Support Across the Internet

The Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) of New England offers on-line courses on substance related topics. These courses typically are given over four or five weeks for a fee of $40. Upcoming courses include:

- February 28, 2005 - Stages of Change
- March 7, 2005 – Introduction to Club Drugs
- March 7, 2005 – Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- March 14, 2005 – Motivational Interviewing
- March 28, 2005 - Case Management in Substance Abuse
- April 4, 2005 – A System for Supervision

April 7th is National Alcohol Screening Day

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides an online interactive version of the Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test (AUDIT) feedback that may be a useful tool.
http://getfit.samhsa.gov/Alcohol/tests/alcoholtest.aspx

Industry

Girlie Pops: Exploiting Young Girls to Drink

In December 2004, the American Medical Association (AMA) released the results of two nationwide polls that find a new kind of drink called “alcopops” or “girlie drinks” to be a “gateway” alcoholic beverage for young, inexperienced drinkers. The alcohol industry claims to target legal-aged drinkers but the AMA polls reveal that underage children see more alcopop ads than their legal-age counterparts. A third of all girls over 12 have tried these popular new alcoholic drinks, but their sweet flavors attempt to conceal the dangerous health consequences of underage drinking.

Navigating the Addiction Maze

The 3rd Mapping the Addiction Maze meeting was held January 27th at Lebanon College. Hosted by the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center’s Office of Community Health Improvement and Benefits and co-sponsored by DCARE, the meeting brought together about 70 individuals engaged in addressing substance use issues to exchange information, share experiences and brainstorm solutions. Project updates were shared, a map of addictions services in the community was presented by Carr Robertson and Don Kollisch, a panel discussed Drug Courts, another panel presented information on regional funding opportunities and there was lively discussion.

To receive notification of future Maze meetings as well as an e-newsletter, send an email request to: sherry.b.calkins@hitchcock.org.

An organization to watch

The New Hampshire Task Force on Women & Addiction (NHTFWA) is a statewide network of advocates dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk, addicted and recovering women and girls though education, collaboration and empowerment.

info@nhtfwa.org or visit www.nhtfwa.org
Learning Opportunities

In the Dartmouth Community

Stress Control Class, 5:30 – 7:30pm Feb 28, March 7 & 14, 2005. First class in DHMC Auditorium C. A practical set of techniques proven to reduce anxiety and manage stress. Cost: $100 per person (may be reimbursable through some insurance). To register, contact Bernadette Braley (603) 653-1545 or e-mail HIP@hitchcock.org

Tobacco Summit, March 18, 2005. Michael C. Fiore, MD, MPH, Director of the Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention and Professor of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin Medical School, a national leader in addressing tobacco issues, will present at Medicine Grand Rounds on March 18th at 8:00 am in Auditorium E at DHMC open to the public. It will be followed with a half-day internal DHC Summit on Tobacco dedicated to Dr. C. Everett Koop.

“Can You Teach Compassion?” is the title of the annual Chambers Lecture, 8-9am March 4th, at DHMC, to be given by Joseph O’Donnell, MD, Professor of Medicine, and co-chair DCARE Planning Council. Dr. O’Donnell was recently inducted into the Gold Humanism Honor Society in recognition of exemplary service to others, integrity, clinical excellence, and compassionate and respectful relationships with patients.

2nd Annual Dartmouth Symposium on Substance Use, Science and Service: Focus on Youth, 8:30am-4:30pm on Thursday, May 26th, Collis Common Ground, Hanover, NH. Info: 646-9215.

Around the Region

Ongoing: Best Practices in Substance Abuse Treatment, 2nd Thursday of the month from 10am-12pm, at the NH Department of Health and Human Services Main Building in the Dr. Thomas Fox Memorial Chapel, 105 Pleasant Street, Concord, NH. Upcoming topics include: March 10th, New Treatments for Opiate Addiction: Buprenorphine, Speaker: TBA

The quarterly General Membership meeting of the New Hampshire Task Force on Women & Addiction will be held March 7th from 5-7 pm Community Campus in Portsmouth. Complimentary dinner and supervised children’s play area provided. All are welcome. For more information on the task force or meeting, email info@nhtfwa.org.

* SAVE THE DATE *


Policy Watch

Dartmouth College

In October, Dean of the College Jim Larimore charged a new committee of 5 administrators and 6 students with updating Social Event Management Procedures (SEMP) to increase health and safety of the campus community, improve efficiency and ensure compliance with recent changes in New Hampshire state alcohol laws. Chaired by Associate Dean of Student Life, Joseph Cassidy, the committee solicited input from interested individuals and organizations through January. Recommendations are expected in March. More info: http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sao/semp.html

Federal

President Bush’s proposed FY 2006 budget is expected to have major impact on drug policy and funding. According to a report by Carnevale Associates, reduced federal spending for prevention and law enforcement programs will require state and local governments to assume greater fiscal responsibility for solutions to drug use problems and trafficking. http://www.carnevaleassociates.com/publications.html
Evolving Regional Resources

Habit Management, a provider of methadone treatment services for persons with opioid addiction, has opened a new treatment facility at 10 Interchange Drive in Lebanon, NH (603) 298-2146.

