

Screening Training

Co-Occurring Disorders Initiative
CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
410 Capitol Avenue, 4th Floor
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Background

- One of DMHAS' major goals is to continue enhancing the system for people with co-occurring psychiatric and addiction disorders.
- CT was awarded a COSIG (co-occurring state incentive grant) from SAMHSA in 2005.
- There are now 15 states that have these infrastructure grants.

Background, continued

There are several activities as part of the Co-Occurring Initiative :

- Co-Occurring Steering Committee chaired by Commissioner Kirk
- 3 workgroups (screening, service delivery, and workforce development)
- The implementation of standardized mental health and substance use screening measures is an important focus

What is Screening?

- Screening is a formal process of testing for signs of a mental health and/or substance use disorder.
- It is not a diagnosis and does not replace the bio-
psychosocial assessment; it should be done before the
bio-psychosocial assessment.
- Providers may choose to repeat the screening measures with clients at regular intervals throughout treatment, to test for symptoms after a period of sobriety, treatment or other changes.

What are the benefits?

- A standardized screen can assist in early and accurate identification of disorders, which in turn leads to an appropriate treatment/care plan, ultimately resulting in effective and cost-effective care.
- It helps create a more “welcoming” environment by letting clients know they can get help for both their psychiatric and addiction issues at your site, just by asking the questions.

What are the benefits, continued...

- The detailed nature of the questions helps to get specific with clients about their psychiatric symptoms and alcohol/drug use.
- It may indicate what areas need more in-depth assessment.
- It may indicate who the client should be assigned to (based on which clinicians have which expertise) for further assessment and treatment (for example, if someone answers “yes” to a question about eating disorders).

What are the benefits, continued...

- If someone answers “yes” to the suicidal ideation question, this would indicate a need for immediate attention rather than waiting to the full assessment.
- The standardized screening tools have been researched and tested for validity, reliability, sensitivity, and specificity.

The screening measures

The screening workgroup reviewed about 20-25 screening measures available in the field and chose four they thought were the best to pilot:

- Mental Health Screening Form-III (MHSF-III)
- Modified MINI Screen (MMS)
- Simple Screening Instrument for Alcohol and Other Drugs (SSI-AOD)
- CAGE-AID (CAGE Adapted to Include Drugs)

Screening Pilot

- 27 providers (mental health and addiction providers; state operated and private non-profit) are currently participating in the pilot.
- The pilot began in May 2006 and will continue through the Fall of 2006.

Website

- To read more about the DMHAS Co-Occurring Disorders Initiative and to download the English and Spanish versions of the screening instruments currently being piloted, please visit our website:

<http://www.dmhas.state.ct.us/cosig.htm>

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