

Tools for Your Trade: Brain Injury and Behavioral Health

February 2, 2022
Noon-1:00 pm ET



2022 Webinar Series



NASHIA

Welcome!

Rebecca Wolfkiel

Executive Director

Moderator

Maria Crowley

Director, Professional Development

Organizer



NASHIA

About NASHIA

Nonprofit organization created to assist
State government in promoting partnerships and building
systems to meet the needs
of individuals with brain injury
and their families.



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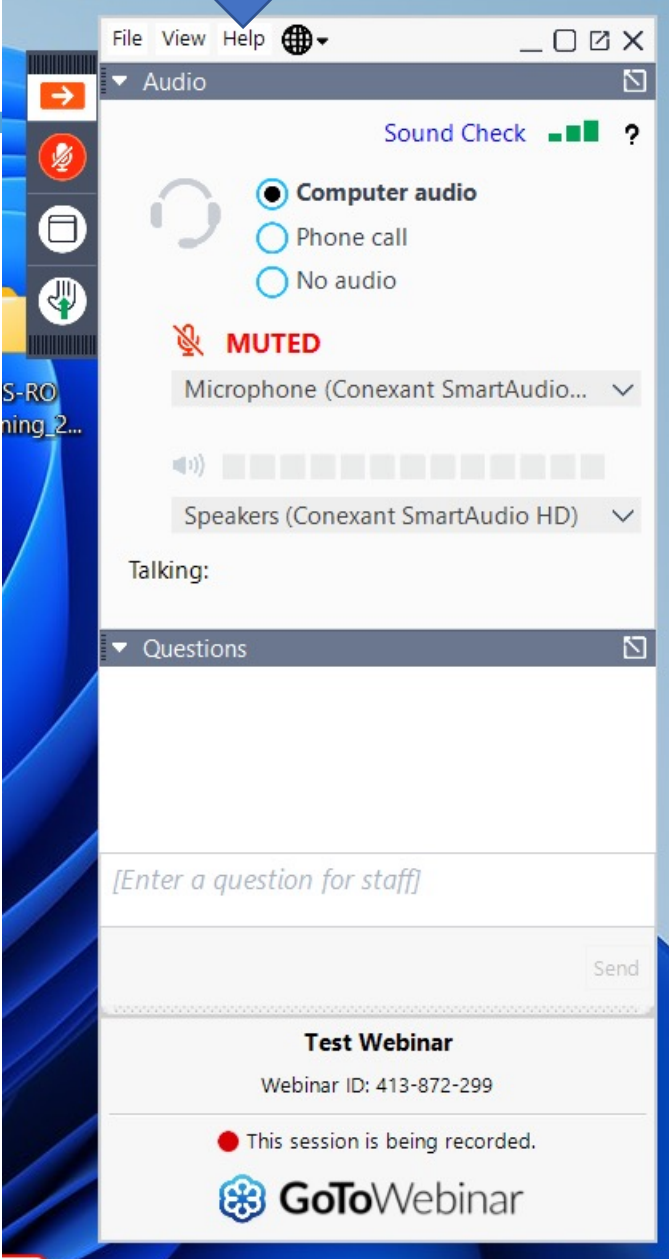
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Handouts?

Attendee panel

Questions?

Attendee panel



The image shows a screenshot of the GoToWebinar interface. On the left, a vertical toolbar contains icons for audio, handouts, and questions. A blue arrow points from the 'Help' tab in the top menu to the audio control panel. Another blue arrow points from the 'Handouts?' text to the handouts icon in the toolbar. A third blue arrow points from the 'Questions?' text to the questions icon in the toolbar. The audio control panel is titled 'Audio' and includes a 'Sound Check' indicator. It shows 'Computer audio' selected, with options for 'Phone call' and 'No audio'. A red 'MUTED' indicator is present, along with a volume slider and dropdown menus for 'Microphone (Conexant SmartAudio...)' and 'Speakers (Conexant SmartAudio HD)'. Below the audio controls is a 'Talking:' section. The 'Questions' panel is visible below, with a text input field containing the placeholder '[Enter a question for staff]' and a 'Send' button. At the bottom, the webinar title 'Test Webinar' and ID '413-872-299' are displayed, along with a red dot indicating 'This session is being recorded.' and the GoToWebinar logo.

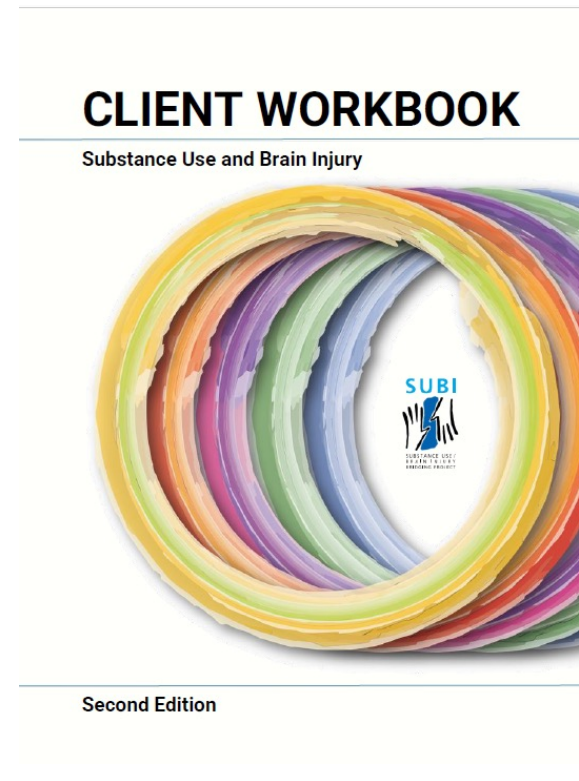
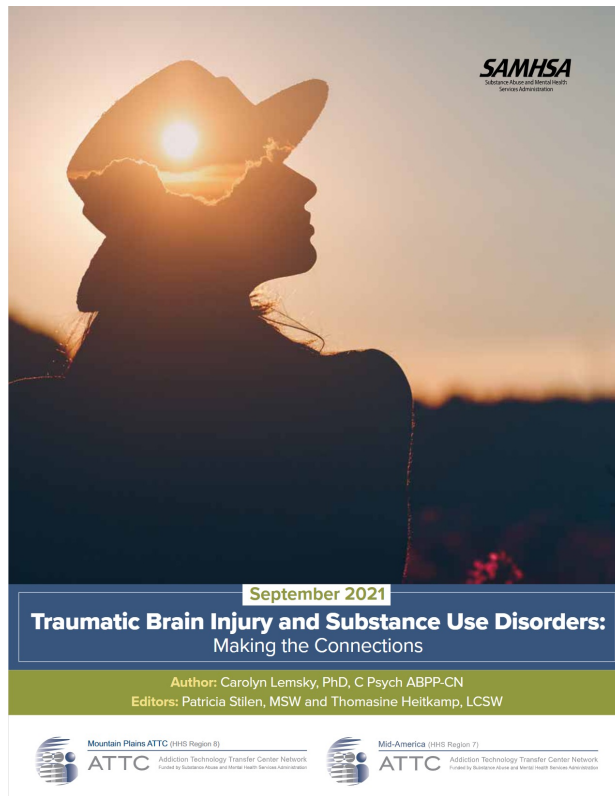
Today's Webinar

