

Implementing System Change



**A Practice-Research
Partnership on Trauma &
Addiction**



Western New York Trauma & Addiction Project

- ↳ **Mini-Grant** from the New York State Practice Research Collaborative to Principal Investigator Nancy J. Smyth, Ph.D., at the University at Buffalo
- ↳ **Background:** Psychological trauma is a risk factor for addiction and often a consequence of addiction. In addition, failure to address trauma-related problems can leave many clients vulnerable to relapse



Planning the Grant

- ⌞ Planning Group (PG) from the WNY Practice Research Network
- ⌞ Initially, an assessment study was the goal (with treatment implications to follow)
- ⌞ PG decided we needed to make treatment resources available first, then implement assessment study (so as not to increase staff frustration and confusion)



Project Goals

- ▮ To increase providers' access to resources that will assist them in better meeting the needs of clients with trauma histories
- ▮ Whenever possible, resources will be derived from evidence-based practice, or secondarily, best-practices
- ▮ Implement project utilizing a provider-researcher partnership model



Project Planning Group

Planning Group (PG) Composition

- Multiple treatment providers (6 agencies, entire range of treatment options)
- Erie County dual recovery coordinator
- Researchers & faculty in the WNY Practice Research Network

Roles

- Principal Investigator takes responsibility for project oversight & budget
- PG makes all key project decisions
- Research assistant (doctoral student) hired to assist on project tasks



Key Activities

- ⌞ Develop library of assessment & treatment materials related to trauma & addiction
- ⌞ Plan an assessment study
- ⌞ Plan a regional training to “kick-off” the assessment study & publicize the resource library



Resource Library

↩ Planning group reviewed & selected material

☞ Videotapes

☞ Treatment Manuals

↩ Two library sites:

☞ Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse

☞ Mental Health Association



Planning Assessment Study

- ↯ **Goal:** To identify trauma screening instruments that could be incorporated into clinics intake process
- ↯ Review & select several assessment instruments
- ↯ Conduct focus groups of staff to provide feedback on the selected instruments
- ↯ Plan design of pilot study



Unplanned Impact

- ↯ Viewing videos & assessment instruments in the planning group have served an educational functional for the whole group
- ↯ Provider participants have linked with county dual recovery coordinator to obtain training for all staff in trauma treatment paradigm (*Risking Connection Curriculum*)



Expected Impact / Next Steps

- ⌞ Provide training on trauma & addiction for clinical supervisors
- ⌞ Publicize resource libraries
- ⌞ Implement planned assessment study in addiction treatment & prevention settings, thereby integrating screening tools into clinic intake procedures