

Thursday 13th September

Steam A

2.00pm – 3.00pm

Connecting corrections clients to support and recovery options

Michelle Coyne, Practitioner/Facilitator, Odyssey

Adria Turley, Clinical Manager, Odyssey

Laura Villegas, Practitioner, Odyssey

Odyssey offers two new programmes, the Methamphetamine Intervention Team (MIT) and the Intensive Outpatient Programme (IOP), that liaise with the Department of Corrections to sow the seed of change within prison and community-based Corrections populations.

The MIT is based in Mt Eden Correctional Facility and specialises in brief intervention, screening and referral to treatment. Early Intervention has been proven to be an effective method of treatment, but has not been put into practice in New Zealand with this population until now. These brief, but early interventions connect participants to options available for them when they return to the community, helping them plan for their future.

The IOP supports people completing community-based sentences in Auckland and Whangarei. The programme works in partnership with Corrections to provide additional support as men transition from prison into the community. Participants are given the opportunity to make positive changes and re-connect to their whanau, culture, and self while serving out their sentence.

We aim to educate and connect our Corrections clients to what was previously an uncertain recovery pathway and to encourage other services to work together to help re-connect people to their community. We will share how we work in partnership with Corrections to support people reconnecting with the community after prison. We will also share initial outcome data and case stories from the start of each programme, as well as lessons learnt so far in working with this population.

Key words: Connect, Corrections, prison, community, programme, brief intervention, methamphetamine, treatment, recovery, pilot.

Presenter biographies

Michelle Coyne has been with Odyssey for the past four years. She is currently a Practitioner/Facilitator for the Intensive Outpatient Programme but has worked in various roles throughout Odyssey such as the Methamphetamine Intervention Team as well as the Assessments and Admissions Team and in the Odyssey residential Programmes. She has a Bachelor of Arts Degree as well as an Honours Degree in Psychology, and is a Provisional Practitioner with DAPAANZ. She is also a qualified Smoking Cessation Practitioner.

Laura Villegas is currently an Advanced Practitioner in Odyssey's Methamphetamine Intervention Team. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and is a Provisional Practitioner with DAPAANZ. Laura has been working in the AOD and Mental Health sectors since 2010 commencing in her home country of Colombia. She has a particular interest in research, evaluations, and outcomes having worked for the Therapeutic Communities in Family and Addiction Research Help Centre, as well as having had a private practice where she focused on Drug and Alcohol Treatment Evaluation in Colombia.

Recovery Pathway: Connecting to the community through a unique model of care

Choi Foong Kew, Practice Leader, Asian Family Services

Cassie Xia, Counsellor/ Health Promoter, Asian Family Services

A recent study found that 2.9% of Asians in New Zealand are problem or moderate-risk gamblers, nearly double that of the European/Other prevalence of 1.7%. Many Chinese international students are susceptible to problem gambling due to the novelty effect, language barriers, lack of social relationships and information about accessing support. When harmed by gambling, they tend to solve the problems by themselves as there is immense shame and stigma associated with problem gambling. Often gambling is their only resolution which leads them to be further entrapped in the cycle of problem gambling, resulting in isolation, despair and a sense of worthlessness and hopelessness.

presentation will illustrate how Asian Family Services' (AFS) unique model of care was used to help and support a client who gambled when he was an international student through his journey of recovery. After his formal treatment, the client was offered the chance to become a volunteer with Bo Ai She, a mental health peer support group. This opportunity helped him to rebuild his confidence and self-esteem which in turn enabled him to set up his own business and begin to make a valuable contribution to society. Last year, AFS collaborated with "Bridge of Love" to host "The Unsung Hero Awards Ceremony" to acknowledge those who have made outstanding contributions to the Asian community. This client was the proud recipient of an award for his commitment to volunteering that further affirmed his recovery journey and the effort he made to reconnect with society.

Presenter biographies

Choi Foong Kew is the practice leader at Asian Family Services. She migrated to New Zealand from Singapore. Choi is a registered practitioner with DAPAANZ and comes with more than 20 years of counselling experience. Prior to her migration, she worked with the National Addictions Management Service in Singapore as a senior counsellor. She obtained her Master of Social Science in Professional Counselling from Swinburne University of Technology (Australia).

The people we become

Lisa Phillips, Manager of Workforce Development, Careerforce - ITO for Health and Wellbeing Sectors

It is not a new concept for staff working in health fields to 'care themselves into the ground', however there is very limited information on the health outcomes for addiction practitioners specifically. Addiction practitioners often speak about feeling overworked, stressed and undervalued. At the same time, practitioners in these services speak about feeling rewarded by the meaning they glean from their work. This sense of meaning often does not provide the adhesive to be able to maintain a career in these fields.

Delegates will learn the relationship between employment in addiction services and changes in health outcomes for practitioners. This presentation explains how addiction practitioners are impacted by their work – in terms of impacts on their connections with Whanau, culture, spirituality, self-identity and physical/mental wellbeing. It's all about connection. We cannot separate our personal selves from our professional selves.

The audience will be presented with some striking data in terms of the coping mechanisms that practitioners develop to manage the mental load of their work. Recommendations to ensure their professional practice is sustainable, powerful and healthy will be provided, and the challenging data will be balanced with inspiring opportunities for staff and services to support clients more effectively.

Presenter biography

Lisa Phillips is a researcher who has been practicing in the Health and Education sectors for 15 years. As a registered educator and addiction practitioner, she began her career working alongside clients experiencing advanced dementia. This sparked an interest in the relationship between substance use and cognitive impairment. Her experience includes speaking internationally on the impact of trauma on Rangatahi, as well as leading clinical and educational teams both nationally and regionally. With a special interest in ensuring the client remains at the center of practice, she supports the empowerment of Tangata Whaiora to be designers in healthcare development.