- Certificates of Attendance free of charge
- Recorded and archived:
nashia.org > Training U > Trainings On Demand

Today's Presenter:

Carolyn Lemsky, PhD, CPsych, ABPP/ABCN
Clinical Director
Community Head Injury Resource Services
Toronto





TOOLS FOR YOUR TRADE: BRAIN INJURY AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

MAKING THE CONNECTIONS

DISCLOSURE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Dr. Lemsky and Tim Godden were paid consultants to this project.
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 - Maria Crowley, visual design and technical consultation (Client Workbook)
 - Our funders



Mountain Plains ATTC (HHS Region 8)

ATTC

Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration



Mid-America (HHS Region 7)

ATTC

Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

OVERVIEW



SUBI History



Introduction to
the Tool Kit

Contents

Model of Care

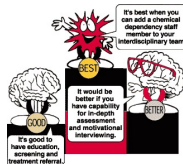


Introduction to SUBI Client
Workbook, Second Ed.



THE SUBI STORY

- 1999 Workshop



- CHIRS/CAMH Partnership (2002)

- Ministry of Health Transition Funding (2005)

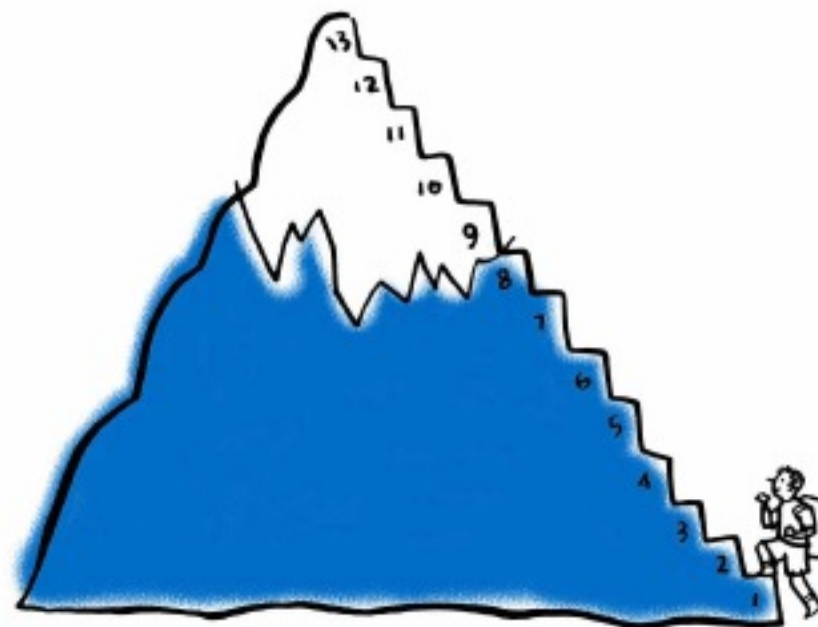
- Needs Assessment
- SUBI materials

- Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (2007-2009)

- Assessment of SUBI Materials
- Training Modules
- Conduct Training
- Community of Practice

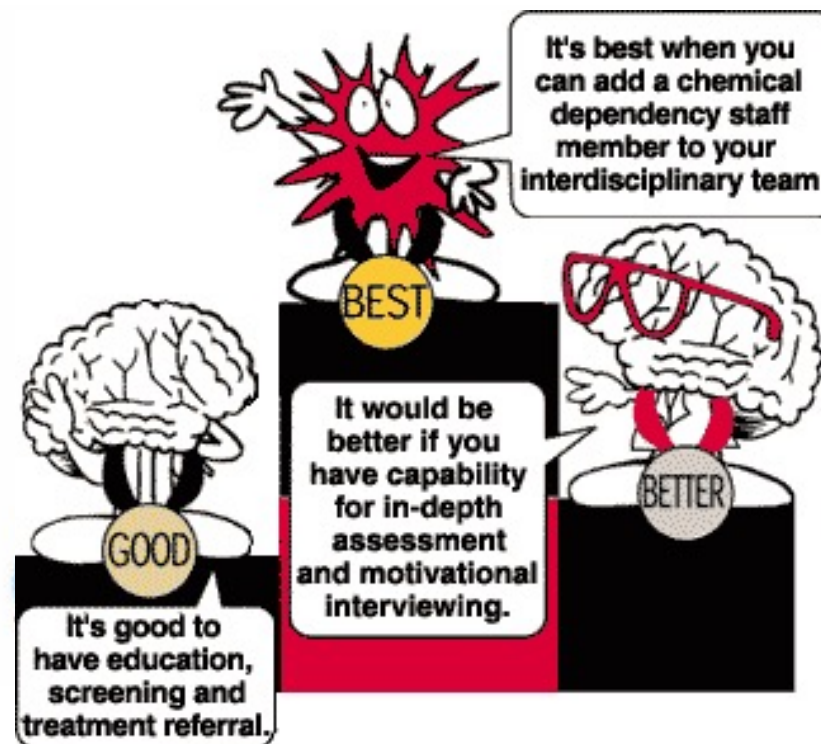
- Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation (2010-2014)

