



Building Professional Excellence- Part 3

Session 2: Family-Inclusive Substance Abuse Counseling for Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Webinar Follow-up Question and Answer Session with Dr. Asha Dickerson.

1. **Question from Ida Duplechin**

Was that 15% or 50% children in custody because of parents' drug use?

Answer

50%

2. **Question from Jessica Sims**

How were you able to get your LPC and work within Child Protective Services?

Answer

The state of Alabama allowed LPCs to be contract providers. Prior to that receiving my masters, I was a Social Service Case Worker in the foster care program for about 4 years.

3. **Question from Elzbieta Wojnarowska**

From your experience, how realistic/plausible is it to include family members in therapy, taking into consideration the logistical issues in community agencies, insurance limitations, etc.?

Answer

The only issue that I have ever had is that some family members refuse to come to therapy. Insurance reimbursement for residential substance abuse services are usually different from individual sessions for the worried well in that agencies commonly bill for days rather than each separate service. If the substances are being used by a teen, most third party payees will allow billing for family services as well.

4. **Question from Kathy Heatley**

I work at a Domestic Violence Shelter. We have clients of all ethnic minorities. How do you suggest we educate our staff about this information because it is so important. Can you recommend any educational tools?

Answer

Many agencies require yearly cultural competence and sensitivity training. Consider an in-service where administrators can review cultural competence and stress the importance of engaging in consultation when necessary. The Multicultural Awareness, Knowledge, and Skills Survey (MAKSS) can also be useful in determining individual competence. It is easily found via an internet search.

5. **Question from Tanya White**

Any recommendations for the Jewish community?

Answer

Here are a few recommendations:



- Recognize that The Jewish population in the U.S. is falling rapidly due to low fertility and “marrying out”
- Traditionally, women are seen as separate but equal. It may be seen as unnatural not to get married.
- There are many types of Orthodox Jews (modern, rabbinical, American). Get clarification and determine if and how this may effect therapy.

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