

Health and Social Services for People with Drug Problems

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What's It All About?

Halfway Houses



Syringe Exchange Programs

Supervised Drug Consumption Rooms

Opioid agonist therapy

Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy

Narcotics Anonymous mutual help groups

Therapeutic Communities

Drug courts

Relapse Prevention

Naloxone distribution

Contingency Management

What are Services Supposed to Do?

- To end illicit drug use
- To catch drug use before it becomes serious
- To reduce illicit drug use as much as possible
- To reduce harms from use
- To facilitate “recovery”
- To reduce crime and social disorder
- To reduce demand on the public purse
- To decrease incarceration and re-incarceration
- To address co-occurring psychiatric, medical and life problems of drug using individuals

A Public Health Systems View

- Systems have to respond to a population that is diverse on every dimension
- Optimal service systems include multiple integrated elements with diverse goals
- Many philosophical debates about the “right” service are more apparent than real on the ground

Medications puts Opioid Use Disorders in a Discrete Category

- Methadone maintenance (MM) is probably the most widely evaluated treatment around the world
- MM and other forms of opioid agonist therapy reduce mortality, illicit drug use, infectious disease transmission, crime and gateway other services
- Opiate antagonists have limited effectiveness as an oral medication, long-acting very promising
- Naloxone as an overdose rescue drug
- But for other drugs, no pharmacotherapy available

Some Other Prevalent Interventions

- Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy, Motivational Interviewing
- Contingency Management w/ and w/o criminal justice involvement
- Therapeutic Communities
- Needle/syringe exchange
- Screening and Brief Intervention
- Peer-led organizations

Continuing Global Challenges for Drug Use Disorder Services

- Poor integration with the rest of health and social care
- Inconsistent accessibility and quality of care
- Lack of medications for drugs other opioids
- Internecine quarrels
- Insufficient respect for human rights

**Thank You For Your
Attention!**