- Screening project at CAMH
- Treatment Pilot



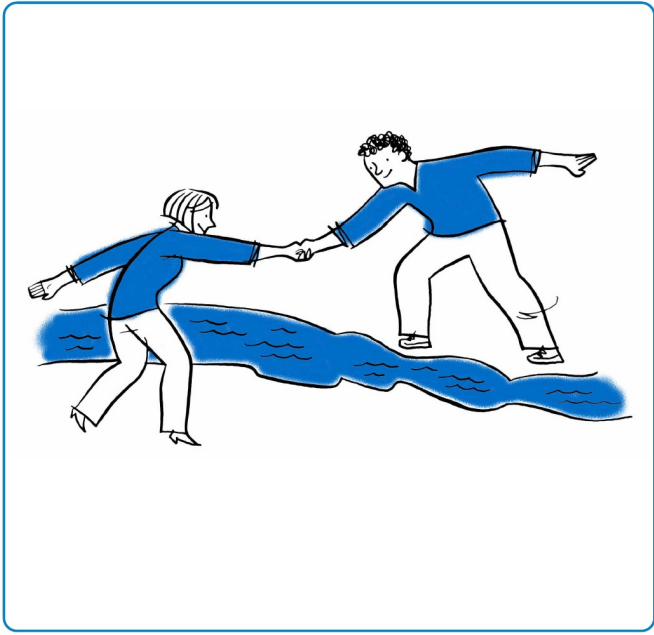
THE SUBI STORY

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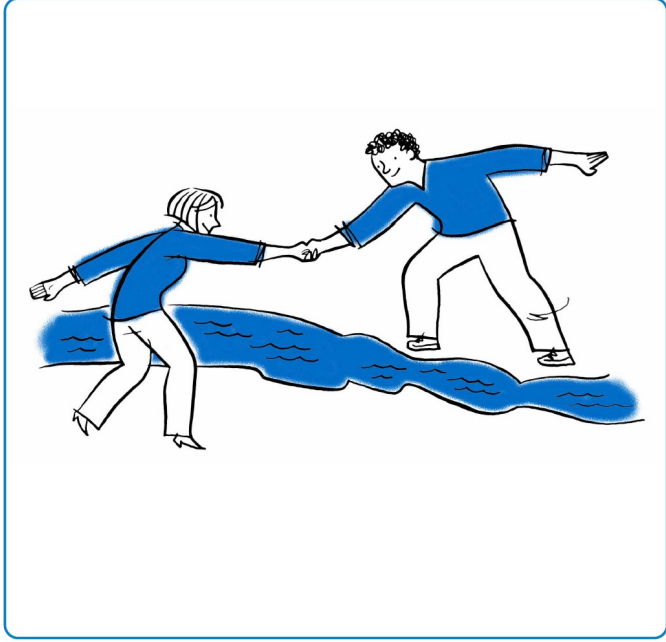
SUBI
SUBSTANCE USE /
BRAIN INJURY
BRIDGING PROJECT

Provider Manual



SUBI
SUBSTANCE USE /
BRAIN INJURY
BRIDGING PROJECT

Client Workbook



Education

Consultation

Clinical Partnerships



camh

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale



The Team

4 Community Facilitators
1 MSW (Addictions trained)
1 Behaviour Therapist
1 Service Coordinator (RPN)
.25 Psychologist

Consulting

- Neuropsychiatry
- Addictions Medicine



Central Clinical Issues

- ◆ Capacity for self-management
 - Ability to respond to reward and punishment
 - Capacity to resist 'dominant response'
 - Awareness of injury
 - Awareness of harms associated with substance use
- ◆ Potential supportive structures
 - What enables self-management
 - What limits self-management

