

**Call for Workshop Proposal to Present at
NASW-NYC 49th Annual Addictions Institute**

49th Annual Addictions Institute

"Substance Abuse in the 21st Century."

**Adapting to Recent Trends and Developments
in Order to Provide the Most Effective Treatment
Options to Our Clients**

**Wednesday, June 21, 2017
Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service
113 West 60th Street, NYC**

Background:

There have been many changes in Substance Use Disorders (SUD) sector over the past 16 years. Now, more than ever before, the use of an RDI (Race, Diversity and Intersectionality) lens is crucial in any analysis of substance use issues. The use, possession, sale, cultivation and transportation of cannabis are illegal under federal law in the U.S. In 2014, the Compassionate Care Act was enacted in New York State, ensuring that medical marijuana is available for certified patients with serious conditions and is dispensed and administered in a manner that protects public health and safety. Soon to be introduced to the State Legislature is a drug law reform bill that if passed will allow for marijuana dispensaries to sell pot-based products for recreational use to adults older than age 21. Additionally, a person would be allowed to have in their possession up to 2 ounces and grow up to 6 marijuana plants for personal use.

Opioid addiction has become a major public health crisis and, as a result, is now the leading cause of accidental death in New York State. In response, the state enacted legislation in 2012 to address the epidemic through the enactment of the Prescription Drug Reform Act. This act changed the way in which prescription drugs were dispensed to improve safeguards for drugs that are prone to abuse.

Harm reduction is a public health approach to drug use. It requires that the treatment professional develop whole new ways of thinking about addictions, clients and the therapeutic relationship. These new ways of thinking become tools for reaching the substance user and for improving treatment outcomes.

Finally, there is a shift in thinking about substance use disorders. The neurobiology of addictive disorders provides important breakthroughs on the actions of commonly abused addictive substances and on the function of neuronal circuits. A better understanding of the main cellular mechanisms and circuits affected by chronic drug use and the influence of environmental stressors, developmental trajectories, and genetic factors on these mechanisms will lead to a better understanding of the addictive process and to more effective therapeutic strategies for the prevention and treatment of substance-use disorders.

Questions to Address at the Institute:

Considering all of the above, how will the SUD treatment industry adapt to these changes in order to provide the best, and most effective, treatment options for our clients? This Institute will bring some of the most innovative progressive thinkers and subject matter experts to share their research findings and practice to inform what we do.

We welcome workshop proposals from all relevant fields of practice related to addictions, especially those that focus on practical techniques and pay special attention to the particular role the social worker is playing in the setting. Where relevant, workshops based on skills that are interactive and experiential are preferred. Workshops are to be 2 hours in length, with at least one presenter being a licensed social worker. For clinical presentations an LCSW is required.

Deadline for Submission for prospective presenters is Friday, February 3, 2017

Potential Workshops:

- The impact of poverty, incarceration and trauma in communities of color
- Policy changes
- Evidence-based practices
- LGBTQ Services
- Harm Reduction
- Medication Assisted Treatment
- Micro (neuroscience)
- Macro (environmental)
- Child Welfare
- Behavioral Health
- Veterans
- Advanced clinical skills and supervision

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