



New Jersey Prevention Network Receives Contract for Addiction Training and Workforce Development

The New Jersey Prevention Network (NJPN) was awarded a three-year grant contract worth \$1 million annually to coordinate and facilitate the Addiction Training and Workforce Development Program funded by New Jersey’s Department of Human Services, Division of Addiction Services.

The training grant will provide free training opportunities statewide for those entering or presently working in the field of addiction services. Trainings will be offered at ten sites around the state, making it more convenient for individuals to obtain the training they need to work with people suffering from an addiction in New Jersey.

“Individuals working in the addiction services field need extensive training in order to become licensed or certified as an Alcohol and Drug Counselor,” said Joan Krier, NJPN’s Executive Director.

“Getting the appropriate training is expensive, but this grant will allow us to provide free professional trainings to over 350 individuals each year.”

Additionally, this opportunity allows NJPN to utilize quality assurance measures to improve the value of the training experience. The state’s goal is to increase the number of credentialed and licensed individuals working in the addiction workforce and provide high quality training so these individuals are equipped to best service their clients.

“This grant will not only increase the number of people working towards their certification, but it will also reduce the amount of time needed to take the required coursework without compromising the quality of education,” said Krier.

“In the past, it was often challenging to find a site offering coursework, and it could take years to become certified. Now, individuals will register for a program that will provide all the required coursework in a single year.”

The grant also provides for specialized training in Legal Standards and Facility Licensure Standards as well as, “Immersion” trainings: multi-day, in-depth experiences on subjects of interest to professionals working in the treatment field.

Another aspect of this project will be the promotion at NJ institutions of higher learning of careers in the addiction services field, by means of reaching out to these institutions in traditional and non-traditional ways, and by helping individuals find internship opportunities at locations around New Jersey.

Assistance with the CADC/LCADC testing process is expected to be provided, as will technical assistance and special trainings for agencies seeking site licensure.

trainings’ benefits...

- ✦ Free trainings for CADC/LCADC candidates
- ✦ Convenient statewide training locations
- ✦ Immersion Trainings in emerging topics
- ✦ Assistance with CADC/LCADC testing process
- ✦ Technical assistance on site license issues

NJPN's First Four-Day Immersion Training Draws Rave Reviews

On November 14-17, 2006, thirty professionals in the field of addiction treatment attended NJPN's first Immersion Training on Substance Use and Co-occurring Disorders.

The four-day training was presented by Jonathan Krejci, Ph.D., Director of Training and Research at Princeton House Behavioral Health.

By immersing the participants in a course for four consecutive days, the instructor is able to provide a comprehensive learning experience, which includes: lecture, PowerPoint, group discussion and role-play enactments.

Dr. Krejci's course design covered topics such as:

- Assessment and diagnosis overview
- Anxiety and Mood Disorders
- Anxiety and Personality Disorders
- Suicidality and Homicidality
- Sleep Problems and Psychotropic Medications
- Dual Diagnosis Assessment and Models
- Dual Diagnosis Treatment Approaches

"It was all so great. What a blessing to be a part of this training. The Motivational Interviewing and information on personality disorders were terrific. I learned so much," noted one attendee.

The four-day learning experience offered appropriate time for participants to demonstrate via role-play enactments various skills such as: empathic listening, open-ended questioning and reflective listening skills; and to practice basic suicidal assessment and motivational assessment.

Through open discussions, participants delved further into topics. Discussions examined the prevalence of Personality Disorders in substance abuse treatment settings and provided a "safe" forum for exploring their own countertherapeutic reactions and potential clinical pitfalls.

Dr. Krejci offered practical strategies for managing countertherapeutic therapist reactions to clients with Personality Disorders and as a follow-up to discussion, participants applied learned principles to hypothetical case examples.

"It was all so great...The Motivational Interviewing and information on personality disorders were terrific. I learned so much."

"Dr. Krejci's skill in encouraging empathetic understanding of the client's side of the clinical models and definitions, along with the dynamics of DSM (Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) and Motivational Interviewing, were invaluable," remarked an attendee.

