CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN RESPONDING TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC

D. SHANE KOCH RHD CRC CAADC
PROFESSOR
REHABILITATION INSTITUTE
SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE
GOALS

• Provide a Framework of Five Main Themes Connecting Specific Challenges to Solutions

• Maintain a Strategic Focus

• Provide a Foundation for Later Discussions

• Promote Discussion Directed Toward Systems Intervention
CHALLENGES
ADDICTIVE POTENTIATION

- Substance Effects
  - Pharmacology, Route, Set, and Setting
  - Pharmaceutical Substances force us to think differently about these factors
    - Access
    - Acceptability
    - Ease of Administration

- Pharmacology
  - Addictive potentiation of these substances is a significant factor
  - Seed of progression
  - Ability to quickly influence individual neurophysical and neurochemical systems
DEPENDENCE VS DEPENDENCE

• DSM IV and the Problems that it created
  • Substance Use Disorders
  • “physiological dependence”
  • DSM V Solution

• Why does the term “dependence matter”? 

• The challenge of working with individuals who may be “dependent but not dependent”
ERICKSONIAN DILEMMA

• Who is Carlton Erickson?

• Coexisting Disabilities and the Challenges they Present
  • Pain Management
  • Dick Beardsley and the “Runner’s Toughest Race”

• Beneficence and Nonmaleficence
  • Balancing pain management with risk of iatrogenic effects
  • The pathway to balancing these two principles is not always clear for physicians, counselors and case managers
ASSESSMENT

• Assessment of “dependence” vs substance use disorders can be very difficult

• Clearly there is a need to assess individual progression and impact of substance use on all for BPSS dimensions
  • Biological
  • Psychological
  • Social
  • Spiritual

• Due to the fact that medical practice can be very litigious, physicians are placed in a very difficult position ethically
SERVICE INTEGRATION

• Identifying the problem can be the problem

• Responding to the problem can be a bigger problem

• Why?
  • Silos make case management and referral difficult
  • Treatment capacity
  • The referral process can be very complex and specialized training is necessary
  • Motivating consumers can be very challenging and specialized training is necessary
  • Policies and procedures must be clearly established
OPPORTUNITIES
ADDICTIVE POTENTIATION

• Increase Treatment Capacity / Specific Interventions Within our Existing Service System

• Increase Access to Addictionologists

• Build Capacity for Pharmacological Interventions
DEPENDENCE VS. DEPENDENCE

• Educate Providers

• Educate Consumers

• Create Opportunities for Regular Assessment and Intervention if Necessary

• Utilize Existing Standardized Tools for Screening and for Assessment
KEEPING CARL HAPPY

• Provide Relief for Persons Who Suffer: Our Goal Here is Honorable

• Search for Methods and Approaches that May Not Involve Traditional Pharmacological Interventions

• Rehabilitation Case Management Approach

• Familiarize Professionals with the Coexisting Disabilities Approach
ASSESSMENT

• SBIRT

• Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral Treatment

• Provide Opportunities for Systematic Training of Professionals Outside of the Addiction Field

• Create a Service Delivery Structure/Strategy that is Operationalized Through Agency Policies and Procedures
SERVICE INTEGRATION

• Hold Summits Based on 360 Degree Evaluations That Include Key Stakeholders in the Process

• Build Relationships Within and Between Service Delivery Silos

• Develop a Plan That Includes
  • Training
  • Specific and Coherent Intervention Strategy
  • Systems Level Policy Integration

• Local Heroes
SUMMARY

• In the US we have a long history of “waves” of substance use

• Each time a new wave hits our shores it presents us with new challenges, new struggles, and seemingly insurmountable problems

• Each wave has lead to innovations in treatment, service delivery, and overall preparedness to serve our consumers
THANK YOU!