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Primary care & comorbidity

Dual Diagnosis: Working with General Practice

Paper presented to the [Primary Mental Health Care Forum](#), Nov 2004 by

Dr. Tim Rolfe

Southern Dual Diagnosis Service, Eastern Dual Diagnosis Service & Care Plan Assessments Vict'a

\$2 million for links between mental health and alcohol misuse

April 2004 press release describing \$2m AERF funding to Divisions of General Practice 'to help GPs better understand and care for people who misuse alcohol and also suffer from a mental health disorder.'

Journal watch



Integrated versus non-integrated management and care for clients with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders: a qualitative systematic review of randomised controlled trials

Social Science & Medicine, Volume 60, Issue 6, March 2005, Pages 1371-1383

Maria Donald, Jo Dower and David Kavanagh

Available online 19 August 2004

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to conduct a **qualitative review of randomised controlled trials in relation to the treatment of adults with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder (MH/SUD)**. In particular, **integrated approaches are compared with non-integrated approaches to treatment**. Ten articles were identified for inclusion in the review. The **findings are equivocal with regard to the superior efficacy of integrated approaches to treatment**, although the **many limitations of the studies need to be considered in our understanding of this finding**. Clearly, this is an extremely challenging client group to engage and maintain in intervention research, and the complexity and variability of the problems render control particularly difficult. The lack of available evidence to support the superiority of integration is discussed in relation to these challenges. Much remains to be investigated with regard to integrated management and care for people with co-occurring and MH/SUD, particularly for specific combinations of dual diagnosis and giving consideration to the level of inter-relatedness between the disorders.

[Link to article abstract & purchase is here](#)



Journal watch

Journal watch

Training & courses

Turning Point's [Graduate Certificate in Alcohol & Other Drug Studies](#)

offers 2 comorbidity electives:

- Dual Diagnosis: Contextual Issues
 - Dual Diagnosis: Models of Care and Therapeutic Interventions
- both coordinated by Michael Cole, (Northern Nexus / Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative)

<p>Training & courses</p>	<p><u>VICSERV Dual Diagnosis Training Day</u></p> <p>Trainer: Molly Galea When: Tuesday 17 February, 9.30am – 4.30pm Where: Melbourne Cost: VICSERV Members: \$110 Non Members: \$137.50.</p>	
<p>Conferences</p>	<p><u>Australian and New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses (SA Branch) 5th Annual Symposium</u></p> <p>When: 12-13 May 2005 Where: Adelaide. 2 [concurrent] streams: - consultation-liaison work by mental health nurses - dual diagnosis / drug & alcohol issues in practice.</p>	
<p>Downloadable texts</p>	<p><u>Management of patients with psychostimulant use problems – Guidelines for general practitioners.</u> Jenner, L., Baker, A., Whyte, I., Carr, V Canberra. Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing</p> <p>The guidelines contain concise advice on the management of amphetamine related psychosis & behavioural disturbances</p> <p>Download or order a gratis hard copy from.... National Mailing and Marketing on 1800 020 103, extension 8654, Email: nmm@nationalmailing.com.au</p>	
<p>Downloadable texts</p>	<p><u>Self-Help Strategies for Cutting Down or Stopping Substance Use: A Guide.</u> Rachel Humeniuk, Sue Henry-Edwards and Robert Ali,</p> <p>Yet another new resource downloadable in draft version from the <u>WHO ASSIST screening website</u></p>	
<p>Purchasable texts</p>	<p><u>Treating Co-Occurring Disorders : A Handbook for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Professionals</u> Ed Hendrickson, Marilyn Schmal, Sharon Ekleberry. 2004 ISBN 0789018020 A\$ 31.08 View an online excerpt here</p>	
<p>Purchasable texts</p>	<p><u>Trauma and Substance Abuse : Causes, Consequences, and Treatment of Comorbid Disorders</u> Editors: Paige Ouimette and Pamela J. Brown November 2002 Hardcover 315 Pages</p>	
<p>Prevalence data</p>	<p><u>Prevention of substance use risk & harm in Australia a review of the evidence</u> 2004 NDRI Pages 50/ 51 of the monograph offers a taut summary of the findings of the Australian 1997 NSMHW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comorbidity of high-prevalence mental health disorders and substance use disorders (based on Teeson M. Comorbidity in mental health and substance use: causes, prevention and treatment - paper presented at National Workshop on Comorbidity. Canberra, 6–7 March 2000. - Prevalence of substance use in persons with psychosis (based on 	



