

Co-Occurring Disorders

Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders







- Discuss the relationship between substance use disorders and mental health disorders
- Examine the stages of change and helper tasks in working with members living with co-occurring disorders
- Identify evidence-based practices and integrated care opportunities for co-occurring disorders

Defining Co-Occurring Disorders





Scope of Co-Occurring Disorders in the U.S.



43.6 million (18.1%) Americans ages 18 and up experienced some form of mental illness

20.2 million adults (8.4%) had a substance use disorder

Of these, 8.9 million people had both a mental disorder and substance use disorder

Prevalence of Co-Occurring Disorders







Risk and Protective Factors for Developing Co-Occurring Disorders

Which Comes First: SUD or MH Disorders?











Risk and Protective Factors for Co-Occurring Disorders

Substance Use Disorders Risk and Protective Factors Shared Risk and Protective Factors Mental Illness Risk and Protective Factors



Risk and Protective Factors for Co-Occurring Disorders

Risk factors

- Characteristics at the biological, psychological, family, community, or cultural level
- Are associated with a higher likelihood of negative outcomes

Protective factors

- Characteristics associated with a lower likelihood of negative outcomes or that reduce a risk factor's impact
- Protective factors may be seen as positive countering events

Biological Risk and Protective Factors for Co-Occurring Disorders







Genetic Risk and Protective Factors for Co-Occurring Disorders



Risk Factors

Close relative with SUD
Close relative with MH disorder

Protective Factors

 Family sanctions against drugs and alcohol



Social Risk and Protective Factors for Co-Occurring Disorders

Risk Factors	 Exposure to trauma / Abuse Natural disaster / Wartime experiences Racism / Lack of economic opportunity Norms / laws favorable to substance use 	
Protective Factors	 After-school activities Hate crime laws Policies limiting availability of alcohol Strong social supports/community engagement 	



Environmental Risk and Protective Factors for Co-Occurring Disorders

Risk Factors	Life stressors
	Relationship issues
	Health & mental health
Protective Factors	Coping skills (reduce stress)
	Treating substance use & mental health problems



Common Co-Occurring Disorders

Five Most Common Co-Occurring Disorders



- Alcoholism and Anti-Social Personality Disorder
- Marijuana Addiction and Schizophrenia
- Cocaine Addiction and Anxiety Disorders
- Opioid Addiction and PTSD
- Heroin Addiction and Depression

Alcoholism and Anti-Social Personality Disorder



Alcohol abuse is associated with a number of mental health concerns, including:

- Mania
- Dementia
- Schizophrenia
- Drug addiction



Marijuana Addiction and Schizophrenia

"People who have a greater risk of developing schizophrenia are more likely to try cannabis, according to new research, which also found a causal link between trying the drug and an increased risk of the condition."

> - University of Bristol December 19, 2016



Cocaine Addiction and Anxiety Disorders

Continued use seems to lead to symptoms that are more indicative of an anxiety disorder, including:

- Paranoia
- Hallucinations
- Suspiciousness
- Insomnia
- Violence

Opioid Addiction and PTSD



Symptoms may be difficult to differentiate Prescription misuse to alleviate psychological pain

High risk of overdose

Opioid substitution therapy may improve treatment outcomes, especially with CBT

Heroin Addiction and Depression



Data suggests prevalence of major depression ranges from 2x-5x higher among heroin-addicted individuals than in the general population (Brady & Sinha, 2005a)

Both conditions have several commonalities in symptoms and impairments in brain regions:

- Pleasant effects of heroin use and depressive symptoms are exerted by stimulating or desensitization of the brain reward system
- Depression may result from repeated desensitization of the brain reward system as a response to intermittent withdrawal from heroin dependence



Stages of Change and Helper Tasks



Pre-Contemplation - Not Ready to Change

Member says and does:

- "What problem?"
- Unaware their behavior is problematic
- Not intending to take action

Helper task

- Raise doubt
- Build discrepancies
- Increase rapport

Level of resistance

- High; all 4 "r's"
 - Reluctance
 - Rebelliousness
 - Resigned
 - Rationalizing

Stages of Change - Shawna



Shawna admits she's been feeling very depressed 4-5 times per week.

She's been missing work, no longer interested in activities she used to enjoy, and friends have noticed that she is having personality and mood changes. Shawna has been using marijuana to help her sleep several times a week over the last few months.

