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Breakout Session: "Dissemination: Challenges and Successes in Working with Communities"

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Dissemination: Challenges and Successes in Working with Communities

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CMHSR within the UMMS Organizational Structure

University of Massachusetts Medical School (UMMS)

UMMS Department of Psychiatry

CHL (UMass Memorial Behavioral Health System)

Center for Psychopharmacologic Research and Treatment (CPRT)

Center for Mental Health Services Research (CMHSR)

National Center on Homelessness Among Veterans

Child and Adolescent Neurodevelopment Initiative (CANDI)

Center of Excellence in Addiction

Neurobiology of Addiction Research Center (NARC)

Brudnick Neuropsychiatric Research Institute (BNRI)

Center for Comparative Neuroimaging (CCNI)

Mental Health Agency Research Network (MHARN)

Transitions RTC

MHE&YOU Advisory Council

The Program for Clubhouse Research
Core Priorities:

Dissemination of Research Findings

Mental Health Agency Research Network (MHARN)

Mental health conditions require interventions that are often underfunded and underresearched. Many health care providers and policymakers are looking for ways to improve access to mental health services and to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. The Mental Health Agency Research Network (MHARN) is committed to advancing the field of mental health research and dissemination by supporting innovative projects that address critical gaps in our understanding of mental health conditions.

MHARN’s core priorities are focused on dissemination, which involves the process of sharing research findings and best practices with a broader audience. This includes the development of innovative research projects that integrate the latest evidence-based practices into clinical settings, the promotion of evidence-based mental health interventions, and the evaluation of the efficacy of these interventions. By focusing on dissemination, MHARN aims to bridge the gap between research and practice, ensuring that the latest findings are used to improve mental health care.

One of the key strategies employed by MHARN is the use of peer-reviewed journals and conferences to disseminate research findings. This approach allows for the timely dissemination of research results and facilitates the exchange of ideas among researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. By fostering a collaborative environment, MHARN aims to accelerate the translation of research into practice, thereby improving mental health outcomes for individuals and communities.

Another critical component of MHARN’s dissemination strategy is the development of educational materials and resources that can be used by healthcare providers, policymakers, and the public. These materials are designed to raise awareness about mental health issues, promote evidence-based interventions, and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness. By making these resources easily accessible and user-friendly, MHARN aims to empower individuals and organizations to implement effective mental health interventions.

In conclusion, MHARN’s core priorities are centered on dissemination, which involves the process of sharing research findings and best practices with a broader audience. Through its focus on dissemination, MHARN aims to bridge the gap between research and practice, ensuring that the latest findings are used to improve mental health care. By fostering a collaborative environment and developing educational materials, MHARN aims to accelerate the translation of research into practice, thereby improving mental health outcomes for individuals and communities.
Dissemination of Research Findings
Mental Health Agency Research Network (MHARN)

- Conferences
  - UMMS Public Sector
  - USPRA
  - NAMI
  - DMH Research Centers Conference
  - ABH Conferences

- Grand Rounds
- UMMS Provider Community
- DMH Listserv (1,661 members)
- Social Media (480 Likes)
Outcomes of DBT programs for adolescents and their families

Evaluation of risk data for program improvement & QA

Collaborate on grant writing, research project implementation, etc.

Genesis & UMass secured funding from Legacy’s Innovative Grants Program to develop & tailor tobacco-cessation strategies
Addressing Dissemination/Engagement Goals

1. Determine the needs of the community/agency
2. Form partnerships with members of the community/agencies
3. Designate Resources (Fiscal/Personnel)
4. Share research findings with various groups (e.g. consumers, providers, and other stakeholders)
5. Self Evaluate/Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)
1. Determine the needs of the community/agency

- Attending Community Meetings (e.g. CHL Meetings)
- Meeting with staff development personnel at CHL, DMH/WRCH
- Engaging community partners to assess needs for information and training on research findings and evidence-based practices
- Consulting with community agencies on:
  - developing and conceptualizing outcomes,
  - working with data
  - monitoring initiatives
2. Form partnerships with members of the community/agencies

OUR STAKEHOLDERS

- Internal UMMS/UMMHC
- Communities /Agencies
- Other State Departments
3. Designate Resources (Fiscal/Personnel)

Designate Resources: Fiscal

- Personnel time/skills
- Communication and outreach
- Planning/preparing products
- Attending conferences
Collaborative Community Research: Science to Service Examples

**Research Question/Goal**
- Can Motivational Interviewing (MI) improve Treatment Retention of Transition Age Youth (TAY; ages 17-25)?

**Collaboration**
- UMass CMHSR (PI: Maryann Davis) collaborates with CHL on grant writing/secures NIH funding for a pilot to test MI as a treatment retention intervention.

