



THE FLORIDA LEARNING SYSTEM

October 2008

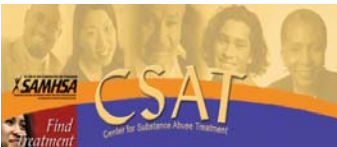
Volume III / Issue 1

National Partners

Substance Abuse & Mental
Health Services Administration



Center for Substance Abuse
Treatment



Florida Partners

Department of Children & Families,
Substance Abuse Program Office

- *Stephenie Colston,*
Executive Sponsor
- *Sheila Barbee,*
AR/STAR-SI Project Director
- *Ximena Johnson, STAR-SI*
Administrative Assistant



Florida Alcohol & Drug Abuse
Association

- *Mark Fontaine,*
Executive Director
- *Polly Ryan,*
Project Coordinator



Advancing Recovery Fall Learning Session

Chicago was the setting for the Advancing Recovery Fall Learning Session, October 15-16. The two day event titled **Building Whole System Change** was a chance for Advancing Recovery (AR) participating agencies to come together and learn from each other's successes and challenges. Sheila Barbee, Department of Children and Families AR Project Director, was in attendance and reports that she and other project directors were able to meet with their program evaluators from the Network for the Improvement of Addiction Treatment (NIATx) National Program Office for a briefing of their findings to date. She stated, "Each state is an individual case study and approached the AR initiative in a way unique to their own system." She added, "The focus now is on continuing with the evidence-based practices and, at the same time, shifting the focus to sustaining and disseminating what we have learned."

Several sessions were dedicated to introducing **Whole Systems Change** and the **Communities of Commitment** initiative, a NIATx project sponsored by the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. The initiative is described as the development of a model for achieving large infrastructure transformation. It offers a simple framework in which consumers, treatment agencies, and governmental agencies influence solutions and partner in their implementation. The *Whole Systems Change* approach was developed from lessons learned in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's AR project and influenced by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement's *Large System's Change Model*.

The model is guided by five evidence-based principles

- Fix Key Problems
- Pick a Powerful Change Leader
- Get Ideas from Outside the System
- Test Pilots and Rapid Cycles
- Understand and Involve the Customer

NIATx will provide support through coaches and other resources. They will utilize meetings and conference call formats for communication. The kick-off face-to-face learning session of this initiative is scheduled December 3-5.

Ms. Barbee reports, "States and systems were invited to participate in the Communities of Change and Florida has enthusiastically signed on." She summed up the AR Learning Session as "very energizing." She added, "It was a great opportunity to hear about the exciting changes in various states and for Florida to be a part of this movement."

THE CASE FOR PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

The Network for the Improvement of Addiction Treatment (NIATx) has produced a four minute video of NIATx providers, including Florida's own Angie Maldonado from The Center for Drug-Free Living, sharing stories of how process improvement has helped them improve services, maximize their treatment dollars, and recruit and retain staff.

[Watch the video!](#)

https://www.niatx.net/Video/videoplayer640.aspx?ID=podcasts/PIVideo_1024v5.flv

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Strengthening Treatment Access and Retention - State Implementation (STAR-SI)

The Sky's the Limit

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Partners

Year One

★ Drug Abuse Comprehensive Coordinating Office (DACCO)
Tampa

★ Lakeview Center, Inc.
Pensacola

★ Manatee Glens Corporation
Bradenton

★ Meridian Behavioral Healthcare
Gainesville

★ Stewart-Marchman Center
Daytona Beach

Year Two

★ A.C.T.S.
Tampa

★ Family Resource Center
Miami

★ Gateway Community Services
Jacksonville

★ Harbor Behavioral Health Care
New Port Richey

★ Jackson North Community Mental Health Center
Miami

★ LifeStream Behavioral Center
Leesburg

★ The Village
Miami

Year Three

★ Bayview Center for Mental Health
Miami

★ The Centre for Women
Tampa

★ Coastal Behavioral Healthcare
Tampa

★ Drug Abuse Treatment Association (DATA)
Jupiter

★ River Region Human Services
Jacksonville

★ Sutton Place Behavioral Health
Yulee

★ Tri-County Human Services
Lakeland

STAR-SI Year-Three Kick-Off Held in Bradenton

The third and final STAR-SI grant kick off was held October 16-17 in Bradenton. Manatee Glens, year-one STAR-SI participant, hosted the meeting of Executive Sponsors, Change Team Leaders, Mentors, Department of Children and Families Circuit Program Supervisors, Networks and other partners.

The agencies participating in STAR-SI this year are:

- Bayview Center for Mental Health in Miami,
- The Centre for Women in Tampa,
- Coastal Behavioral Healthcare in Sarasota,
- Drug Abuse Treatment Association in Jupiter,
- River Region Human Services in Jacksonville,
- Sutton Place Behavioral Health in Yulee, and
- Tri-County Human Services in Lakeland.



Rick Henkey, NFANI; John Fowler, DATA; and Tony Collera, CFBHN tackle the Egg Drop exercise at the STAR-SI Kick-off.

In preparation for the kick-off meeting, each agency participated in two conference calls and conducted an agency “walkthrough”. The new site representatives shared the results of the walk-through with the group and, based on their findings, chose an area to “aim” their focus and begin implementing rapid cycle changes.

