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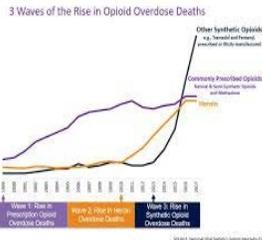
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Poster Session - University of Utah School of Medicine

Addiction Health Services Research Conference, Park City Utah ~ 6:00 – 7:00 PM October 17 2019

Introduction

A nationwide **call for action** was issued in 2017 to solve the worst drug crisis in US history(1). CDC noted three waves of **rise in opioid deaths** in 2017(2). The deaths affected the country unevenly(3). **Only 12%** of those affected are seeking treatment(4). Education is needed for those primarily affected as well as **preventive** education for those not affected. In addition **relapse prevention education** has to be delivered to those in recovery. Currently variations of the **“Just Say No”** approach from the 1980s are still the norm in public education(5). ‘Scared Straight’ **DARE** program type, 1990’s organizations are still the mainstay for the delivery of substance use education in schools (6)



Objectives

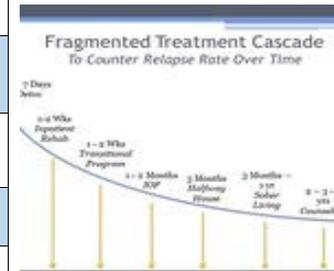
1. To develop a **sustainable** model of community education regarding substance use disorders and individual and community health using modified **“Community as Method”** approach (7) 2. Provide knowledge in an **assimilable** form to bridge the gaps in understanding and application.

Methods

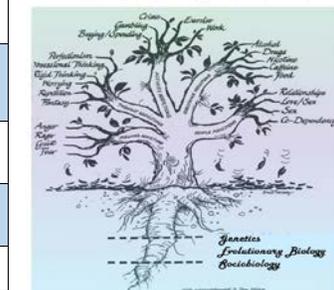
The methods deployed include the following: 1. Creation of a neutral platform (**NLHH**) 2. **Absence of public funding** (“**Stone Soup**” system of **financing**), 3. Availability of **space** for recovery and health related activities (**store front**) 4. Allowing individuals and organizations to **‘plug and play’** with various ideas (see activities list) 4. **Sensitivity** to community’s special needs (**urban vs. rural**) 5. **“All Welcome” “Red Carpet”** approach to different disciplines (**outreach** to various professionals and groups in the community).

Touch Points and Activities at the Library, 1993 – 2018

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Special Groups Hepatitis C Support Group, 1993	Access to political establishment Meet and Greet – Town Hall Forums, 2000 –
Legal Groups Addiction Law Forums, 1994 Addiction Law Center, 1996 Meet and Greet with Law Enforcement Agencies, 2001 –	Recognition of laudable work in Addictions Nathaniel Hakim Askia Recognition Awards, 2002 –
Individual Self Directed Activities Bibliotherapy, 1996 – Info Sessions – ad hoc	Museum Establishment Collection of Artifacts/ Symbols of Remembrances, 2005 Book collections of prominent addiction professionals, 2005
Alliance Formation Physician Pharmacist Partnership for Public Health, 2004	Annual Memorial Activities Celebrating Life, 2006 –
Conferences Addiction Medicine 21st Century Conference, 1996 Advances in Addiction Medicine Conference, 1999 Sobriety Maintenance with Vivitrol, 2008 Medication Assisted Recovery, 2009	Collaboration with local libraries Coalition formations Night of Knowledge, 2007 - Public Rallies, 2006 - Common Ground Today Events, 2006 – 2011 Attitude of Gratitude Rally, 2010
Connections to Colleges and Students Literature Therapy Groups, 1999 Philosophical Recovery Groups, 1999	Support Groups for Families Mother Power, 2008 – 2012 Maine Moms United, 2017 -
Unique Groups Women for Sobriety Groups, 2000 – 2010 SMART Recovery Groups, 2007 National Alliance of Methadone Advocates, 2004 –	Testimony OxyContin Commission Testimony, 2008 Heroin Commission Testimony, 2010
Facilitating Special Groups Ambassador Programs, 2000 – 2011	Lecture Series Lecture Series for Public, 2004 - Lecture Series for the Professionals, 2008 – 2011
Industry organizing efforts Addiction Action Committee, 2003 – Self-governance effort – MASH, 2005 -	Grant Administration Diabetes Education Grant, 2010
Public Health Information Booths Health Fairs, 2003 –	Ecumenical Coalitions Bride to local religious bodies, 2008 –
Information about emerging trends in Addiction Public Awareness Effort – Fentanyl, 2017 Narcain training, 2017	Reverse Messaging Endometriosis Day, 2016 – German Day, 2016 – Discussing Van Gogh, 2018
Miscellaneous Wellness Information, 2016 – Advocacy with agencies, 2018	Community Responsive Info Sessions Demonstrations of Equipment, 2017 –
Community Building Projects, 2018 – Collie Day Irish Day	Awards for Best Practices Recognition of Model Programs, 2010
Informal Lunch and Discussions Ideas Exchange Groups, 2018 –	Meet the Authors Book Readings, 2017 -



Addiction Syndrome



Analysis

1. Grassroots financing kept the organization bereft of special interests. **2. Community ownership** and participation engendered **trust and passion**. **3. Neutral platform** allowed for **plug and play** by diverse individuals and organizations. **4. A broad spectrum of participants** fostered **innovative new ideas and activities**. **5. Unique special needs** of the communities were honored. **6. Ideas bloomed** and faded - groups arose and denigrated at regular intervals. **7. Transience of activities** was the norm given the natural history of substance use and the structure of the organization. **8. Education on demand** was liked by communities. **9. Outreach across disciplines** was made possible by the neutral platform. **10. Individuals** who preferred solitary pursuit of their goals were able to do so and the effort helped them overcome barriers such as shame stigma and inner guilt. **11. Threshold** to access information was low and within the reach of seekers. **12. Education in small packets** (concept of utilitarian approach) (8) was preferred by community members in contrast to canned, time limited “programs”. **13. A la carte information distribution** was helpful in engaging communities. **15. Risks** were taken to explore novel ideas and approaches. **16. Unique needs** of the community were given due consideration in this community oriented and community responsive educational endeavor (9) **17. A sense of camaraderie** and people helping people ethos evolved over time. **18. Resource Guides and Resource Grids** proved to be popular tools to bridge the fragmented treatment cascade. **19. Users** of services ranged from one (solitary readers) to up to a few hundred (at rallies) **20. Nonjudgmental hands-off approach** primarily appealed to **adolescents, young adults, mothers and other professionals**, while large rallies appealed to **young men**.

Implications

There are **116,867** libraries in the United States today (10). Public and **special libraries** could play a **vital role** on the **front lines** of the **addiction epidemic**. Libraries are often **overlooked** when it comes to communitywide responses. Libraries could collect and share knowledge and resources, raise awareness among other sectors, and breakthrough the **siloed approaches** to the opioid epidemic(11) Libraries are known as safe spaces for communities, and with the opioid epidemic gripping many communities, they could be one of the last lines of defense, with **proper training** and **resource allocation**(12). Peer navigators (**ambassadors**) — someone who has **lived experience** - stationed at the libraries could potentially be of greater impact than conventional approaches. Such men and women, **“living books”**(13), could serve to overcome some of the informational barriers and reduce transaction costs(14). The “Community as Method” approach could provide locally initiated cost effective **solutions** or a path out of the current national health crisis stemming from the deeply rooted complex acute on chronic **“Addiction Syndrome”**. **References**

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