**Engagement**
- Research Team trains & supervises CHL clinicians in MI
- Clinicians refer patients to study

**Disseminate Findings to Community**
- CMHSR write & disseminate Research in the Works
- Research conference presentations*
- Research team submitted journal article
**Research Question/Goal**

- Do adolescents admitted to the MYR Program show significant changes from admission to discharge?
- Are there important differences between the adolescents who return to the program compared to adolescents who do not return?

**Collaboration**

- CHL (Marie Hobart & Dan Melle) collaborate with UMMS/Assumption (Len Doerfler), and CMHSR (Bill Fisher) to analyze SOCRATES data routinely collected at CHL on MYR clients

**Engagement**

- Project discussion/conceptualization takes place during CHL Research Coordination meeting (UMass/CMHSR, CHL, Assumption attendees)

**Disseminate Findings to Community**

- Project team presents findings at conferences*
Can a community Mental Health Center integrate primary health care and wellness services to improve overall health status of clients?

CHL & CMHSR collaborate on grant writing/secure funding for SAMHSA PBHCI grant

CHL & UMMHC collaborate to develop & implement the program

UMMS faculty/staff conduct evaluation study

Organizational change of the Community Mental Health Center.

Dr. Hobart and CMHSR/MHARN write & disseminates Research in the Works

CHL implementation team presents at conferences (American Psychiatric Association 64th Institute on Psychiatric Services)
Challenges Encountered

- Engagement of persons with lived experience
- Networking and establishing contacts
- Gaining recognition: UMMS departments and faculty/FB/Twitter/Email list
- Getting the information out while it is still new
- Working with researchers interested in having their products disseminated through CMHSR
- Scheduling meetings and working with other community agencies
Questions?

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University of Massachusetts Medical School
55 Lake Avenue North
Worcester, MA 01655
Phone 508-856-5498
CMHSR Overview - Vision

**Vision** - to make available to all individuals living with mental health challenges, their families and providers, the best psychosocial research available to help them lead happy and productive lives.
Mission - to facilitate the development and improvement of enlightened public health policies and services by providing innovative and recovery-informed research, training, and technical assistance to DMH and service providers nationwide.
CMHSR Dissemination Focused Entities

- MHARN
- MHE&YOU Advisory Council
- Transitions RTC
2. Form partnerships with members of the community/agencies

Community Agencies

- CHL
- The Bridge
- ServiceNet
- Clubhouses (e.g. Genesis)
Forming partnerships with

Internal UMMS/UMMHC

- UMMS Faculty - learning their areas of expertise for presentations & products (they won’t come to us)
- Academic Interest Groups - for presentations & products
- Developing relationships with contacts & knowing arenas for dissemination (e.g. eScholarship, Conquering Diseases Clinical Research Center)
- Other centers within Psychiatry (e.g. CANDI)
- Career Development and Research Office (CDRO)
Forming partnerships with:

Other state, community and non-profit agencies:
(grant writing and funding)

- **Massachusetts NAMI**
  - Peer support model of jail diversion

- **DMH, DOC, DPH and DYS**
  - “Jail Diversion Across the Continuum: Opportunity for Reflection and Planning.” A joint effort to develop a new collaborative to enhance jail diversion policies and planning for persons with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.

- **UMMS and MA Department of Mental Health**
  - Shared decision making regarding medication reduction
  - Community reentry for women leaving prison
  - WRCH - Assessing Major Mental Health System Change: An Evaluation of Process and Outcomes at the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health Worcester Recovery Center & Hospital

- **CHL and UMMS Collaboration**
  - Grant Proposal: Closing the Gap on Health Care Disparities
  - MISSION - Diversion & Recovery for Traumatized Veterans
Designating Resources: Personnel

- Developing concise and appealing products
- Web-based dissemination to connect with audience, other agencies, and communities through social media
- Planning and preparing presentations for and attending conferences/seminars (e.g. attended 9 conferences in 2012; coordinating CEU talks for agencies)
- Tracking dissemination efforts
Tangible Dissemination Results

- Psychiatry Information in Brief (eScholarship)
- Website and Social Media Campaign
- Stigma Fighting Video Campaign
- Conferences (Local, State, National)
- E-mail lists
4. Share research findings with:

Persons with lived experience, families, friends, providers, etc.

- **Online:**
  - CMHSR Websites
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Listserv/email list

- **In Person**
  - Conferences (for persons with lived experience)
  - Leaving paper copies at communities/agencies
5. Self Evaluate/ (CQI)

- Track efforts (e.g. construct a Database and continuously update)
- Seek feedback to inform future products/responsiveness to audience needs
- Evaluate dissemination results and determine how to move forward