



# THE FLORIDA LEARNING SYSTEM

December 2008

Volume III / Issue 3

## National Partners

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration



Center for Substance Abuse Treatment



## Florida Partners

Department of Children & Families, Substance Abuse Program Office

- *Stephanie 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*



## FLORIDA LEARNING SYSTEMS MEETING

A meeting was convened in Orlando on December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, where representatives of the Florida Learning System discussed several critical issues. The group explored various mechanisms for DCF management at the State and regional level to work with providers and managing entities to deal with potential substance abuse funding cuts, lost capacity and the impact of such cuts.

The Learning System group discussed strategies to transform Florida's acute care and detox services to more effectively engage persons into treatment and promote recovery. These strategies included an extension of Florida's successful efforts through STAR and Advancing Recovery and similar projects in Wisconsin and South Carolina and collaborating with the recently formed FADAA Detox Workgroup.

Next steps for the Florida Learning System's **Evidence-based Practices Initiative** were reviewed including convening six regional Listening Sessions with stakeholders to identify mechanisms to measure the fidelity of evidence-based practices utilized within our system of care. This input will be used to develop recommendations and action steps to increase the effectiveness of the Department of Children and Families' substance abuse treatment and prevention system to achieve positive community, family and individual outcomes.

Gary Powers, CEO of Gateway, and Nancy Hamilton, CEO of Operation PAR, discussed the effectiveness and utility of E-Therapy as implemented through their respective agencies. Gateway reports an 80% completion rate for treatment; 74% abstinence for 6 months following treatment; 78% of clients receiving services on the first call and no outpatient waiting list. The Learning System representatives appointed an ad hoc workgroup to develop recommendations for expansion of this treatment alternative.

Sen-Yoni Musingo, Department of Children and Families, reviewed upcoming enhancements in the Department's capacity to provide access to substance abuse system data enabling providers to access new aggregate and provider specific reports. These enhancements are being phased in with the first step being access to standard reports. The implementation date for this phase is December 17, 2008. The second phase will provide reports on new National Outcome Measures and is due to be launched at the end of February 2009. The final phase, which will enable providers to directly enter data into the data warehouse, is schedule for launch on July 1, 2009.

Mission: This newsletter is designed to share information, findings, resources and lessons learned from two state-wide partnership practice improvement initiatives.



# 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

### The Evidence Gap – Drug Rehabilitation or Revolving Door?

*The Evidence Gap* is series of articles published in the New York Times which explores medical treatments used despite scant proof that they work and examines steps toward medicine based on evidence. Substance abuse treatment is addressed in the article below.

By BENEDICT CAREY

Every year, state and federal governments spend more than \$15 billion, and insurers at least \$5 billion more, on substance-abuse treatment services for some four million people. That amount may soon increase sharply: last year, Congress passed the mental health parity law, which for the first time includes addiction treatment under a federal law requiring that insurers cover mental and physical ailments at equal levels.

Many clinics across the county have waiting lists, and researchers estimate that some 20 million Americans who could benefit from treatment do not get it.

Yet very few rehabilitation programs have the evidence to show that they are effective. The resort-and-spa private clinics generally do not allow outside researchers to verify their published success rates. The publicly supported programs spend their scarce resources on patient care, not costly studies.

And the field has no standard guidelines. Each program has its own philosophy; so, for that matter, do individual counselors. No one knows which approach is best for which patient, because these programs rarely if ever track clients closely after they graduate. Even Alcoholics Anonymous, the best known of all the substance-abuse programs, does not publish data on its participants' success rate.

"What we have in this country is a washing-machine model of addiction treatment," said A. Thomas McClellan, chief executive of the nonprofit Treatment Research Institute, based in Philadelphia. "You go to Shady Acres for 30 days, or to some clinic for 60 visits or 60 doses, whatever it is. And then you're discharged and everyone's crying and hugging and feeling proud — and you're supposed to be cured."

Read the entire article at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/23/health/23reha.html?hp=&pagewanted=print>

### BREAKTHROUGH COLLEGE SERIES

**The Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI)** has created the Breakthrough Series as a collaborative improvement model to accelerate improvement worldwide. The Breakthrough Series College is a powerful way to help organizations adapt proven methods to spread outstanding improvements within an organization. It consists of three days of intensive workshops designed to prepare participants for collaborative start-up. The College is scheduled for February 8-10, 2009 in Boston.

To read more, go to: <http://www.ihl.org/IHI/Programs/ProfessionalDevelopment/BreakthroughSeriesCollegeSpring2009.htm>

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