



October 2012

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News Summary

Harvey, LA, 8.25.2012

NOAPA Supports the Addiction Professionals Community

On August 25, 2012 NOAPA volunteers joined several other addiction agencies, individuals, and groups in Audubon Park in a concerted effort to raise awareness of addiction through the *1st annual Walk 4 Recovery*.

The inaugural event raised awareness of critical prevention services, treatment options and re-

covery efforts in the Greater New Orleans area, while celebrating the hard-fought recovery victory of some of the best and brightest in our community.

The event raised funds to benefit *Action Against Addiction*, a "nonprofit prevention program that delivers evidence-based substance abuse prevention programs to several thousand public and private school students, parent and community groups"

We would like to say thanks so much to all who volunteered for this important event. NOAPA believes in the significance of the community working together against the disease of addiction.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Harvey, LA

06.30.2012

Ronald Fletcher, LCSW

Mr. Fletcher lent his skills as a clinician to present on the topic of Post traumatic Stress Disorder. Using his approach that "meets the patient/client system" where they are, Mr. Fletcher expounded on concepts of definition, and why use, abuse and dependence exacerbate this condition..

07.29.2012—8.01.2012

LASACT 2012

Marksville, Louisiana

"Practical Applications to Effect Positive Change"

This years conference provided each attendee with great learning opportunities and the chance to renew old friend-

ships and network with new friends..

8.25.2012

NOAPA Supports the Addiction Professionals Community

In lieu of the regularly scheduled monthly meeting, the NOAPA organization supported the Walk 4 Recovery Event in Audubon Park..

The Officers of NOAPA ask all of you to join in and give a helping hand by doing the following:

1. Get involved in a committee and/or make suggestions about your organization.
2. Become an active member of LASACT;
3. Bring into NOAPA and LASACT friends who are interested in the addiction field or who are a

part of the addiction behavioral health profession but quite haven't understood the importance of being a part an Addictive Disorder professional organization.





"That's our new mission statement."

**"Objectives,
proposals,
and
Procedures
for direction
are
welcome.."**

"It is the *mission* of the *New Orleans Addiction Professional Association* to provide quality services to meet the educational need of all *Addiction Professionals* through: networking, public awareness, motivational speakers, discussion groups, continuing education, and leadership in education without limitations."

The latest DSM-5 tweaks are game changers

June 8, 2012 Peter Meyers, Ph.D

It only took 55 years. A small group of compulsive gamblers (probably members of AA), recognizing that they suffered from an addiction much as do alcoholics, founded Gamblers Anonymous in 1957, using AA principles as a template. Since then, the addictions field has debated about the nature of gambling and other so-called "process addictions." But in the grim, gray *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, gambling remained in the shadows as an "impulse-control disorder not elsewhere classified."

The process of developing the latest edition of the diagnostic manual, the DSM-5 (no more Roman numerals), has gone public like no previous revisions, with various constituencies challenging the proposals one after another as they come up on the dsm5.org website. Thus far, arguments over the proposed DSM-5 addictions category have focused on the elimination of the duality of "substance abuse" and "substance dependence," with the substitute of Substance Abuse and Addictive Disorders, which can present as a mild, moderate or severe variety in use of alcohol, cocaine and so forth. Many addiction professionals have lamented the elimination of a category that they see as a straightforward acknowledgement of dependency on drugs.

It therefore came as a surprise on May 1 when the DSM-5 task force on Addiction and Related Disorders (formerly Substance-Related Disorders) proposed to add gambling under their umbrella, right next to opiates, alcohol and cocaine. The nine proposed diagnostic criteria for a gambling disorder are similar to those for the other addictive disorders, with the three levels of severity that are also found in all of the DSM-5 substance use disorders. In general, there is a lower threshold for diagnosing gambling disorders than there had been under the DSM-IV-TR, and thankfully there is a rule-out of diagnosing a gambling disorder if the patient is bipolar.

Located in the Recommended for Further Study section, which warns of possible new diagnoses in subsequent editions, is another behavioral or process addiction: that of Internet use disorder. Oddly, it focuses exclusively on Internet gaming behavior. This is admittedly an area of concern, but other Internet problems such as compulsive downloading of pornography are not in the mix.

Change regarding symptoms

With the furor over the deletion of abuse vs. dependence, another DSM-5 change in the addictions realm has gone under the radar. This involves expansion of the list of symptoms for substance abuse disorders to 11 (it had been 4 for abuse and 7 for dependence), and increased ease in getting diagnosed. For example, one of the 2 out of 11 symptoms that can garner a diagnosis is tolerance. Now, if you are a drinker of almost any sort, or an individual who is prescribed a sleep medication, you will develop some tolerance. One could even say it is a normal phenomenon, and not necessarily a criterion for diagnosing a disorder if tolerance remains on a mild level.

Another symptom is "hazardous use." Again, hundreds of thousands of college students have fallen at a frat party and countless people might have driven under the influence one time. Certainly, these behaviors can result in tragedy and should not be minimized, but the jury is out on whether this should be the sole basis for generating an abuse diagnosis.

To some, such as Thomas Babor, PhD, a famous psychiatric epidemiologist and editor of the journal *Addiction*, the changes in DSM criteria will have the effect of artificially inflating the number of diagnoses, thus burdening the public health system by adding millions to the patient roster. To many others, however, these changes increase opportunities for early intervention and for reducing both harm to individuals and costs to society stemming from health, criminal justice and social services accessed by those who misuse psychoactive chemicals.