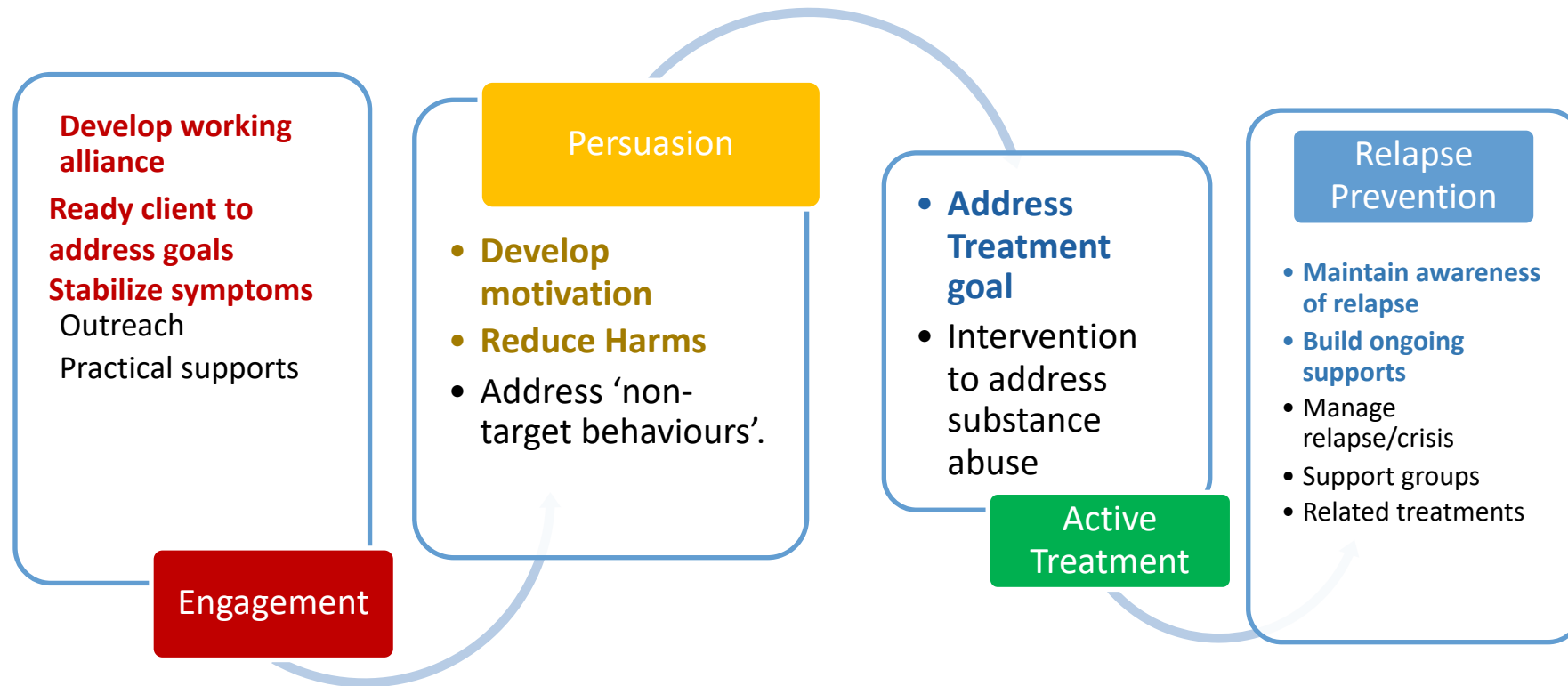
Central Evidence Based Practices

- Motivational Interviewing
- Harm Reduction
- Behavioural Approaches
 - Community Reinforcement Approach
 - Incentives
 - Case Management
 - Cognitive Compensation

Program Model

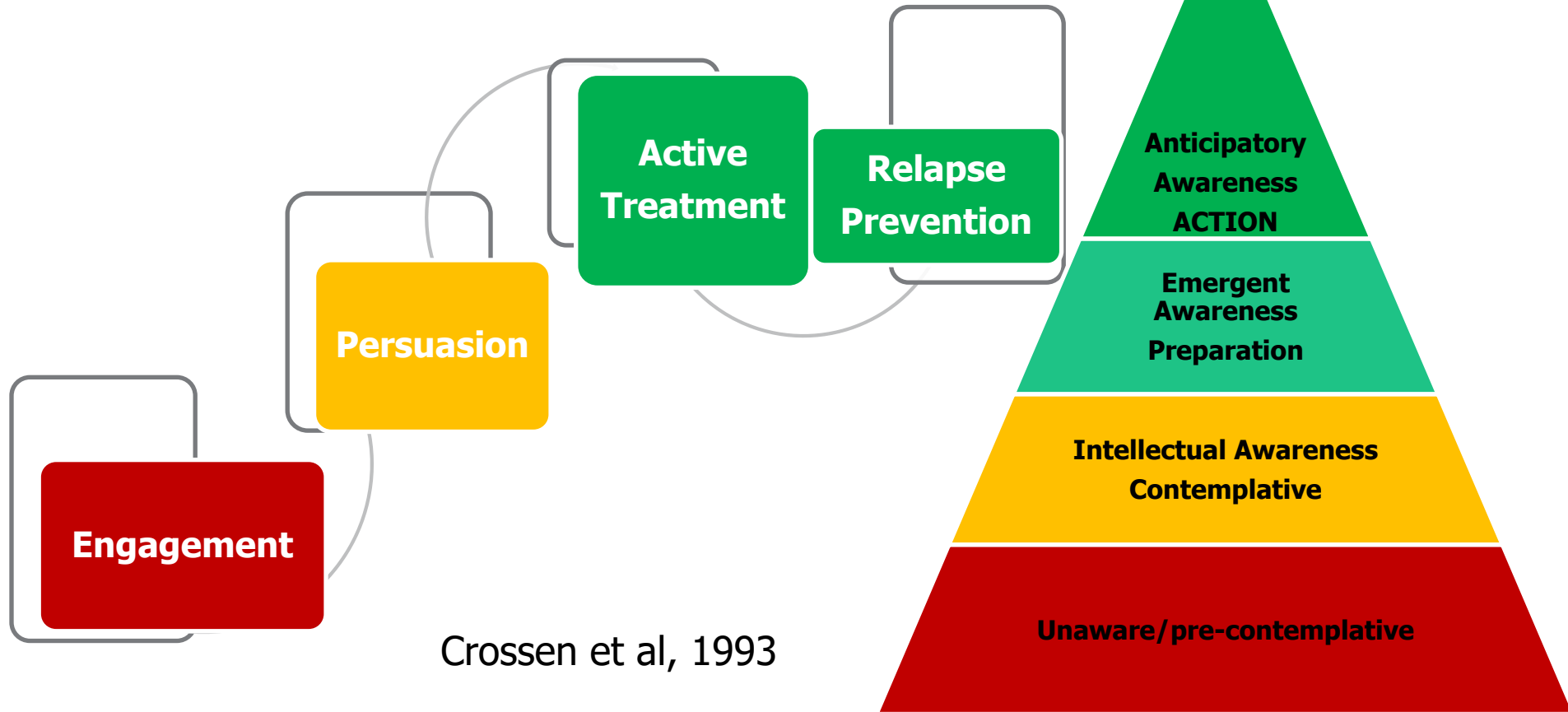
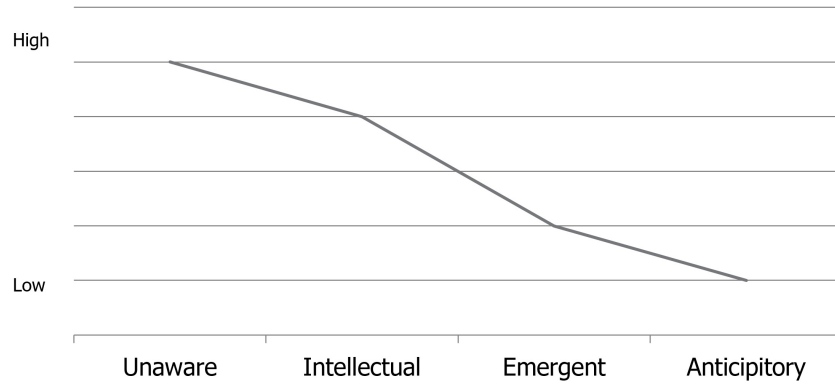
- Address neuro-behavioural and neurocognitive issues
 - Cognitive Compensation
 - Behavioural Supports (incentives, programmatic supports)
- Assertive Case management
 - Addictions Medicine Consultation
 - Shared care with structured addictions programs
 - ACTT
 - Housing Providers, shelters, community organizations

Phases of concurrent treatment (case management model)



