patient care delivery and research?
- How can some of the “Total Quality Management” studies and implementation approaches be reviewed with an eye to making them user-friendly to alcoholism and substance abuse prevention and treatment providers in the Western New York Region to improve quality of care on an ongoing basis?
- How can the data be used when the Opinion Leader Survey (Nancy Smyth) is completed to promote timely positive change within the provider network of Western New York?
- How can Western New York providers work with regulatory agencies to ensure that they can implement the staff changes they seek based on research findings without jeopardizing the security of compliance and funding stability.
- How can the literature on the “costs” associated with organizations not keeping up with research and development and staff development be identified and translated into a useful format to enlighten providers and their funding and regulatory agencies to make use of this positive management approach to “best practices”?
- The Western New York PRN should consider how to add additional research, provider, consumer and decision-maker members.
- The Western New York PRN should determine what policy-oriented research would benefit the provider network, and how best to pursue partnerships of providers and researchers in the Region to pursue this agenda.
- The expansion of the use of the Practice Research Collaborative Website, with a Western New York PRN specific List Serve capacity, as a means of accelerating communication among Western New York providers is of great potential value.
- The Western New York PRN should coordinate to the maximum possible its meetings and other activities with the Consortium of Western New York Alcohol and Substance Abuse Providers.
- The following individuals were selected to be the representatives/ alternates. For the Western New York PRN to the New York Practice Research Collaborative:
  - Cindy Hillman-Volker
  - Linda Riggs
  - Nancy Smyth
  - Steve Schwartz

**SUBCOMMITTEES**

1. Three subcommittees were established at the meeting, with the intention that all three will report at the next Western New York PRN meeting.
  - Agenda Subcommittee
    - There was a consensus at the meeting that the issues identified as of interest to the Western New York PRN for consideration for action during the next year, listed above, should be discussed, debated, added to at a separate meeting of a subcommittee of interested providers and researchers. It was felt that such a meeting dedicated solely to that purpose would allow for time to consider all appropriate areas of interest, and to prioritize them. Notification of this meeting will be posted on the Website and ListServe set up for the PRC to allow anyone from the Western New York PRN to be aware of the subcommittee meeting, attend if possible and send suggestions or comments to the subcommittee prior to the meeting for consideration at the meeting. The product from this subcommittee meeting will be brought to the next meeting of The Western New York PRN.
    - The following individuals joined the subcommittee:
      - Tammy Kinan
      - Lisa Linemann
      - Denise Fulkerson
      - Michael Venezia
      - Susan Lichtbau
      - Linda Riggs
      - Patricia Sullivan
      - David Markham
      - Ellen Roche
      - Nancy Smyth
      - Kim Walitzer
  - Prevention Subcommittee
    - There was a strongly expressed desire to make certain that prevention issues, concerns and needs be fully addressed in the Western New York PRN. Toward that end a subcommittee was formed to develop a prevention agenda, which would be shared with the Agenda Subcommittee, and in turn the full PRN membership.
    - The following individuals joined the subcommittee:
      - Denise Fulkerson
      - Linda Riggs
  - Research/ Evaluation Expertise Response Network
    - It has been acknowledged within the Western New York PRN, that there is a need for providers, especially smaller providers who are less likely to have on staff individuals with research and evaluation expertise, to be able to quickly connect with experts who can answer specific questions or assist them with short-term technical assistance related to research and evaluation. Research experts from institutions throughout the Western New York Region would staff such a network. The Research Institute on Addictions has agreed to assist the Western New York PRN in the establishment of such a Regional network.
    - The following individuals have joined this subcommittee:
      - Gerard Connors-RIA
      - Kim Walitzer-RIA

**DATE, TIME, PLACE AND AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

1. The tentative date for the next Western New York PRN meeting is the morning of May 18th, at the Stutzman ATC. It is the intention of having the PRN meeting prior to the Consortium of Western New York Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers, with lunch provided in between. The PRN will contact the Consortium to see if this is possible and confirm the date, time and place with the PRN members.
2. The following were identified as potential agenda items for the next meeting of the Western New York PRN:

- Presentations by the established subcommittees.
- Presentation regarding a “Research 101” Workshop series.
- Discussion of how to develop a mini-grant procedure for identifying appropriate potential activities and participation for use of the \$ 5,000 -\$10,000 available to each Regional PRN.
- Report on most recent PRC meeting and other statewide and national activity related to Research to Practice.
- Discussion on adding members to the Western New York PRN- researchers, providers, consumers and decision-makers.