Degenhardt L, Hall W. [The Association between Psychosis and Problematic Drug Use among Australian Adults: Findings from the National Survey of Mental Health and Well-Being](#). Tech Report 93. NDARC, 2000).

Evaluation of comorbidity initiatives

Evaluation of the Parks Mental Health Partnership – improving access to comprehensive mental health services for Aboriginal people with co-morbidity of mental illness and drug/alcohol issues.
June 2004 -June 2006

A NCETA evaluation.
The project aims to improve capacity of service providers and the Aboriginal community to work in partnership to improve access to services for Indigenous people with co-morbidity problems. The project seeks to improve the cultural competence of service providers & to strengthen the resilience of clients & families. The evaluation will assess the processes and impacts of the project and contribute to a model of best practice.

Competencies based training around co-occurring disorders

Workforce development PowerPoint presentation

by Larry Pierce, Director of NSW's Network of Alcohol & Other Drug Agencies

The presentation includes **a look at competencies and why they are important** using examples of
- **CHCMH8A/01 Support consumers with a dual diagnosis &**
- **CHCMH8A/02 Identify, liaise with and support available services to address co-existing morbidity issues**

Competencies based training around co-occurring disorders

The UK's **National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse** provides **a range of competency-based training modules** including

- SD 21 Working with those with a Dual Diagnosis - Training Manual
- SD 21 Working with those with a Dual Diagnosis – PowerPoint

Would you like to obtain **Certificate IV in Assessment & Workplace Training** in order to evaluate workers/clinician's dual diagnosis competencies?

- **Link to on-line training course** (\$A850)

CHCAOD11A Provide advanced interventions to meet the needs of clients with Alcohol and/or Other Drug issues - A competency within the Community Services Training Package Diploma in Alcohol and Other Drug Work

Produced by the **Education and Training Unit, Turning Point Alcohol & Drug Centre**
Kieran Connolly, Sandra Roeg, and Nicole Lee as part of the Victorian Alcohol and Other Drugs Workforce Development Strategy

This 142 page manual contains 9 pages devoted to working with clients with mental health issues

Harms associated with comorbidity:


Comorbidity & offending Victorian evidence

"Mental health and criminal justice: a review of the relationship between mental disorders and offending behaviours and on the management of mentally abnormal offenders in the health and criminal justice services"
Paul E. Mullens 2001 report

Quoting from the Mullens report Bill Bush ([Update listserv](#) 29/3/04) notes that

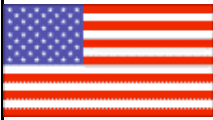
- ***there is a strong association between serious mental illnesses and criminality when substance abuse is involved which does not exist in the absence of substance abuse; and***
- ***those with a mental disorder are increasingly resorting to the abuse of substances.***

For example, Mullen reports of one study in Victoria that: ***"A recorded comorbid substance diagnosis was strongly associated with offending. Those males who had been diagnosed with schizophrenia and had also received a diagnosis of co-existing substance abuse were over 12 times more likely to be convicted than a member of the general population compared to less than 2 for those without a substance abuse diagnosis. This disparity between those***

