

**NEW YORK STATE PRACTICE RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE  
WESTERN NEW YORK PRACTICE RESEARCH NETWORK  
MEETING SUMMARY  
BUFFALO, NEW YORK  
MAY 18, 2001**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The meeting was attended by (19) individuals, (3) of whom were researchers.

1. The following issues were raised at the meeting:
  - Additional representation at the Western PRN needs to be developed in the areas of consumers and researchers. A working definition needs to be developed of a consumer and appropriate candidates identified and invited to join. The SUNY University at Buffalo, RIA and other research institutions in the Western Region need to join together to form a core of research leadership to bring in additional individual researchers to participate in the Western New York PRN.
  - The Western New York PRN, in conjunction with the NYS PRC and other individual Regional PRNs needs to develop a more systematic and extensive use of the PRC Website and Listserve capacities to enhance communications and increase the usefulness of the PRC/ PRN initiatives to researchers, providers and decision makers.
  - The Western New York PRN needs to develop an active subcommittee on Prevention to pursue an agenda of key prevention research and evaluation issues to ensure a balance between treatment and prevention in the PRN. Linda Riggs expressed interest in this initiative.
  - For the Western New York PRN to reach its full potential it must develop an effective policy orientation as well, including representation of decision makers in the PRN. John Grieco, of the Eire County Department of Mental Health is the only such representative to join the PRN to date, and his interest may come from his prior provider-position. The issue of how to best integrate decision-makers into the Western New York PRN so as to balance input and the independence of the researchers and providers is an area that needs much greater thought and attention.

## **REGIONAL FOCUS/ OPPORTUNITIES**

1. Traumatic Brain Injury Overlap with Substance Abuse
  - The presentation made by Dr. Wayne Gordon of Mt. Sinai in New York City at the May 7th meeting of the New York City PRN indicating a 25-30% co-morbidity factor between traumatic brain injury and substance abuse was summarized at the Western New York PRN meeting. There was interest in Dr. Gordon's studies, and in the fact that he was prepared to provide some training to providers on how to screen for this condition.
2. Subcommittee Reports
  - Nancy Smyth presented a report of the Agenda Subcommittee which met in April, and which was attended by the following individuals:
    - Nancy Smyth- University at Buffalo
    - Susan Lisker- Stutzman ATC
    - Brenda Banach- Horizon Health Services
    - Margaret Braun- Eire County Medical Center
    - Michael Prutsman- Cattaraugus County Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse
    - Jerome Puma- Mid Erie
    - Susan Lichtblau- Clearview Treatment Services
    - John Bennett- GCASA
    - Ellen Roche- Alcohol and Drug Dependency Services
    - Davina Moss- Brylin Hospitals

- The subcommittee identified three potential projects for consideration by the Western New York PRN as priority activity:
    - MICA Screening Instrument
    - Trauma Screening Instrument
    - Motivational Enhancement
  - The trauma screening Instrument project seemed to be of the greatest interest to the PRN and was going to be the focus of the subcommittee's next meeting to pursue it as a Western New York PRN Mini-Grant application.
3. Researcher in Residence Program
- The Western New York PRN discussed whether there was an interest in pursuing Additional Federal funding to replicate the successful Researcher in Residence initiative already present in New York. There was no conclusion at the meeting about whether this was a high priority for the PRN at this time.
4. SUNY, University at Albany NIDA Grant Submission
- There was a discussion at the meeting about whether the Western New York PRN was interested in supporting the SUNY, University at Albany, School of Social Welfare NIDA Grant proposal addressing building bridges between the child welfare system and the substance abuse system. The consensus of the PRN was that both the purpose of the grant and the sensitive approach of the School of Social Welfare to treat providers and researchers on an equal basis in the development and implementation of the research project were very favorable. It was also seen as a plus that the main author of the grant is a researcher who is member of the Northeastern New York PRN. The decision was that the Western New York PRN should provide a support letter for the grant.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

1. The tentative date of the next meeting of the Western New York PRN was set on September 21st, 9-12 am. An effort should be made to maximize the collaboration of the PRN meetings with the Western New York Consortium.
2. Agenda items for the next meeting may include:
  - Mini-Grant report
  - Maximizing the effective use of the PRC/PRN Website and Listserves
  - Computer, grant writing training for providers
  - Presentation by John Eadie, NYS Department of Health about prescription drug abuse trends