Standardized Screening for Co-Occurring Disorders

Research studies and surveys conclude that a high percentage of people in behavioral health treatment have co-occurring mental health and addiction disorders. Integrated screening is a formal process of testing for signs of these disorders and it expedites entry into appropriate assessment and treatment services. There are several well-researched standardized screening tools available in the public domain. The advantages of using these instruments include early and accurate identification, efficiency in information gathering, simplicity of use and scoring, a known level of reliability, and availability of cut-off scores. There are currently 30 mental health and addiction treatment agencies (state operated and private non-profit) participating in a statewide screening pilot. Based on more than 2000 completed screens, it is taking providers, on average, only 11 minutes to complete both a mental health and substance use standardized screen. Almost forty five percent of the people screened showed signs of having co-occurring disorders.

The tools being piloted are:
- Mental Health Screening Form-III (MHSF-III)
- Modified MINI Screen (MMS)
- Simple Screening Instrument for Alcohol and Other Drugs (SSI-AOD)
- CAGE-AID (CAGE Adapted to Include Drugs)

Pilot Screening Results

44.5% of people screened showed signs of having co-occurring disorders

Negative For Both  18.4%
MH Only          17.2%
SA Only          19.9%
COD              44.5%

To read more about the DMHAS Co-Occurring Disorders Initiative and to download the English and Spanish versions of the screening instruments currently being piloted, please visit our website: [http://www.dmhas.state.ct.us/cosig.htm](http://www.dmhas.state.ct.us/cosig.htm)

For more information, please contact Julienne Giard at 860-418-6946 or julienne.giard@po.state.ct.us

To view previous issues visit [http://www.dmhas.state.ct.us/infobriefs/index.htm](http://www.dmhas.state.ct.us/infobriefs/index.htm)