

DC COSIG News

SEPTEMBER 2006

Systems Change in our Nation's Capital

DC COSIG Lays the Foundation for Future Integrated Services

The District of Columbia Department of Mental Health and Department of Health's Addiction Prevention and Recovery Administration, working as partners in the SAMHSA funded DC COSIG (Co-occurring Disorders State Incentive Grant) collaboration for systems change, are pleased to announce three major initiatives that move us towards our goal of creating a sustainable approach to integrated service delivery in the District of Columbia and improving consumer outcomes for people with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse conditions. As DC COSIG nears the end of its first year, these three initiatives establish important system structures to continue the successful collaboration that has begun beyond the three-year grant period and into the future as the normal way we provide care.

The **Co-occurring Disorders Clinical Competency Certificate** program is a major District of Columbia workforce development activity that gives mental health and substance abuse clinicians and clinical leaders the skills they need to provide the best care for individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance use conditions.

The **Agency Co-Occurring Capable Designation** initiative represents the first time DMH and DOH/APRA have jointly developed the means to acknowledge program level capabilities. This interagency initiative advances efforts to expand system program capacity to treat individuals with co-occurring disorders. Look for more information on this topic in future newsletters.

The **Judge Aubrey E. Robinson, Jr. Institute for Excellence in Public Behavioral Healthcare** puts in place a structure for DMH and DOH/APRA to sustain and expand the interagency collaboration that has successfully begun under the SAMHSA funded DC COSIG. The Institute will embrace public providers across agency and discipline boundaries, and bring them together into a learning network for on-going data-driven quality improvement and integrated approaches to service delivery.

Co-occurring Competency Certificate Training To Begin

The Co-occurring Disorders Competency Initiatives, announced in July, are moving from draft stage to reality. The COSIG team is pleased to announce that the **Co-occurring Disorders Clinical Competency Certificate** program will begin classes October 3, 2006. The time for individuals to make application is now.

The COD Clinical Competency Certificate will support the upcoming Agency **Co-Occurring Capable** designation. In order for agencies to be deemed **Co-occurring Capable**, they will be required to have a minimum number of Co-occurring Capable staff working in the program. The Certificate Program for clinicians allows agencies to take a step forward toward Co-occurring Capable status.

The COD Clinical Competency Certificate

The COSIG sponsored program will be open to employees of DMH and DOH/APRA certified or licensed agencies, both public and private. A maximum of 30 students will be accepted for the first year's training. If space allows, consideration will be given to applications from other agencies that serve the co-occurring population.

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Protege Roshini Chatterjee, Community Connections, Mentor Bonita Bantom, DOH/APRA and Protege Chele Robinson, DOH/APRA listen and share their views on working together.



Protégé Lynne Saffell, DOH/APRA and Julia Maxwell, DCCSA/DMH enjoy the amenities at Harbortowne, St. Michaels, MD

See page 2 for "DMH and APRA Participate in Leadership Institute"

Co-occurring Clinical Competency Training, *continued from cover*

Who

Eligible trainees must meet the following criteria:

- Employed by a DMH or APRA certified or licensed facility for a period of not less than two years prior to registration. If space is available, individuals employed by a DC agency or facility that serves a population with a high prevalence of consumers with co-occurring disorders will be considered for enrollment;
- Nominated by the agency for which they work;
- Qualified practitioners and/or credentialed staff (Non credentialed front line staff with significant experience and motivation are encouraged to apply.); and
- Experienced in working with consumers with co-occurring disorders for at least one year.

What

A Certificate of Competency will be awarded to all trainees who complete the program.

- There will be two certificate levels – a basic Level I for non-Master's clinicians and Level II for clinicians who possess a Master's degree. Clinical and supervisory experience may be substituted for a Master's degree.
- Approximately 100 hours of face-to-face instruction and supervision by professional staff.
- Trainees will be given a final exam with the expectation of a minimum score of 70% in order to qualify for the Certificate.

Where & When

- The Program will begin October 3, 2006 and end June 20, 2007.
- Two full day training sessions will be held at the beginning of the program.
- The remainder of the classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 6pm to 9pm for three consecutive weeks followed by one week off. No weekend classes are planned.
- All evening classes are scheduled to take place at the DMH site, 1250 U Street, NW, 4th floor Conference Room.

Curriculum

Training modules will consist of relevant information on the particular needs of co-occurring clients, including:

- Screening & Assessment, Treatment Planning & Discharge Planning
- Psychopharmacology
- Commonly encountered co-occurring diagnoses
- Interventions (group & individual)
- Case Management
- Best Practices
- And more.

Benefits

- The Certificate is competency based and validates the clinician as co-occurring capable.
- There is no cost to the trainee. COSIG is sponsoring the training in its entirety.
- A wide range of materials and resources will be provided to the trainees.
- A \$300 book allowance will be made available to the trainee
- CEUs will be awarded for the hours of training. CEUs will be awarded only to individuals who complete the entire program.

