

## **DTFP Pilots – The Opportunity to Change the Addiction System for the Better!**

In 2012-13, ADSTV had the wonderful opportunity to participate in several pilots for what is called “DTFP”. These initials stand for Drug Treatment Funding Program, which is a federal initiative to fund projects across Canada. Each province submits proposals for programs or development related to the addiction continuum of care. Most typically DTFP funds go to programming in Canada. Ontario submitted proposals to strengthen the foundation of the addiction system instead and, in the last call for proposals, did just that! Ontario was funded to develop over a dozen pilots: most provincial and two federal. These pilots were designed to enhance the provincial addiction system. The funding was awarded to the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH) and volunteers were selected for the pilot sites. For a full overview of the DTFP Pilots visit [www.ontariodtfp.ca](http://www.ontariodtfp.ca).

ADSTV volunteered for several of the pilot opportunities, as did several other addiction agencies across the province, and although it was a tremendous amount of work, time and effort, we were glad to be involved and to learn so much! The pilots we were involved in were as follows: the launch of a “costing pilot” to set benchmarks for costs in the addiction system; the development and piloting of a client satisfaction questionnaire; a study of addiction outcomes; and the piloting of a two stage screening, assessment and recovery monitoring (SARM) process using the GAIN Short Screener and the GAIN Quick.

The SARM process was embedded into our walk in intake program in the main office and several staff travelled to Chestnut Health Systems in Illinois to first become certified as administrators of the assessment tool and, in the second year, to become certified as Clinical Interpreters. Clinical staff at ADSTV were trained to administer the GAIN Q3 and local CAMH staff trained us all to administer the screening tool called GAIN-SS. The pilot was a success and ADSTV was able to pilot the SARM process with over 175 persons who agreed to participate. The SARM pilot was such a success in house that we have continued with the tools as well as the currently mandated assessment tools for substance abuse called ADAT.

Some of the DTFP pilots have concluded and the results are on the website mentioned above. Several DTFP pilots have been funded again for one additional year and the SARM pilot is continuing. Stay tuned for developments this year!

The costing project is also going to continue and our agency will remain involved. There is a lot of work to do to standardize the data that is required for costing benchmarks to be created. Several agencies will continue to work on this so that addiction outcomes can also be measured in terms of costs. We know that addiction treatment is an investment and that lives are saved and enhanced – morally we know this is money well spent. However there is also some evidence that the investment saves money in addition to lives. This will prove to be a very important year for this pilot.

The search for a client satisfaction survey ended up as the “Ontario Perceptions of Care” tool and was created as a hybrid of other tools. It is a marvellous way to poll clients and their family members about the impact of treatment, not just whether they are satisfied with the service but also whether there is a

positive improvement in the quality of life. The OPOC-MHA will be rolled out at ADSTV in the third quarter and results will be reported to the Quality Committee in the last quarter of fiscal 2013-14.

All in all, the DTFP experience was rewarding and illuminating, and will strengthen the services at ADSTV. We are glad to have been a part of such important work for the province and hope to be a part of the roll out of all the pilots that we were involved in the SWLHIN. The staff involved have done an amazing job and put in a lot of extra hours learning about tools and research processes and developing new protocols and procedures in the delivery of screening and assessment services to the community. Thanks to everyone who had a part in any pilot for DTFP at ADSTV! You have contributed to the development of the addiction system in Ontario.