Increasing Knowledge on Treatment of Co-Occurring Disorders Among Clinicians in Medically Underserved Communities

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Main Learning Objective

- Discuss implications for social work University-Community partnerships and empirically supported assessment and intervention for social workers in medically-underserved communities (MUC).
Statement of Purpose

- The primary purpose of the evaluation of the study is to monitor the impact of providing stipends and increased training opportunities to ICMH students.
  - Non-traditional
  - Primarily from MUC
  - Working in the field
Goals

- The formative evaluation of the ICMH program focused on four goals:
  1. To provide data to help ICMH Directors with continuous monitoring of objectives and outcomes;
  2. To assure quality implementation of stated objectives including the monitoring of student field placements and of expanded field supervision
  3. To monitor the impact on students of participation in the proposed program including a pre- and post- knowledge test protocol for the six seminars per field placement year and the planned advanced clinical practice classes in trauma each year
  4. To monitor the increase in the number of non-traditional older adult students recruited from the three medically underserved communities.
Background

- The researchers in collaboration with over 50 Massachusetts community-based mental/behavioral health treatment centers in medically under-served communities (MUCs) implemented the In the Community, For the Community Mental Health Training for Social Workers Program (ICFC). ICFC has increased the number of social work graduates in MUC trained in empirically-supported assessment and intervention methods for trauma, co-morbid mental health and substance used disorders.
Methods

- Baseline and follow-up data were collected on 215 students and professionals taking part in 16 seminars conducted by experts on topics such as trauma, cognitive behavioral therapy, and mental health and substance abuse identification and treatment. Data collected from 21 ICMH students.

- Pre and post-test measures were completed once for each advanced level course taken as part of the MSW degree studies and each time the student participates in the special knowledge-based seminars provided through the ICMH.

- The coursework itself will be offered to both research and non-research participants.
  - The difference between the two groups will include: consent forms, survey participation/non-participation.
Sample Description

- **AGE:** Mean age is 42.29; 76.5% aged 30 and older
- **GENDER:** 89.32% identify as female
- **RACE:** 86.46% identify as white; 5.21% identify as black or African-American; 4.85% identify as Hispanic/Latino; 2.08% identify as Asian; and 3.13% identify as more than one race
- **EDUCATION:** 54.32% have a masters degree, with 49.50% reporting that they are a licensed social work professional
- **MARITAL STATUS:** 51.46% are married, 16.50% are divorced, and 23.30% are single (never married)
- **DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUND:** 24.27% come from a disadvantaged background
- **PRACTICE:** 63.7% currently practicing in urban locations
## Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course/Seminar</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alcoholism and Drug Abuse: Identification and Early Intervention (Y2 Course)</td>
<td>Critical factors in adequate drug abuse treatment*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clinical Practice with Adult Trauma (Y2 Course)</td>
<td>PTSD and positive life changes**</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Criteria for diagnosis of PTSD**</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treating Co-Morbid Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders (Y2 Seminar)</td>
<td>Numbers of adults in US with substance use disorders***</td>
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<td>Theories of explaining high rates of comorbidity*</td>
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<td>Strategies for coping with cravings and urges***</td>
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<td>Evidence based skills needed in MHD and SUD assessment and treatment (Y2 Seminar)</td>
<td>Key steps in planning a client’s sobriety*</td>
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<td>Skills for refusing social pressure*</td>
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<tr>
<td>Co-Morbid Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorder (Y1 Seminar)</td>
<td>Identifying evidence based practices***</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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$p \leq 0.05 \quad **p \leq 0.01 \quad ***p \leq 0.001$
Discussion

- Increased knowledge
- Increased number of highly trained and skilled social workers who work in medically underserved areas serving populations in need of specialized mental health services in trauma and substance abuse.

Indirect benefits

- Increased promotion of empirically-supported trauma and substance abuse treatment methods among social workers, which results in better services provided to social work consumers as well as more knowledgeable and better trained social workers available to the public, both in medically underserved communities and beyond.
- Effectiveness of providing advanced clinical trauma classes and providing increased promotion of empirically-supported methods free of charge to people who are already working with populations experiencing trauma or substance abuse.
Implications

- There is a pressing need for comprehensive, culturally responsive social work efforts that support non-traditional social work students and training in medically underserved communities to help improve community context.

- ICMH will increase the number of social work graduates trained in empirically-supported assessment and intervention methods for trauma, co-morbid mental health and addictions disorders in medically underserved communities.

- Over time, an increase in empirically trained staff can increase the quality of care received by medically underserved communities and the type and quality of care provided by social service agencies located in MUCs.
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Thank you! I will now welcome questions and feedback.