Due to popular response, additional Immersion Trainings will be offered to address different topics. A replication of this course, with instructor Jonathan Krejci, is planned for early 2007.

This professional development opportunity was made possible by the Addiction Training and Workforce Development Project funded by the Division of Addiction Services.

For information about future Immersion Trainings, continue visiting the NJPN website, www.njpn.org.

Survey Reveals Parents Lack Knowledge About Designer Drugs

Prescription drug abuse and marijuana top the list of topics New Jersey parents know most about, however they are in the dark when it comes to Oxycontin and Methamphetamine, according to the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey's (PDFNJ) recently released survey.

New Jersey parents of 12 to 15 year-olds were surveyed by PDFNJ's Center for Prevention Research (CPR) in order to track their attitudes and behaviors regarding substance abuse prevention. This study examined parents' knowledge about drugs and attitudes about communication, along with perception of peer influence.



Although almost all New Jersey parents reported feeling well prepared to talk to their child about drugs overall, far fewer reported much knowledge about specific drugs.

The data showed parents know very little about Oxycontin (73%),

Ecstasy (72%), Methamphetamines (64%), Inhalants (63%) and Steroids (63%).

The survey also revealed that many New Jersey parents may be misunderstanding the influence of the opinions of their child's friends, as only 32 percent of New Jersey parents feel their child's friends' opinions are very important when it comes to their child's decision whether or not to use drugs. Both results demonstrate an alarming trend first demonstrated in the benchmark survey conducted in 2004.

...many New Jersey parents may be misunderstanding the influence of the opinions of their child's friends...

"Parents are a very important protective factor but what this study highlights is the impact of children's friends on their attitudes about drugs and alcohol," according to Ryan Androsiglio, the Research and Technology Coordinator for PDFNJ

"One thing that parents can do is try to be aware and perceptive of not only their child's behaviors but



also their friends," said Angelo Valente, Executive Director of PDFNJ.

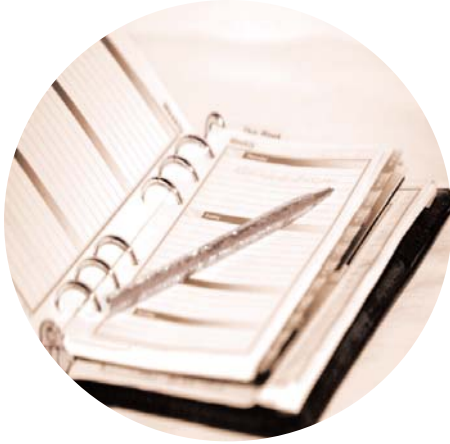
To help parents communicate effectively with their children and increase their knowledge about drugs, PDFNJ has created the "Get Smart New Jersey" campaign. The campaign is designed to get a message out to parents about designer drugs and substance abuse prevention in all communities in New Jersey.

The campaign is multifaceted with transit, billboard, and newspaper components. "Most importantly," Valente noted, "is the companion website GetSmartNJ.com which features information on the drugs parents were found to know little about."

The research study found 70 percent of New Jersey parents see or hear commercials or ads about the risks of drugs or alcohol at least once a week.

"This survey found that the more parents hear about a certain drug, the more knowledgeable they feel about the risks associated with it," said Valente.

Upcoming events in your community...



Prevention pieces

MONMOUTH COUNTY

Breakfast Seminar on Drug Testing In the Schools

On Monday, January 29, 2007, Prevention First and the Monmouth County Prosecutor's Office will present a "Breakfast Seminar on Drug Testing In the Schools." The program, which will focus on Steroid use, will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at the Branches Restaurant in Long Branch, New Jersey. The fee for the seminar is \$25.

For more information, contact Barbara Sprechman at 732-663-1800 ext. 11 or email bsprechman@preventionfirst.net.

OCEAN COUNTY

It's All About Character

On Thursday, February 8, 2007, Prevention First of Monmouth County and Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Ocean, Inc. will co-host a one-day conference entitled, "It's All About Character."

