

Sharing of Strengths Roundtable – October 25, 2007 Training Summit/Albany
Notetaker: Jennifer Faringer

Diverse group represented by Community Colleges in Jefferson, Clinton,, Hudson Valley; 350 hour training programs at Orange County Council and Monroe County Council, treatment provider and trainer from Conifer and OASAS. We began the hour with specific program sharing, getting to know what each program provided and concluded with general strengths and weaknesses.

Specific program sharing:

Orange County Council:

- 350 hour training program and also CPP hours available
- Program runs Sept-June, 2X week and every other Saturday
- Program gives midterms and open book final, has some papers required
- Starting masters classes for those who are recredentialing
- No recovery policy in place, but preference is 2 yrs sobriety
- Works with VESID

Jefferson Community College:

- Rep has been educator since the 60's, developed internships
- Sometimes barrier to bring increased AOD specific coursework
- Very difficult to find programs/colleges offering all 350 hrs in area
- Barrier – need 14 students to make courses run, with 14 available internship sites
- College currently offers AOD intro course only

Clinton Community College:

- 31 credit certification program in place under human services area within (5) courses meeting 350 hour requirement, found it easier process to develop certified program rather than a degree program
- Starting process of putting coursework online
- Have 14 CD specific students
- Length of recovery is a question and an issue as is relapse
- Program has been running 4 years
- Conifer takes all students as interns, Conifer also hires many students
- (North Country Comm College has a 2 year degree program

Monroe County Council (NCADD-RA):

- Program in place for 15 years, great relationship with treatment providers who provide not only internships but employment for students
- Early and ongoing relationship with SUNY Empire, encourage students to seek Bachelors following their completion of CASAC 350 hour program
- Program has very diverse student body in terms of age, experience, education, recovery, gender, ethnicity

- Program has diverse and experienced faculty representing multiple modalities of treatment but also includes faculty from prevention, university/school based setting, private practitioners, MD's, criminal justice professionals
- Clear recommendation and policy that students enter program with 2 years sobriety, few exceptions are made
- Students course completions and attendance is monitored
- Units have pass/fail finals in place with some papers required depending on the unit

Conifer:

- Rep was based in Plattsburg, shared what they look for in employees – Bachelors a minimum
- Supports the need for solid internship process/program

Hudson Valley:

- 2 year degree program with 87 studentz
- Started CASAC program in 1995

OASAS:

- Chuck shared that OASAS is working on a policy around felonies

Strengths:

- Strong 350 hour training programs with a lot of experience
- Strong internship relationships and relations with treatment providers
- Issue of length of recovery recommended for students entering programs – for training programs recommended 2 year sobriety, Community Colleges can't make similar recommendation to students due to their application process
- Training program has made connection with SUNY Empire to encourage students to pursue their Bachelors as follow up to their participation in 350hr CASAC programs
- There is a broad and diverse student body
- There is a great deal of accountability for both the 350 hour training programs and community colleges within our group

Weaknesses or Challenges:

- Not all Community Colleges are interested in having AOD coursework
- Rural, northern tier challenged by actual numbers of available students as well as available internship slots for students
- There are many entering community college programs who are early in recovery
- Relapse issues abound
- There is no clear policy around students with felonies or misdemeanors
- Influx of soldiers from Fort Drum is impacting timeframe of community college coursework as deployment turnaround is sometimes rapid