Paul Rollings, Circuit 1 Substance Abuse Program Supervisor, and his team member Thomas Chen presented important information to the group on data collection. Thanks to the work of these gentlemen, data collection for STAR-SI has been refined. It will now be easier to communicate data with others and to interpret the degree to which a change cycle has been successful.

Plans to continue the phenomenal success of the STAR-SI project beyond the grant cycle are underway. What we have learned thus far is an integral part of the Florida Learning System.

Peer Mentor Training: A Natural Progression for STAR-SI Participants

Process improvement can be difficult. Having the support and expertise of a peer mentor to help guide you and your team through changes can dramatically improve the potential success of any process improvement plan. The Network for the Improvement of Addiction Treatment (NIATx) has established the development of peer-to-peer learning networks as a key component of the STAR-SI project. During the first two years of STAR-SI in Florida, our network of peer mentors has grown from four to twelve. The State has made the development of peer mentors a priority in the Florida Learning System / Process Improvement Model.

On October 15th peer mentors, (veteran and new), gathered in Bradenton to kick off the third year of the STAR-SI project. Led by veteran mentors and NIATx Coaches in-training, Larry Allen and Angie Maldonado, mentors were refreshed on “*How to Teach the PDSA Cycle*” and the important elements of the *Change Project Form*. Each mentor has experienced rapid cycle change themselves as part of a change team and has expressed the desire to “spread the word” about STAR-SI. By the end of the day, mentors were matched with their new year three STAR-SI site. Mentors introduced themselves to the year-three STAR-SI providers the following day at the official kick-off meeting and made plans to visit their newly assigned mentee site.

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...More About the Florida Learning System

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Networks

Central Florida Behavioral Health Network

Northeast Florida Addiction Services

South Florida Provider Coalition

Peer Mentors

Angie Maldonado
The Center for Drug-Free Living

Kevin Lewis
Chrissy DeWerff
Southwest Florida Addiction Services

Larry Allen
Central Florida Behavioral Health Network

Mari Alschuler
Jackson North Community Mental Health Center

Rosa West
Meridian Behavioral Healthcare

Laura Narado
South Florida Provider Coalition

Rick Hankey
Northeast Florida Addictions Network

Benny Haimovitz
Sapir Schwartz
The Harbor Behavioral Healthcare

Elyse Dermer
The Village South

Sherri Kincade
DACCO

State Coach

Dr. Pauley Johnson
NLATx

Advancing Recovery..... Looking Forward

As the Advancing Recovery (AR) / Robert Wood Johnson project draws to a close this month, it is important to reflect on the great strides afforded to the State, the treatment providers and, most especially, to clients as a result of this ground-breaking initiative. Three treatment providers, Operation PAR in Pinellas Park, River Region Human Services in Jacksonville and Spectrum Programs in Miami participated in the two-year grant to implement two evidence-based practices: the use of medication-assisted treatment (Vivitrol) and the use of case management to increase retention as clients move across program areas.

As a result of AR in Florida over 70 clients received medication-assisted treatment (MAT) with Vivitrol and over 500 staff received training in the use of Vivitrol. Clients on the Vivitrol protocol stayed in outpatient treatment an average of 20 days longer than those clients not receiving Vivitrol. Preliminary results show that clients who successfully completed outpatient treatment with the Vivitrol protocol had significantly reduced readmissions following treatment as compared to their previous treatment history. Other positive outcomes include increased employment rates for clients and increased overall client satisfaction.

When MAT was coupled with the implementation of case management, all three provider agencies demonstrated an increase in client retention in treatment. Sheila Barbee, Department of Children and Families Performance Management & Improvement Director and AR Project Director, said a formal project evaluation will be completed by the end of year. She added, "We will continue to follow all clients who were part of the AR project and received Vivitrol." According to Ms. Barbee, "The Advancing Recovery Project has enabled the state to identify and implement medication assisted treatment as an effective component of substance abuse treatment throughout the state."

Ms. Barbee reports that some funding has been identified by the State to use for MAT and a legislative budget request will be submitted to assist in funding. She said the State will continue to buy Vivitrol through the State pharmacy at the Florida State Hospital. The agencies participating in AR will continue to receive Vivitrol and two new agencies have been identified to begin MAT with Vivitrol. Southwest Florida Addiction Services in Ft. Myers and Meridian Behavioral Healthcare in Gainesville received on-site training in the use of Vivitrol in October. Gail Kempf, RN, representing Alkermes, (the manufacturer of Vivitrol), provided the training to medical directors and clinical staff at both agencies.

The infrastructure is in place and guidelines have been established by the State to obtain Vivitrol through the State pharmacy at a reduced price. Ms. Barbee said, "The State will continue to collect data on the effectiveness of MAT by tracking outcomes of clients receiving MAT through the State pharmacy."

Agencies that are interested in obtaining medications through DCF can contact Sheila Barbee at Sheila_Barbee@dcf.state.fl.us.

The Department of Children and Families Substance Abuse Program Office is sponsoring Process Improvement web-based trainings to lay the groundwork for the continued move forward on the use of MAT. For information on these training opportunities or to be added to the list-serve, notify the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association at fadaa@fadaa.org.

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