<p>Harms associated with comorbidity:</p>	<p><i>with and without substance abuse was similarly marked for violence and homicide offences."</i></p> <p>He also states that: <i>"The evidence is mounting that the frequency with which those with mental disorder are resorting to the abuse of drugs and alcohol is increasing. In one of our own studies the rate of recorded problems with substance abuse among first admissions increased from 10% in 1997 to 35% in 1995."</i></p>	
<p><u>Comorbidity & offending Victorian evidence</u></p>	<p>See also Criminal offending in schizophrenia over a 25-year period marked by deinstitutionalization and increasing prevalence of comorbid disorders. Wallace, C., Mullen, P.E., Burgess, P. American Journal of Psychiatry 2004 161: 716-727</p>	
<p>Systemic thoughts – what would the system look like if we were responding more effectively to comorbidity?</p>	<p>International Mid-Term Review of the Second National Mental Health Plan for Australia. Thornicroft G & V Betts 2002, Mental Health and Special Programs Branch, Dept. Health & Ageing, Canberra.</p> <p>Note: p12 Key findings around DDx p17 Analysis around DDx p21 Suggested future directions around DDx</p>	
<p>Fact sheets:</p>	<p>Dual Diagnosis Overview from the Better Health Channel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - identifies some of the structural impediments to integrated treatment - identifies some of the key issues for persons with dual diagnosis & their families - makes the, perhaps precipitate, assessment that <i>'Victoria has developed an effective way for the various health services to work together to help people with a dual diagnosis'</i> 	
<p>Smoking & Mental Health</p>	<p>Smoking and mental health - a review of the literature Dr Ann McNeill Independent Consultant & Honorary Senior Lecturer in Public Health St George's Hospital Medical School London</p>	
<p>Resources</p>	<p>Alcohol and Other Drugs: A Handbook for Health Professionals.</p> <p>From NCETA & the Commonwealth a just released, comprehensive 300 page handbook for health professionals. Chapter 18, p 207, considers the issue of coexisting mental illness</p> <p>Download or order a gratis hard copy from.... National Mailing and Marketing on 1800 020 103, extension 8654, Email: nmm@nationalmailing.com.au</p>	

<p>Resources</p>	<p>Resource Kit for GP Trainers on Illicit Drug Issues.</p> <p>Also from NCETA & the Commonwealth a comprehensive kit for training GPs of illicit drug issues. Well worth ordering in hard copy (from NM&M above)</p> <p>The kit has a significant component on comorbidity including downloadable Trainer notes & activities PowerPoint slides</p>
<p>Journal watch</p>	<p>Substance Abuse and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder Kathleen T. Brady, Sudie E. Back, and Scott F. Coffey. Current Directions in Psychological Science. Volume 13, Issue 5, Page 206-209, October 2004</p> <p>Evolving U.S. service model for patients with severe mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorder. R. E. Drake, G. Morse, M. F. Brunette, W. C. Torrey. Acta Neuropsychiatrica. Volume 16, Issue 1, Page 36-40, February 2004</p> <p>Clinical interventions for severe mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorder K. T. Mueser. Acta Neuropsychiatrica. Volume 16, Issue 1, Page 26-35, February 2004</p> <p>Evolving U.S. service model for patients with severe mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorder. M. T. Abou-Saleh Acta Neuropsychiatrica. Volume 16, Issue 1, February 2004</p> <p>The epidemiology of substance misuse and comorbid psychiatric disorders. Mohammed T Abou-Saleh, Aleksandar Janca. Acta Neuropsychiatrica. Volume 16, Issue 1, February 2004</p> <p>Psychopharmacology of substance misuse and comorbid psychiatric disorders . M. T. Abou-Saleh. Acta Neuropsychiatrica. Volume 16, Issue 1, February 2004</p> <p>The British experience of dual diagnosis in the national health service . A. L. Lowe, M. T. Abou-Saleh. Acta Neuropsychiatrica. Volume 16, Issue 1, February 2004</p> <p>Comorbidity in young people: perspectives and challenges . I. B. Crome. Acta Neuropsychiatrica. Volume 16, Issue 1, February 2004</p> <p>Prevalence and Characteristics of Adolescents Patients with Co-Occurring ADHD and Substance Dependence. Gordon, Susan - Tulak, Frank - Troncale, Joseph. Journal of Addictive Diseases Vol. 23 No. 4 2004</p> <p>Identifying Co-Occurring Disorders in Adolescent Population. Hoffmann, Norman - Bride, Brian - MacMaster, Samuel - Abrantes, Ana - Estroff, Todd Journal of Addictive Diseases Vol. 23 No. 4 2004</p> <p>Depression, Negative Self-Image, and Suicidal Attempts as Effects of Substance Use and Substance Dependence. Friedman, Alfred - Terras, Arlene - Zhu, Weizhong - McCallum, Jean Journal of Addictive Diseases Vol. 23 No. 4 2004</p> <p>Mental Health Status of Infrequent Adolescent Substance Users. Williams, Robert - Zolner, Theresa - Bertrand, Lorne - Davis, R. Journal of Child & Adolescent Substance Abuse Vol. 14 No. 2 2004</p>
<p>From the USA</p> 	<p>Psychiatric Services 2001 Kenneth Minkoff paper Developing Standards of Care for Individuals With Co-occurring Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders – describes the USA's national consensus development process and the generation of a 1998 report containing: <i>Standards of Care, Practice Guidelines, Workforce Competencies & Training Curricula</i></p> <p>Link to the report: Co-Occurring Psychiatric & Substance Disorders in Managed Care Systems: Standards of Care, Practice Guidelines, Workforce Competencies, and Training Curricula described by Dr Minkoff</p>