Friends have tried to talk to her about their concerns, but she continues to defend her behavior changes as just "being tired" because of her poor sleep patterns and assures them she does not have a problem with marijuana or depression and doesn't need any help.

Contemplation - Getting Ready to Change



Member says and does:

- "Is this behavior a problem?"
- Beginning to recognize their behavior as problematic
- Starting to look at the pro/cons of continued actions

Helper task

- Evoke reasons to change by amplifying ambivalence
- Ask about "the good and not-sogood" things about the behavior

Level of resistance

 They may express interest in achieving outcomes but don't show readiness to work

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Preparation - Ready to Change

Member says and does:

- "What can I do? I need something that can work for me..."
- Wants options
- Needs hope
- Taking small steps toward changing behavior

Helper task

- Help member find best course of action
- Clarify member's own goals and strategies for change

Level of resistance

 Lower, but still present



Stages of Change - Louis



Louis has been concerned about his anxiety for the past six months; at times it's debilitating. He only feels relief when he drinks some whiskey with his Lexapro and Xanax.

This week he called a counseling center in his community, and made an appointment to talk to a counselor about the underlying causes of his anxiety. He also made an appointment with his PCP to check for any medical issues and ask about medications to help him function better at work and home. He did not tell the PCP about his drinking behavior.

Today, Louis is making excuses about going to his appointments, stating his daughter is "probably too busy to take him to his appointments", and that his anxiety "isn't really that bad, anyway".

Action - Doing the Change



Member says and does:

- "Look! I am doing something."
- Modified their behavior and acquired new behaviors

Helper task

- Help them find best course of action
- Reinforce the pros

Level of resistance

 Low; But they may not be successful

Maintenance of Change



Member says and does:

- "I am successful because I have changed."
- Able to sustain action for at least six months and working to prevent relapse

Helper task

 Help them prevent returning to previous behavior

Level of Resistance

 Low, but still present

Stages of Change - George



George, a 47 year old man, has chronic diabetic neuropathic pain, alcohol abuse history and a diagnosis of bipolar disorder.

George was referred to intensive case management last year because of suicidal ideation where he was drinking heavily during a bipolar episode. The CM connected him to a SUD counselor, inpatient CD treatment and referred him to his health plan for diabetic education, which George said was helpful for managing his neuropathy. The CM also provided psycho-education regarding alcohol use and bipolar disorder.

George admitted that he knew that drinking was not good for his diabetes or mental health. He was able to utilize his recovery supports, CM and Magnolia coach to keep himself sober for the last seven months.



Integrated Screenings and Assessments

Purpose Of The Assessment



To obtain a chronological history of symptoms and treatment for both mental and substance use disorders To obtain a description of current strengths, supports, limitations, and cultural barriers that will impact treatment Find out what the individuals want, what they want to change, and how they think that change will occur

Establish formal diagnoses, evaluate level of functioning to understand the impact on treatment, and determine readiness for change

Make initial decisions about appropriate care

Integrated Screening



SBIRT	 Screening Brief Intervention And Referral To Treatment (alcohol and drugs) – only trained personnel can complete
CAGE AID	 A version of the CAGE alcohol screening questionnaire, adapted to include drug use
GAD-7	 Generalized Anxiety Disorder 7 item scale which screens for anxiety
PHQ-2 (or 9)	 Patient Health Questionnaire for depression screening

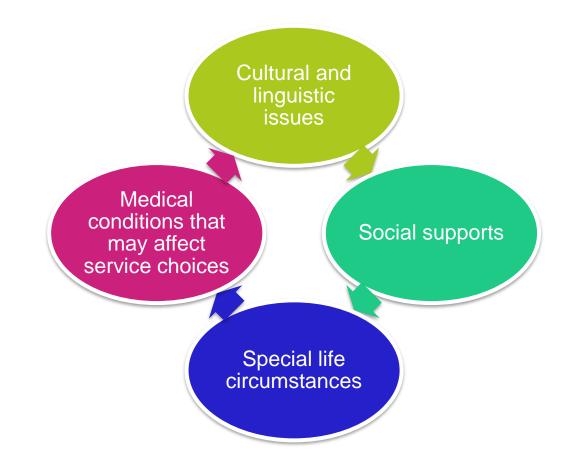
Integrated Assessment



- Begin the development of an appropriate treatment relationship
- In-depth assessments provide information that is used by the practitioner and the individual to create a treatment plan.
- Integrated screening and assessment should occur when an individual enters either service system. It can be conducted by the same practitioner or by different practitioners.
- An individual who screens positive for co-occurring disorders may be seen at the same or a different agency for an integrated assessment.