The event will take place at the Crystal Point Yacht Club (300 River Road, Point Pleasant, NJ), from 8 a.m to 3 p.m. Dr. Mike Thomson will serve as the conference speaker on the topic of character education.

The fee for the event is \$65 and a continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Recertification credits and DOE credits are available. For more information, contact Donna Greene at 732-367-5515.

STATEWIDE

2007 Annual NJPN Prevention Conference

Mark your calendars now! The New Jersey Prevention Network will hold its 7th Annual Prevention Conference on Friday, March 2, 2007. The day-long conference will be held at the Ocean Place Resort & Conference Center from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. This year's conference theme will focus on prescription and over-the-counter drug abuse. Dr. Dennis Embry will serve as this year's keynote speaker.

Additional registration information will be released shortly. Please continue visiting the NJPN website, www.njpn.org, for updated information.

**Registration info
coming soon!**

7th Annual prevention conference

march 2, 2007

Ocean Place Resort & Conference Center
Long Branch, New Jersey

workshop topics:

** Workshops subject to change*

Marijuana

Internet Gambling

Methamphetamine

**At-Risk
Youth**

GANGS

Heroin

ADHD

**Self-Mutilating
Behavior**

Rx & OTC Drug Abuse

Underage Drinking

**Kids & Grief
Management**

STEROIDS

Internet Crime & Safety

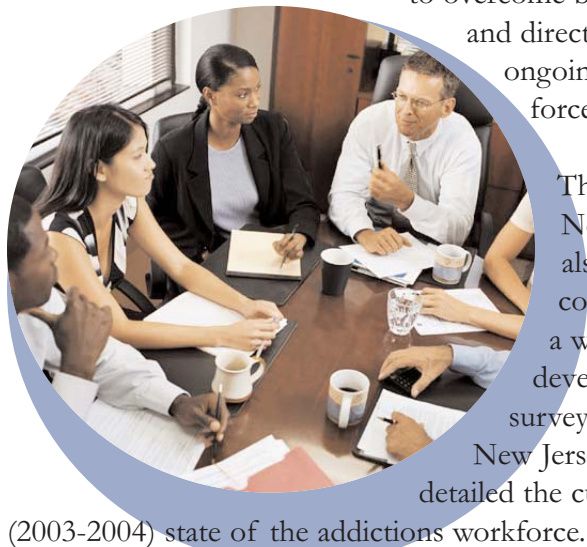
NeATTC Helps Spur Workforce Development Initiative in New Jersey

In 2001, New York State took drastic action to remedy their addictions workforce crisis.

After two years of New York State effort, the Northeast Addiction Technology Transfer Center (NeATTC) facilitated a collaboration between New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania so that New Jersey and Pennsylvania could benefit from the innovative workforce development thinking and strategies that New York state had already implemented.

The shared learning greatly benefited the three Single State Authorities (SSAs).

Each SSA formed workforce development task forces, which with NeATTC facilitation, convened meetings where participants discussed workforce development plans and methods for implementation, devised methods to overcome barriers, and directed ongoing workforce efforts.



The NeATTC also conducted a workforce development survey for New Jersey, which detailed the current (2003-2004) state of the addictions workforce.

The survey highlighted issues in the state including the following: staff turnover rates are high, many agencies are having difficulty recruiting and training a sufficient number of qualified professionals to meet current needs, many agencies are understaffed and cannot meet treatment demand, salaries are extremely low in comparison to salaries in other healthcare and service fields such as teachers and/or nurses, and the workforce is aging.

NeATTC Workforce Development Initiative Information

www.neattc.org

In the past three years, with hard work and a boost from regional collaboration, New Jersey has made some great strides in addressing addictions workforce issues. Through the state-run residential college program, New Jersey has helped more than 60 providers receive CADC certification.