Agency Nomination

Agencies are asked to pre-screen applicants for this training. Nomination by an agency means that the applicant is in good standing and has an opportunity to utilize the knowledge and skills they will acquire in the training. Agencies will be kept apprised of the trainee's progress and are expected to encourage and support the trainee.

Application

Interested parties may make application for admission now. For more information or additional applications, please contact COSIG Training Director, Lynn Smith at 202 671-0342.

DMH and APRA Participate in Leadership Institute

Eighteen DMH and DOH/APRA professionals participated in the SAMSHA/COSIG sponsored **Leadership Institute** in June 2006. A total of nine protégés and nine mentors, all employed by APRA and DMH certified licensed facilities attended a weeklong intensive leadership training in St. Michaels, MD. The Institute was led by Danya Institute, the SAMSHA sponsored CEATTC – Central East Addiction Technology Transfer Technology Center. Participants from Maryland, Delaware, and Tennessee also took part.

The nine protégés received a formal assessment of their management and leadership interests and skills prior to the training. From June 25 to 30, 2006, they took part in an intensive training in the theory and practice of leadership and management. Over the next six months they will complete a leadership project in their own agency related to some aspect of serving the consumer with co-occurring disorders.

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Co-Occurring Disorders Clinical Competency Certificate
Application for Admission to Fall 2006 – Spring 2007 Program

Applicant Name: _____ Date of Application: _____

Place of Employment: _____ Address: _____

Job Title: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____

No. of Yrs. at Current Employment: _____ No. of Yrs. in Addictions: _____ No. of Yrs. in Mental Health: _____

No. Yrs. working with Co-occurring: _____ Describe experience: _____

Highest Degree of Education: _____ Major: _____ Yr. Completed: _____

Licenses and/or Certifications held: _____

I understand that if I am accepted in the program I will be expected to complete all 100 hours of instruction and carry out assigned clinical tasks.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Agency Nomination of Trainee *(To be completed by CEO, Director, or Clinical Supervisor)*

Name of Agency: _____ Date of Application: _____

Licensed by: DMH APRA Both Other: (explain) _____

Type of Program: DC Sponsored Private Non Profit Private For Profit

Name of Person Making Nomination: _____ Title: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

On behalf of _____ (agency) I am recommending the above individual for admission to the COSIG Co-occurring Disorders Competency Certificate Training. I understand that the individual is committing to approximately 100 hours of training and the completion of assigned clinical tasks. Sixteen hours of initial instruction will be from 8am to 5pm. The remainder of the classes will be conducted from 6pm to 9pm on a weekday evening. This agency supports the intention of this individual to complete the program. To the best of my knowledge the information provided by the applicant is true. I am not aware of any personal or ethical reason to exclude this person.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please attach a copy of the nominee's resume to the completed application and send to:
Lynn Smith, COSIG Training Director
DMH, 64 New York Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002
Phone: 202 671-0342 • Fax: 202 673-3433 • Email: Lynn.Smith@dc.gov

Leadership Institute, *continued from page 2*

Nine experienced professionals from DMH and APRA programs joined the training as mentors for the last two days. Each mentor was matched with a protégé for the purpose of assisting the protégé with designing and carrying out his or her leadership project. In the interest of cross training and better communication between mental health and addictions, DMH mentors were paired with APRA protégés and APRA mentors were paired with DMH protégés.

The **protégés** were: Marsha Middleton, DOH/APRA, Lynne M. Saffell, DOH/APRA, Valentine Onwuche, DOH/APRA, Chele Robinson, DOH/APRA, Kimberly Thomas, Psychiatric Institute of Washington, Michael Leger, Anchor Mental Health, Roshini Chatterjee, Community Connections, Leslie Palmer, Psychotherapeutic Outreach Services, and Dallas Williams, DCCSA/DMH.

The **mentors** were: Marica Hinkle, Anchor Mental Health, Julia Maxwell, DCCSA/DMH, David Freeman, Community Connections, Carroll Parks, DCCSA/DMH, Richard Baker, First Home Care, Bonita Bantom, DOH/APRA, Joan Smith, DOH/APRA, Charles Hall, DOH/APRA, and Carol Ware, DOH/APRA.



Protégé Valentine Onwuche, DOH/APRA with Mentor Marcia Hinkle, Anchor Mental Health participate in a discussion of project topics.

The DC-COSIG Project is a grant funded program that joins the District's **Department of Mental Health** and the **Department of Health's Addiction, Prevention and Recovery Administration** and **George Washington University** in the collaborative goal of increasing treatment capacity for persons with the co-occurring disorders of mental illness and substance abuse.

Participating Providers/Agencies include DMH-MHRS and DOH/APRA certified or licensed providers.

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