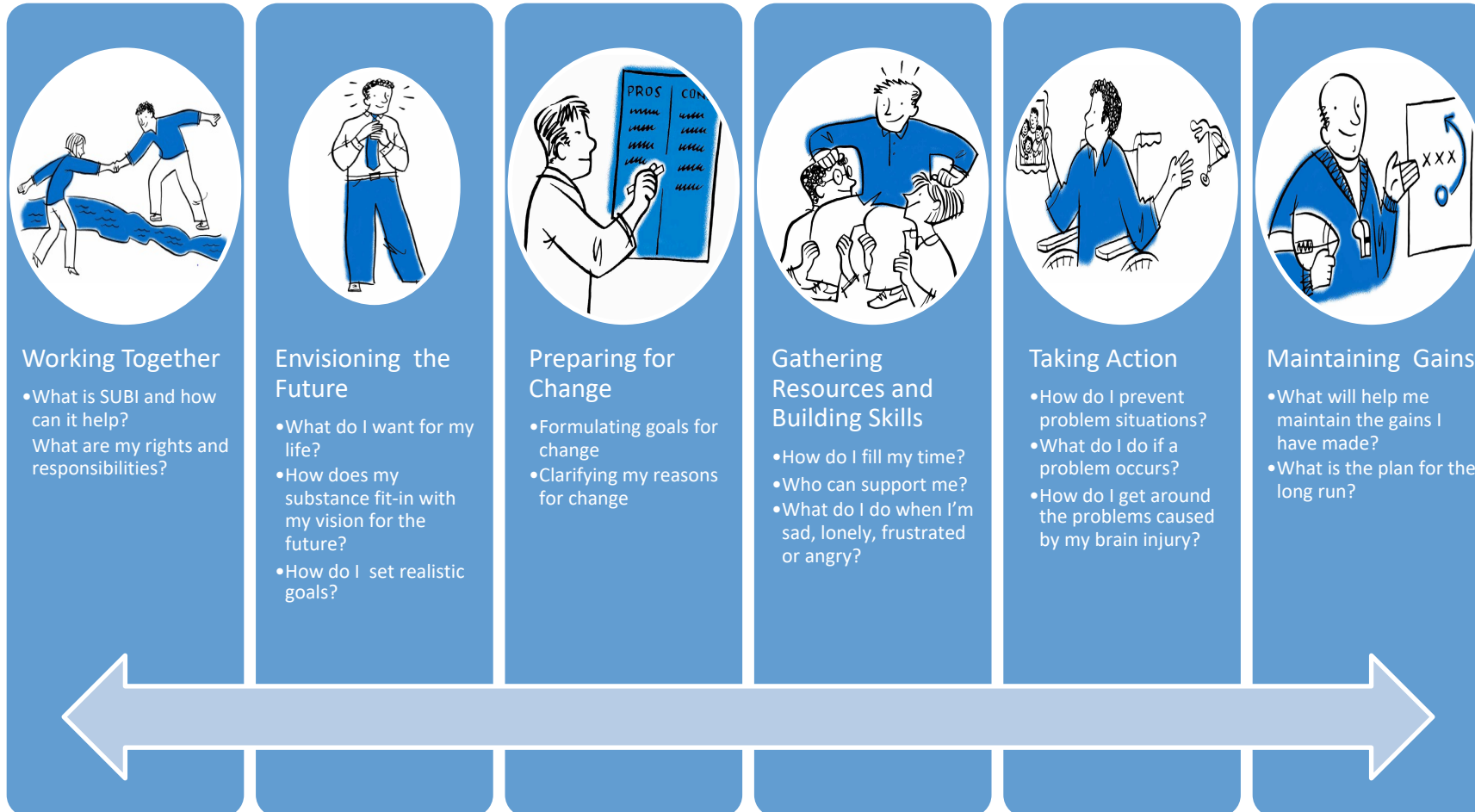
Wayne Skinner, 2010

Environmental Supports

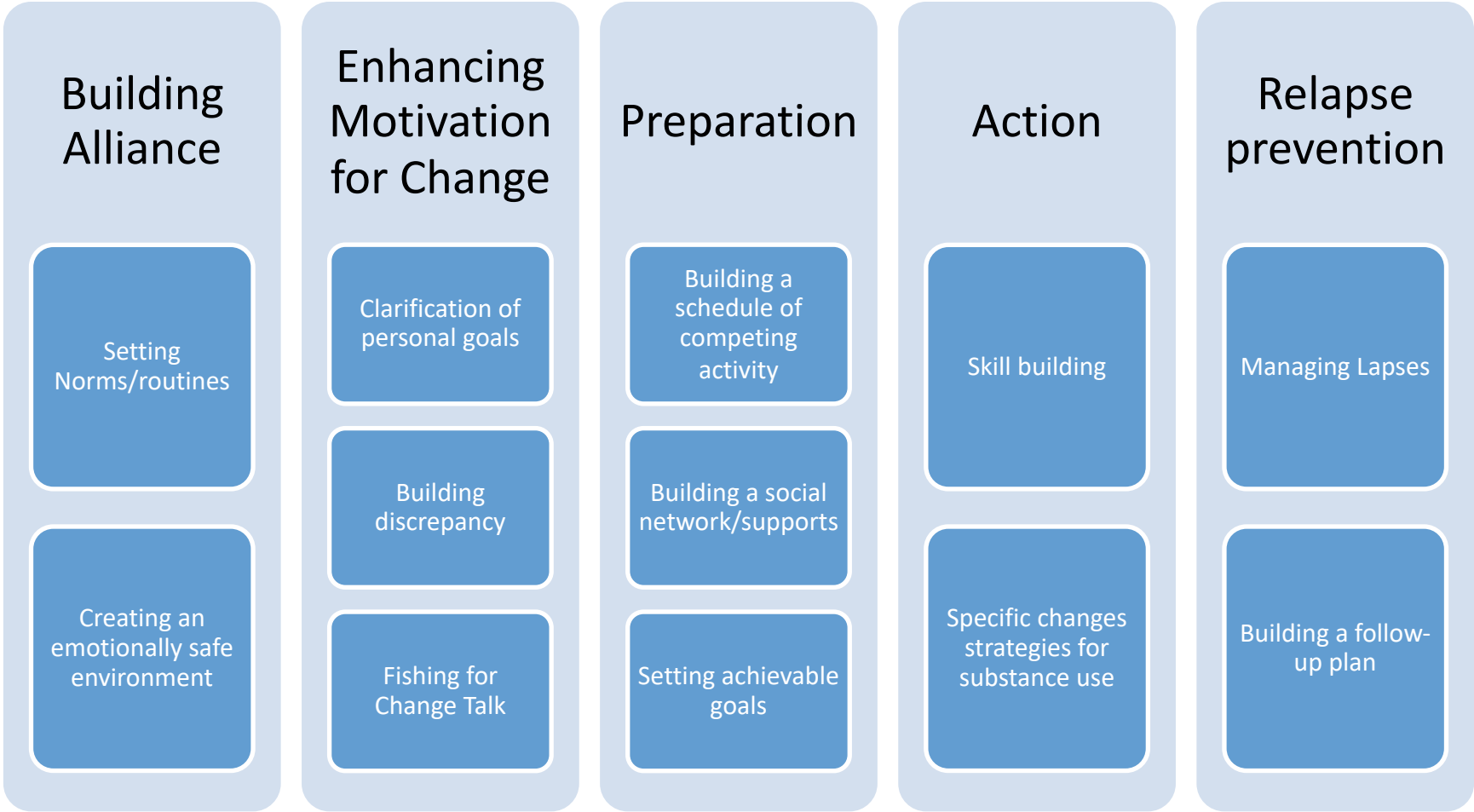


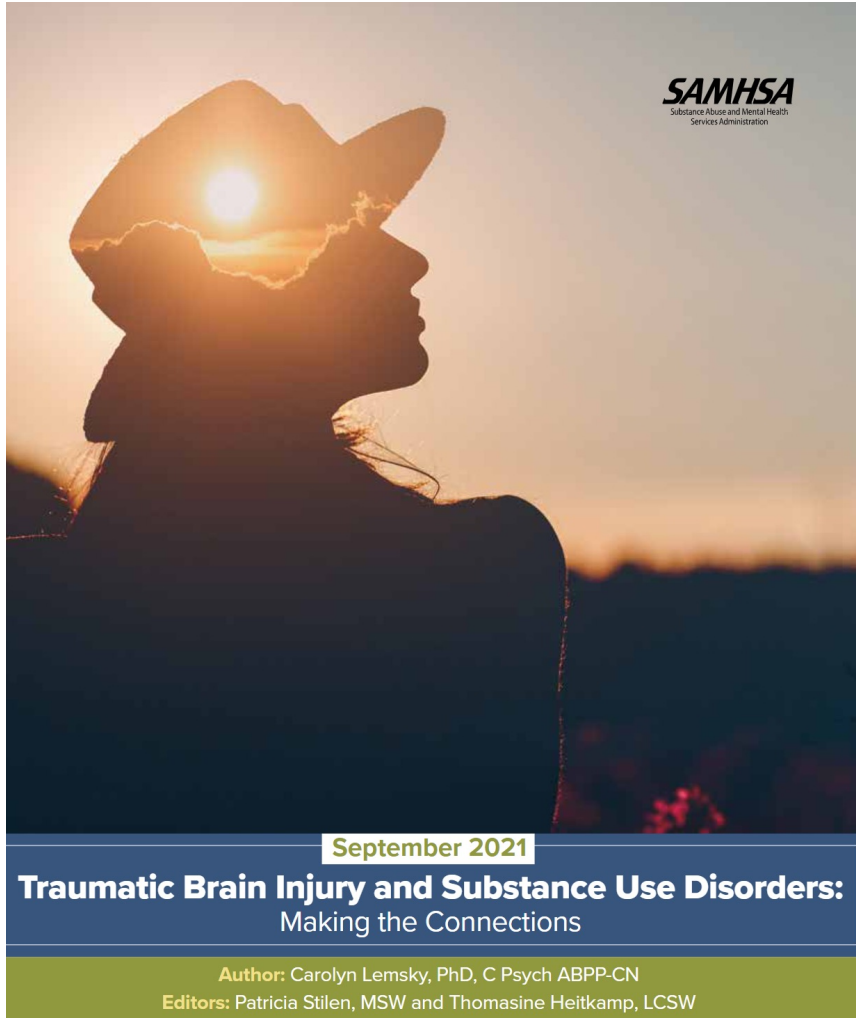
Crossen et al, 1993

Each phase of the intervention will try to help you to answer different questions.



Model of Intervention For the facilitator





CONTENTS

- Brain Basics
- Brain injury and outcomes
- Screening for Brain Injury
- Screening for Functional Impairments
- Recognizing and Accommodating Cognitive Impairments
- Recommendations for Service Delivery.
- Resources

PATTERNS OF INJURY



The Fingerprint of TBIs

The pattern of TBIs is not random. Because of the anatomy of the skull and how most traumatic injuries occur, TBIs tend to have the greatest impact on the structures of the prefrontal cortex and the temporal lobes. The inside of the skull has bony structures designed to hold the brain in place. When the force is great enough, rubbing up against these structures can cause damage to the surface of the brain and can also result in axonal shearing. For these reasons, TBIs will tend to have a pattern of disconnection that has its greatest effect on the connections from the prefrontal cortex (executive functioning) and the limbic system (emotional centers) that make up the reward circuit. These are the brain structures that are responsible for focusing attention and regulating emotion and behavior; they mediate how a person responds to reward. When connections between these areas are working well, judgments about risks and rewards are experienced as a gut feeling about the right thing to do. Focusing on a conversation in a noisy room, reading others' non-verbal behavior, keeping a lid on strong emotion, or remembering the good feelings that come with a success are automatic when connections in the brain are working. When these connections are disrupted as the result of TBI, these essential functions require conscious effort and become inefficient.

The reward circuit relies heavily on dopamine as a neurotransmitter. It is the reward where most substances of abuse exert their effects. As discussed below, the ongoing use of some substances of abuse alters the functioning of the reward system, making people more sensitive to immediate reward and less sensitive to punishing events. This same pattern is often observed after a TBI and results in behavioral impulsivity.