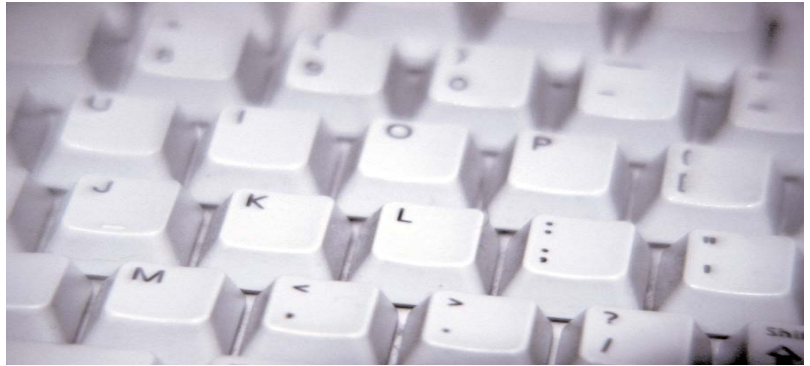
To help give more people experience in the field, while providing important recovery support services necessary for a continuum of care, New Jersey has also introduced a certificate for recovery mentors.

Additionally, the State has compiled a resource book for college and university field instructors designed to assist students in easily finding a field placement; initiated marketing and outreach efforts to make those outside the field aware of the rewards of a career as an addiction services provider; provided over 100 scholarships to help professionals achieve certification as chemical dependency associates; and developed and offered an innovative program, New Jersey Access Initiative (NJAI). The NJAI trains mentors to help those recovering from opioid dependence transition into the community.

These represent some solid and measurable strides New Jersey is taking to revitalize and build their addictions workforce. Even with recent leadership changes in the State, workforce development efforts are still strong.

Want to learn more about the
New Jersey
Prevention Network or our
member agencies?

Visit us online at
www.njpn.org



Member Agencies

Atlantic Prevention Resources

609-272-0101
Leg. Districts 1, 2, 3, 9

**The Center for Alcohol and
Drug Resources - Bergen County**

201-488-8680
Leg. Districts 32, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40

**Prevention Plus of Burlington
County**

609-261-0001
Leg. Districts 7, 8, 9, 30

**Camden County Council on
Alcoholism & Drug Abuse**

856-427-6553
Leg. Districts 4, 5, 6, 7

**Cape Assist - Cape May Council
on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse**

609-522-5960
Leg. District 1

Essex Prevention Resources

973-571-2324
Leg. 21, 27, 28, 29, 34, 36, 40

**The Southwest Council -
Gloucester, Salem and
Cumberland Counties**

856-794-1011
Leg. Districts 1, 3, 4, 5

**Partners in Prevention
Hudson County Inc.**

201-653-6776
Leg. Districts 31, 32, 33

Hunterdon Prevention Resources

908-782-3909
Leg. Districts 23, 24

**Mercer Council on Alcoholism &
Drug Addiction (MCADA)**

609-396-5874
Leg. Districts 12, 14, 15, 30

**NCADD of Middlesex
County, Inc.**

732-254-3344
Leg. Districts 13, 14, 17, 18, 19, 22

**Prevention First -
Monmouth County**

732-663-1800
Leg. 10, 11, 12, 13, 30

Morris County Prevention is Key

973-625-1998
Leg. Districts 16, 21, 24, 25, 26

**Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Council of Ocean (ADACO)**

732-367-5515
Leg. Districts 9, 10, 30

**Passaic County Council on
Alcoholism & Drug Abuse
Prevention**

973-473-3366
Leg. Districts 26, 34, 35, 36, 40

**Somerset Council on Alcoholism &
Drug Dependency**

908-722-4900
Leg. Districts 16, 17, 21, 22

**Center for Prevention and
Counseling - Sussex County**

973-383-4787
Leg. District 24

Prevention Links - Union County

732-381-4100
Leg. Districts 20, 21, 22, 29

**Community Prevention
Resources - Warren County**

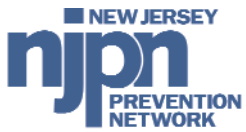
908-835-1800
Leg. District 23

NJPN *Connections* is written for network member agencies, legislators and friends of the network. If you have any questions or comments about the newsletter, please call us at 732-367-0611.

Connections

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Statewide Prevention
and Training Resources

New Jersey Prevention Network

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