Integrated Assessments



Assess Using Multiple Approaches



In addition to the assessment instruments, the assessment process may include:

- A clinical examination of the functioning and well-being of the individual
- An in-depth interview

Assess Using Multiple Approaches



Areas assessment instruments may not cover:

- A social and treatment history
- Interviews with friends and family (with permission)
- A review of medical and psychiatric records
- A physical examination
- Laboratory tests
- A diagnosis is established by referral to a psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, or other qualified healthcare professional



Evidence-Based Treatment for Co-occurring Disorders





"The high rate of comorbidity between drug abuse and addiction and other mental disorders argues for a comprehensive approach to intervention that identifies and evaluates each disorder concurrently, providing treatment as needed."

- National Institute on Drug Abuse,

"Comorbidity: Addiction and Other Mental Illnesses", 2010



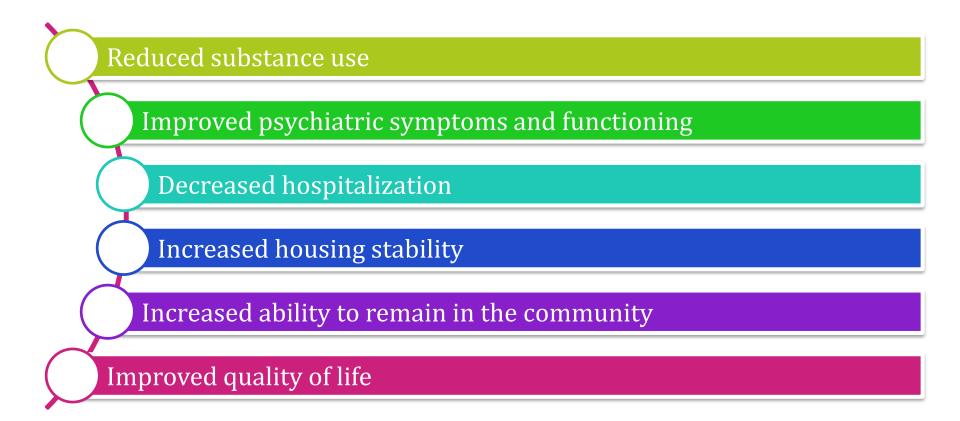


According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI):

- Integrated intervention
- Withdrawal management (detoxification)
- Inpatient rehabilitation
- Supportive housing
- Psychotherapy
- Medications
- Self-help and support groups

Integrated Treatment Benefits







Recovery from Co-Occurring Disorders





Involving members and their families or supports in:	Service/Treatment planning
	Screening/Assessment
	Treatment process
Involvement in the assessment	Enhance the effectiveness of services
Involvement in the assessment and treatment process can:	Enhance the effectiveness of services Yield better outcomes
	Yield better outcomes





- 1. Help members think about the role that alcohol and other drugs play in their life.
- 2. Offer members education on co-occurring disorders
- 3. Help members become involved with supportive employment and other services that may help the process of recovery.
- 4. Help members identify and develop recovery goals.
- 5. Link to BH services.



Strategies For Engagement in Recovery



Strategies for involving members:

- Self-directed, consumer-operated services which are operated by consumers and generally emphasize self-help
- Peer support services which are delivered by consumers
- Mutual support groups, such as12-step programs
- Consumer advocacy involvement in policy and planning activities at all levels

Strategies for involving families/supports:

- Family psycho-education
- Peer-based family education programs
- Family therapy and consultations
- Linkage with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) and other local support organizations





Remember the Stages of Change tasks of the helper when considering the needs of the member

Integrated screenings and assessments help us understand the member's needs, strengths, and barriers

Recovery is possible - look for ways to enhance opportunities for harm reduction, treatment, and after-care

Learning Objectives Revisited



- Discuss the relationship between substance use disorders and mental health disorders
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- Identify evidence-based practices and integrated care opportunities for co-occurring disorders





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