Brain Injuries and Overdose

An overdose can cause a brain injury, and having one overdose puts a person at risk for more.²³ People who are living with cognitive impairment are more prone to overdoses. They may have more difficulty monitoring their intake of a drug. It is also possible that changes in brain function may cause some drugs to have a more powerful effect.⁵⁷

In overdose, the leading cause of damage to the brain is loss of oxygen. When loss of oxygen occurs for longer than 5 to 6 minutes, changes in brain chemistry occur that result in the destruction of neurons. Because the structures responsible for memory (the hippocampus) and movement (the cerebellum) use a lot of oxygen, these structures are among the first to show damage. The longer the loss of consciousness, the more tissue may be damaged or destroyed. Frequent overdoses with limited time for the brain to recover may result in increased damage. The symptoms of anoxic brain injury commonly impact executive functioning, memory, and attention, as well as movement.

Toxic Effects of Substance Use

The impact of substance use depends on the substance used and the amount and duration of use. The age when substance use started is also an important factor. Starting substance use while the brain is developing can have long-term consequences. Although the findings from the research are complex and sometimes contradictory, the most common problems associated with substances of all kinds are difficulty, including problems with memory, attention, and executive functioning, including problem-solving, goal setting, and planning.

The table below provides a broad summary of the effects of common substances of abuse. Although more research is needed, it appears that the toxic effects of alcohol and other drugs are more dramatic in people who have had a history of brain injury.

SUBSTANCE	NEUROLOGICAL EFFECTS	COGNITIVE EFFECTS
ALCOHOL ^{12, 48}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associated with brain atrophy, particularly the Hippocampus (memory system). Thiamine deficiency may cause a severe short-lived condition (Wernicke's encephalopathy) or result in lasting learning and memory problems (Korsakoff's syndrome). 	Memory Executive Functioning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual-Spatial abilities.
CANNABIS ⁵⁰	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some evidence for atrophy in the Hippocampus (memory system) and changes in connectivity between the frontal lobes and limbic system. May have a greater impact on the developing brain. 	Memory Executive Functioning.
METHAMPHETAMINE ^{51, 52}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widespread damage to dopamine receptors, with cell loss in the emotion and reward system (limbic system), and Hippocampus (memory system).⁵⁶ 	Memory Executive Functioning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inability to suppress habitual behaviors. Sensitivity to short-term reward. Insensitivity to punishment. Insensitivity to normal pleasures.
COCAINE ^{53, 55}	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weakened connections between the frontal lobe and limbic system (frontostriatal) connections, brain atrophy, and changes in limbic (emotional) and Hippocampus (memory system). 	Memory Executive Functioning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitivity to short-term rewards. Insensitivity to normal pleasures. Increased sensitivity to pain.
OPIOIDS ⁵⁶	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weakened connections between the frontal lobe and limbic system (frontostriatal) connections, brain atrophy, and changes in limbic (emotional) and Hippocampus (memory system). 	Memory Executive Functioning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensitivity to short-term rewards. Insensitivity to normal pleasures. Increased sensitivity to pain.

OTHER SOURCES OF COGNITIVE DIFFICULTIES

History of Substance Use

Overdose

SCREENING

- When
- Stigma
- Trauma-informed Care
- Methods
- Interpretation

When Should Screening Occur?

The timing of screening for brain injury will depend on the setting you work in and the clients you serve. Questions pertaining to a history of illness or injury affecting the head or brain can be included in intake questionnaires. The best practice is to follow-up with an interview to ensure that the client has understood, remembered, and reported all the important events and information. There are also some important considerations to minimize the possible negative impact of screening.

Managing Stigma. While it is very important to screen for brain injury, it is also important to be sensitive to the potential for clients to feel stigmatized by the discussion. It is common for people who have a history of brain injury to feel that others see them as “dumb” or “damaged.” It is important to consider how you, as a clinician, must elicit the history in a respectful manner. **The importance of recognizing and affirming a clients' individual's resilience, abilities, and strengths throughout this discussion is critical.** It is also important to recognize and reinforce that having a problem with memory, attention, cognitive slowing, or communication does not mean that a person is unable to make decisions for themselves or make important contributions to others. What it does mean, though, is that understanding these difficulties and compensating for them will allow a person to have more impact. They will, then, be able to make the best possible decisions for themselves and be better understood and more in control.

Trauma-Informed Care. For many people, talking about their medical history and, in particular, any injuries to their head or brain may elicit traumatic memories. Before asking direct questions about brain injury, screening for a history of trauma will help avoid unexpected and negative reactions to the assessment. Even with screening, however, a client may have an emotional reaction to being asked about their history of injury. This is particularly true if their injury occurred under traumatic circumstances. The clinician will need to use their judgment regarding the timing of a screening interview and how far to pursue specific information if a client appears distressed.

Clients who may have sustained an injury in the context of intimate partner violence or other trauma may feel more comfortable and, therefore, provide more complete reports on questionnaires that they can complete privately rather than in interviews.²⁴ Screening tools may need to be modified slightly to include questions related to near strangulation. If you are working in an addiction setting, you may want to ask about overdose episodes explicitly.

Screening Methods

Screening measures that use only one or two questions to determine whether a brain injury has occurred have been found to miss milder and more remote histories of brain injury.²⁵ For this reason, researchers have developed screening measures that provide the individual with a clear set of cues to help them think back on their own history and provide responses that indicate when the injury happened and how severe it was. Although self-reporting is not perfect, it can provide a reasonable estimate of an individual's exposure to brain injury over the course of their lifetime. An experienced interviewer may be able to complete this screening in as little as just a few minutes for an uncomplicated history, or up to 15 minutes if there is a substantial brain injury history.



Problems with Processing Information

Processing information relies on good connections among brain structures. After brain injury, pathways between the brain's processing centers may be damaged, making the process of thinking much slower. This doesn't mean that a person is unable to understand something, but it may take them longer.

When a person is slow in processing information, you may notice:

- Getting a part (but not all) of what is being said.
- Taking a long time to answer questions.
- Appearing lazy.
- Showing signs of fatigue (zoning out, looking sleepy).

What you can do to help:

- Keep things simple. Present one idea at a time.
- Check in—have the person repeat what they understood to make sure you are on the same page.
- Slow down your speech, and make sure you give a client enough time to respond to questions.