Headrest, Lebanon, has received a grant from the New Futures Adolescent Treatment Initiative to support a toll-free telephone line that will provide 24 hour assistance in finding appropriate help for substance use and related problems. Current helpline # is (800) 639-6095

Willow Grove, a transitional housing option for 5-7 women, opened on February 9th. 802-281-7076 will contact Linda Churchill, the house coordinator who can provide information and set up screening.

A consortium of Sullivan and lower Grafton County treatment providers, including West Central Behavioral Health Services, Headrest, Second Growth, and Child and Family Services have been awarded a grant from the Adolescent Treatment Initiative of New Futures to develop a coordinated system of care for adolescents with substance use problems. They will work together with educators, juvenile justice officers, health care providers, families, social service agencies and others in the region to improve access to effective substance abuse treatment for adolescents.

Eye on Legislation

New Hampshire

House Bill 206 declaring “certain moneys deposited into the fund for alcohol education and abuse prevention and treatment programs shall not be used for any other purpose” has passed the NH House. Senate debate is expected in March. Search status of NH bills at: http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us

An ad hoc legislative committee is forming pursuant to House Bill 494 to discuss the development of a prescription monitoring program (PMP) in New Hampshire. PMPs, which exist in many states, are intended to deter prescription drug abuse by identifying persons who seek prescriptions from multiple sources, while allowing clinicians to use opioids effectively for medical purposes.

Federal

The U.S. Senate has passed a bill that would eliminate the 30 patient per doctor limit on buprenorphine prescribing for opioid addiction. The bill did not make it out of House Committee in the last Congress but is being reintroduced this session. For more information and to contact your legislators to support US HR 3634 go to: http://capwiz.com/asam/home/

PEOPLE

C. Everett Koop, MD, ScD, Elizabeth Decamp McInerny Professor of Surgery, Senior Scholar of the C. Everett Koop Institute at Dartmouth, and former U.S. Surgeon General from 1981-1989, was awarded the "Surgeon General's Medallion," by U.S. Surgeon General Richard H. Carmon on January 4, 2005 in Rockville, Maryland for his contributions in the fight against AIDS and underage smoking.

John Severinghaus, MD, an internist and addiction psychiatrist, has been named Medical Director of Valley Vista in Bradford, Vermont, an 80 bed facility that currently offers detoxification services and provides 6-12 weeks of residential care for women recovering from substance problems.

DMS Students Reach Out

Seven Dartmouth Medical School (DMS) students are currently involved in mentoring youth ages 11-17 through the Hanover Youth Diversion Program.

Twenty-one DMS medical and graduate students gave lively and interactive presentations on the Neurobiology of Addiction at middle schools in Lebanon, Claremont, and Canaan during the month of January in an expanding education program initiated last year by Joyce DeLeo, Director of the Neuroscience Center at Dartmouth.

Advancing the Field

Under a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Viking Hedberg, MD, MPH, pediatrician at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Clinic, Plymouth, working with Dr. Ardis Olson of DMS Dept. of Community and Family Medicine, is studying the use of hand held computers by teens to directly enter important, but often difficult to elicit, health-related lifestyle information, including substance use information, on a routine basis at clinic visits. Dr. Hedberg has recently been awarded a grant by the New Futures Adolescent Treatment Initiative to develop an adolescent treatment clinic to provide multidimensional care in partnership with Horizon Counseling and other community organizations.

Drug and Alcohol Peer Advisors (DAPAs)

Dartmouth College has 32 trained student DAPAs in residence at this time ready to assist other students with drug and alcohol issues and another 47 trained DAPAs who are off campus or inactive. 24 students are currently undergoing the 20-24 hours of training needed for certification which is organized by Ryan Travia, MEd, Coordinator of Alcohol and Other Drug Education Programs, Dartmouth College Health Service. www.dartmouth.edu/~healthed/groups/dapa
September is National Alcohol and Drug RECOVERY MONTH
The Upper Valley Substance Abuse Foundation plans activities on the theme “Celebrate Recovery.”
What can the rest of us do?

DCARE CONNECTION
Dartmouth Center on Addiction Recovery and Education
40 North College Street, Hanover, New Hampshire 03755
www.dartmouth.edu/~dcare

The CONNECTION seeks to promote creative and effective approaches to reducing harmful use of alcohol and drugs through network building and information sharing. Feedback, ideas and news are actively invited. Contact us at:
DCARE@dartmouth.edu or 603-646-9215