A pragmatic middle course would be for vigilance on the part of single state agencies responsible for monitoring the function of addiction treatment centers, as well as from grant providers, other regulatory bodies, and third-party payers, over any attempts to troll for a "checkbox diagnosis" (similar to the concept of "diagnostic creep") to increase client population and revenue.

Peter L. Myers, PhD, is co-author of *Becoming an Addictions Counselor: A Comprehensive Text*. He is Past President of the International Coalition for Addiction Studies Education (INCASE; www.incase.org) and is Editor of the *Journal of Ethnicity in Substance Abuse*. His e-mail address is nyprof@gmail.com.

Community News

HARVEST TIME

"The Vicious Cycle of Stress and Addiction"

A Presentation of the New Orleans Addiction Professional Association, Inc. Educational Institute approved for 4 CEU hours.

Presenters:

Rochelle Head-Dunham, MD, Board Certified in both Adult Psychiatry and Addiction Psychiatry by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology (ABPN) applied within standards of care in the treatment of co-occurring mental illness and addictive disorders.

ders.

Dr. Arnold James, Ph.D., Clinical Psychology, Consultant, Trainer, Behavioral Health Director – Acute and Special Populations, Psychotherapist, Clinical Researcher and Published Author within the scope of Human Relations and Addictive Disorders.

Cost:

Students :

\$15 pre-registered \$20 at the door

Professionals

\$25 pre-registered \$30 at the door

Pre-registration recommended Disclaimer: A one week cancellation notice must be given as fees are non-refundable.

WHEN: October 27, 2012
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

WHERE: White Dove Fellowship
3600 Manhattan Blvd
Harvey, LA 70058

Sponsored by:
New Orleans Addiction Professional Association, Inc. District 1
P.O. Box 1116
Harvey, LA 70059

**"Humility is
not thinking
less of
yourself, It is
thinking of
yourself
less."
AA Slogan**

Treatment Works

What Are 6 Health Problems that Occur from Substance Abuse?

August 28, 2012

When using drugs and alcohol, it is rare that the addict thinks about the types of health problems that develop from chronic addiction. The truth is that alcohol and drugs are extremely damaging to the body's system. In the midst of substance abuse it is difficult to look beyond the euphoria and notice the long-term damage. Once addicted, brain chemistry changes and the compulsive behavior to continue substance abuse is not easily eliminated.

Most addicts will require a medical detox and drug rehab to stop substance abuse and change addictive behavior patterns. Unfortunately, addicts may not realize that

they need treatment until physical ailments are already plaguing them. Many times the damage from chronic alcohol and drug addiction becomes known as substance-induced medical conditions.

6 Health Problems Associated with Drugs Are:

Heart Issues – cocaine, marijuana, benzodiazepines
Lung Disease – marijuana, cocaine (smoked)
Liver Disease – marijuana, opiates (through intravenous use), alcohol
GI Problems – marijuana, opiates, benzodiazepines
Renal Disease – marijuana, alcohol
Neurological Issues – benzodiazepines, methamphetamines

Reversing the Damage

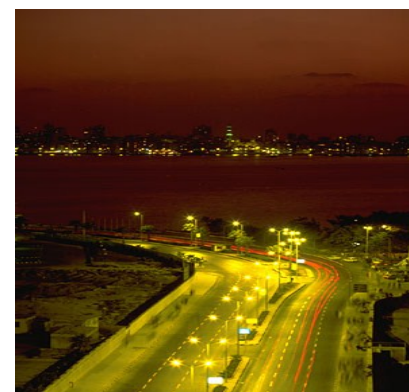
Addicts with medical conditions may feel like they are between a rock and a hard place. Many addicts want to get sober; however, the medical conditions cause great pain that may prevent them from seeking help.

Enter Treatment with a Substance-Induced Medical Condition

Don't let your medical condition prevent you from seeking drug treatment. Addicts receive educational information about how to care for their medical issues in sobriety while in a treatment program. This is essential for the addict who is seeking optimal results in drug treatment.

Lakeview Health Systems (1-800-884-1727)

**"Treatment
Works"**



The NOAPA District 1 comprises

Metropolitan New Orleans

Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard & Plaquemines Parishes

Florida Parishes

Livingston, St. Tammany Tangipahoa & Washington

River Parishes

St. John, St. Charles & St. James

New Orleans Addiction Professional Association News

Founded in 2011

EDITORIAL STAFF:

M. Anthony Aubry

Trichell M. Dumas

Travis Johnson

District 1

Upcoming Events

New Orleans Addiction Professional Association, Inc.
Educational Institute WORKSHOP
"The Vicious Cycle of Stress and Addiction"

Approved for 4 CEU hours

Cost:	Students	\$15 pre-registered \$20 at the door
	Professionals	\$25 pre-registered \$30 at the door

Pre-registration recommended Disclaimer:

A one week cancellation notice must be given as fees are non-refundable.

Bowling Fundraiser....

"Pinning for Recovery" will be a fun and exciting event!!!!
The fundraiser will rely on 10 NOAPA members who will commit to forming a team of 6 bowlers.

The team captain will be responsible for collecting funds and submitting them to the treasurer.

The deadline is October 27, 2012.

Each team can be made of clinicians, friends, family, associates, etc. How the team captain structures their team is solely up to the team captain.

The bowling fundraiser will take place on November 17, 2012 from 7 - 9:30p @ Rock N Bowl.

New Orleans Addiction Professional
Association
District 1

For more information about NOAPA
Contact

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The Website is under renovation!
noapadistrict1.com

Any Comments, Suggestions, Articles,
Pics or "Your Idea for a Vision" to pub-
lish?

Send to noapadistrict1@yahoo.com

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