

**NEW YORK STATE PRACTICE RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE
WESTERN NEW YORK PRACTICE RESEARCH NETWORK
MEETING SUMMARY
BUFFALO, NEW YORK
SEPTEMBER 15, 2000**

INTRODUCTION

1. The meeting was attended by 34 individuals which included 7 researchers. Representatives from SUNY, University at Buffalo, School of Social Work and the Research Institute on Alcoholism, also affiliated with the University at Buffalo, have agreed to meet to discuss how they may provide the leadership in attracting and organizing diverse researcher participation and input for the Western New York PRN.
2. The discussion during the meeting was active and productive in identifying the following:
 - The Research to Practice initiative is worth making a significant effort to establish and a sustained effort to develop It will take time to create the needed balance of provider, researcher and policy-maker participation The local focus with support from ASAP and OASAS is the preferred structure-bottom up

OBJECTIVES

1. The following objectives were identified for ongoing discussion as areas of interest for improving and expanding research to practice initiatives in the Mid-Hudson Region:
 - Evaluation of outcome-based prevention
 - Increased provider agency access to research expertise
 - Improving basic understanding by provider agency staff of research and evaluation
 - Gaining a better understanding of barriers to implementation of research findings for prevention and evaluation
 - Better understanding of longitudinal statewide comparisons of treatment and prevention outcomes
 - Better communications between researchers and providers-"cross culturally", including research, treatment and prevention
 - Focus on MICA issues
 - Focus on Engagement and Retention strategies
 - identifying incentives for agency staff to develop skills related to the Research to Practice area, i.e. regulatory relief
 - Looking at outcomes dictated by Managed Care restrictions, especially short term emphasis
 - Looking at addiction in the proper context of a chronic disease, in terms of other chronic diseases and the success of patient care within those populations
 - Development of tools for best assessing needs and interventions for specific clients
 - Identifying other successful, innovative treatment models, which already, exist for agencies to consider to improve patient outcomes

ACTIVITIES

1. The following activities were identified by the members attending the second Western New York PRN meeting as priorities that they wanted to be seen addressed in the near future:

- The Western New York PRN should put on a Research-Practitioner Forum for the bi-directional exchange of needs, perspectives, ideas, priorities etc., including a focus on highlighting current research, and practitioners sharing with researchers what they want from research
- Have RIA Research in Brief publications prepared by RIA scientists made more widely available to providers
- Have more RIA Research to Practice initiatives geared to researchers, practitioners and policy makers
- Establish a New Approaches Continuum which includes research, training and supervisory support, so that more new approaches to treatment which have been documented by research can be successfully put into practice in the Western New York PRN Region
- Secure a greater participation by representatives of rural programs
Establish a Core Group of Researchers to provide research leadership to the Western New York Region PRN

STRUCTURE

1. The following structural issues regarding how the Western New York PRN will operate were discussed at the meeting:
2. The following individuals will play a leadership role regarding establishing and advancing the direction of the Western New York PRN over the next year:
 - Cindy Hillmann-Volker - Spectrum Human Services
 - Nancy Smyth- SUNY, University at Buffalo
 - Sonya Mc Call - Cattaraugus County Council on Alcoholism
 - Linda Riggs- Cattaraugus County on Alcoholism
3. Kim Walitzer-RIA, Nancy Smyth- SUNY/ University at Buffalo and Rosemarie Goi- Institute for Addictive Studies and Training agreed to help coordinate the research leadership regarding a Researcher-Practitioner Forum and the securing of additional researcher input into the Western New York PRN
4. The Western New York Region PRN should continue to coordinate with the Western New York Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Providers Coalition to maximize the positive impact of the PRN
5. The Western New York Region PRN should meet quarterly