

National Summer Institute on Addictions

August 18-21, 2003
Montague, Prince Edward Island

Evidence-based Options for Working with Resistant Clients

Overview

As a result of evidence from research and practice, the substance abuse treatment field has, in the past decade, re-examined assumptions about why people change. Traditional notions of denial and confrontation are no longer seen as the most effective basis for promoting behaviour change. New models are evolving for treatment with involuntary or unmotivated clients. In this Institute, we will examine the role of motivation in fostering positive change, and identify strategies to work effectively with ambivalence and resistance.

The Addictions Research Centre (ARC) of the Correctional Service Canada and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) are partnering on the first *National Summer Institute on Addictions*. The overall aim of this initiative will be to present up-to-date, evidence-based information relevant to the treatment of clients with substance use problems, and to enhance related professional skills. Participants will also have the opportunity to consider general application issues, and the implementation of the presented models/practices in their own specific circumstances.

Intended Participants

This Institute will offer a unique opportunity for professionals already experienced in planning and delivering services in various sectors, including health, social services and criminal justice, to build on existing knowledge and competence.

Faculty

Leading international and Canadian experts in research and program design will be presenting in a seminar format and providing input and leadership in the ensuing workshops.

Format of the Institute

A recognized international expert in substance abuse treatment will provide a conceptual overview to the Institute theme in an opening plenary session.

Participants will then participate in a series of seminars and workshops over four days. These sessions will provide a focused and interactive learning environment that allows participants to connect the content to be learned with the context in which they work.

Each day will begin with a faculty-led seminar that addresses the theme of resistance and presents a model or practice that is well supported by evidence. Following each seminar presentation will be interactive workshops, involving case discussions and an opportunity to analyze increasingly specific application issues in mixed- and same-sector groups (where there is interest, group(s) will be encouraged to continue discussions on the application of presented models/practices beyond the Institute, with support of Institute sponsors).

In addition, "elective" seminars will also be offered on the second and third day, providing participants with opportunities to acquire information on topical treatment issues with broad application across sectors (e.g., health, social services, and corrections).

The week will culminate with a summary of the collective learning experiences across interest groups and the general and specific application issues. The research implications of these findings will be reported at a national addictions research symposium being held in the fall, 2003. Participants will also have an opportunity to offer advice on future Institute topics, and a national best practices and training agenda.

A truly unique aspect of this Institute is its national scope. This scope will permit a rich opportunity for information exchange across sectors and geographic regions. All Institute-developed materials, seminar presentations, workshop discussions and reporting will be translated into French and English. At the outset of the Institute, organizers will, with participants, determine how to organize the small groups to best take advantage of the cross-sectoral and cross-language information exchange opportunities.

Registration

- The registration fee for the Institute is \$500, providing for the following:
- Advanced-level seminar presentations, structured application, and synthesis discussions;
- input into national research, best practice and training agendas;
- exceptional national networking opportunities;
- French/English translation of seminars, small group sessions and institute-developed materials;
- portfolio of relevant articles and resources;
- opening reception, lunches, health break snacks and the Institute dinner.

Capacity for the Institute is 50 persons and registration will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.