From the USA



The federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and its Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) are promoting Evidence-Based Practice Implementation Resource Kits encouraging the **use of evidence-based practices in mental health.**

One of the [6 evidence based practices for mh services](#) identified is

Co-occurring Disorders: Integrated Dual Diagnosis Treatment

One of the many resources available from this site is an [Integrated Dual Disorders Treatment Fidelity Scale](#). It has an SMI focus and may require modification for use in a non-managed care environment but nonetheless impresses as a very useful tool for developing and benchmarking mental health services response to co-occurring disorders.

- Are any similar tools being considered or under development for use in Australian mental health services?

- Minkoff & the CISC model also offer a [clinician & agency Competency Assessment Tool](#) (\$costs) that has utility with clinicians & agencies treating all cohorts of persons with comorbidity (in contrast to the above SMI-type comorbidity-specific tool)

Missouri, in 2002, became yet another USA state with comprehensive [Practice guidelines for the treatment of adults with co-occurring substance use disorders and mental illness](#) (substantial Minkoff/Cline CCISC model influences)

Contains:

- General principles for integrated treatment
- A model for integrated treatment with specific guidelines on engagement, assessment, treatment, psychopharmacology, family issues
- Agency & provider competencies
- Principles in planning system change

American Association of Community Psychiatrists 2000 [Principles for the care and treatment of persons with co-occurring psychiatric and substance disorders](#) (again strongly influenced by Minkoff/Cline's CCISC model)

Drugstory.org feature page on [Teens, Mental Health & Drug Abuse](#)
Links to fact sheets, news reports, roundtable discussions & personal stories

Projects:

The September 2004 edition of *Carillon* (newsletter of Melbourne University Centre for Psychiatric Nursing Research & Practice – CPNRP) contains a profile Southwest Psychiatric Services Dual Diagnosis Services approach to examining the assessment of substance use in clients with a major mental illness

To obtain the PDF go to <http://www.son.unimelb.edu.au/cpnrp/> - click *News/Events – Carillon Newsletter - Vol 4 Issue 14 September 2004.*

Southwest Psychiatric Services Dual Diagnosis Service is a rural component of the Victorian Dual Diagnosis Initiative. The specialist comorbidity worker there is [Mark Powell](#)

Jobs

[Full-time - Youth Co-morbidity Clinician](#) - Fitzroy - 0.8 EFT

YSAS are seeking a skilled Youth Co-morbidity Clinician to lead an exciting new program for young people experiencing both mental health and drug-related problems. This program is a collaboration between the Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS), ORYGEN Youth Health, and the Youth Outreach Team at DASWest.