PROBLEM	EXAMPLES	WHAT TO DO
Getting part of a message	Alex seems confused after discussions and sometimes doesn't remember all that we talked about.	Present one concept at a time to Alex. Wait for recognition before moving on. Write important concepts down on paper that are visible to Alex.
Delayed responding	Jon may continue to talk about something after the topic has changed.	Be sure to give Jon plenty of time to respond to questions. Be aware that he has likely missed the change in topic, and re-introduce the information.
	Sanjita just seems to be very quiet. Sometimes she doesn't answer at all.	Provide Sanjita with a cue, and give more time to respond. "Sanjita, we were talking about triggers. Did you have anything to add?"

SELF AWARENESS

- Self-Awareness Defined
- Assessment of Self-Awareness
- Impact on Programming

Difficulties with Self-Awareness

Self-awareness is probably the most complex of human abilities. It gives us an accurate picture of our strengths and weaknesses. Good self-awareness depends upon many cognitive functions working together, as well as psychological factors, such as a person's willingness to accept and acknowledge their strengths and weaknesses. Unlike other cognitive difficulties that may be directly observed, self-awareness can be more difficult to assess. However, understanding how aware an individual is of their impairments can be very important in determining the course of intervention.

Developing self-awareness related to newly acquired problems is often difficult after a brain injury. To develop self-awareness, an individual needs to notice the relationship between a behavior and its consequences. That may seem straightforward, but when clients have problems with attention, memory, reading, understanding their own emotions, and with problem-solving and reasoning, it's not surprising that they have difficulty recognizing when something that they are doing is contributing to the problems they are experiencing. It is also important to consider that most injuries occur suddenly, as the result of trauma or illness, and that the results of the injury may require a person to radically alter their expectations of themselves.



Addressing the Gap between “Say” and “Do” with Environmental Supports

As a general rule, the more limited or inconsistent an individual’s level of awareness, the more likely they are to require environmental supports to accomplish their goals. Often, the difficulty the client is having in following through with therapy-related tasks is that they are distracted by their current environment and begin to neglect the goal that they had sincerely expressed in a therapy session. Failing to meet a goal may cause a client to avoid treatment settings. Difficulty with follow-through will often result in clients being labeled “unmotivated” or “uncooperative.” The provision of environmental supports helps clients to stay in treatment and achieve treatment goals.

AWARENESS	STAGE OF CHANGE	COMMON TASKS IN AN INTERVENTION
Little or no self-awareness	<p>Pre-Contemplative.</p> <p>May not have identified the negative consequences of substance use.</p> <p>Not yet expressing a desire for change.</p> <p>May avoid discussion about substance use.</p>	<p>Emphasis is on environmental supports, working directly with a client to achieve goals.</p> <p>Establish rapport, and reduce barriers to attending intervention.</p> <p>Support participation in non-use-related activities.</p> <p>With permission, provide factual information about the impact of substance use.</p> <p>Support the client in developing and talking about their current goals and priorities.</p> <p>Support client to determine how substance use may interfere with stated goals/priorities.</p> <p>Harm-reduction strategies.</p>
Intellectual	<p>Contemplative.</p> <p>Expressing ambivalence about changing substance use.</p>	<p>Environmental supports remain primary.</p> <p>Support the development of awareness by predicting and tracking outcomes and supportive/non-judgmental feedback.</p> <p>Support client to weigh the risks and benefits of substance use.</p>
Emergent	<p>Preparation.</p> <p>Maybe taking small steps (e.g., seeking information)</p>	<p>Continued environmental supports with collaborative problem-solving and planning.</p>
Anticipatory	<p>Action.</p>	<p>Increased emphasis on self-management.</p> <p>Client may be taking on more responsibility for maintaining environmental supports or taking independent action.</p>

Clients are likely to need some support to...



Understand the impact of brain injury and substance use



Remember what to do and when



Make decisions and set clear goals



Make plans and problem-solve



Get started starting



Keep track of goals and evaluate progress



Key Considerations in Program Development:

Longer-term interventions and smaller caseloads may be required to adequately address clients' needs. Clients with brain injury present with greater symptom complexity and are likely to require longer periods of intervention along with more integrated aftercare supports.

Coordination with community partners will be needed. This will likely require actively reaching out to, and creating partnerships with, brain injury providers and other support agencies in the community.

Providers should recognize the elevated risks for impulsive behavior, including suicide, and regularly assess suicide risk.

Providers should be aware of these elevated risks of pain, seizure, endocrine, and neurogenerative disorders and make referrals for assessment as required.

Clients are likely to need some support to...



Understand
the impact of
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Remember
what to do and
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Make
decisions and
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Make plans
and problem-
solve



Get started
starting



Keep track
of goals and
evaluate
progress

FUNCTIONAL COMPENSATION

Below are some examples of using environmental supports to address the cognitive difficulties you observe.

WHAT YOU OBSERVE	POTENTIAL BARRIERS	CUE	PLANNING	DIRECT	BEHAVIORAL
Missing Appointments.	Memory: Forget appointment time. Initiation: Miss cues that it is time to go. Neglects goal.	Alarm in phone. Wall calendar.	Use Goal Management Training. Does the client have transportation, have a fare, and know the route?	Escort to appointment. Phone-call reminder.	Incentive for attendance and task completion. Eliminate potential distractions occurring before or during the appointment.
	Gets distracted by trigger.	Gets distracted by trigger. Goal sheet to remind the client of goals.	Take a different route to avoid triggers.		Plan for activity that will compete with trigger situation (e.g., attend a meeting or time with a supportive friend).
Not Completing Assignments.	Forgets or gets distracted.	Cue between sessions.	Make a plan for a particular time and date to complete the assignment.	Complete assignment in session, or coach between sessions.	Offer an incentive for task completion. Pair tasks with something that occurs routinely. Start with very simple tasks, and gradually phase in more complex tasks.
Triggered to Use.	Having available money.	Reminder in wallet about budget.	Plan to leave cash and cards at home except for shopping for necessities.	Guardian or trustee for finances.	Offer incentive for completion of task.
Missing Medication Doses.	Forgetting dose or not taking medications at the correct time.	Daily dose packaging. Alarms in phone.	Packing list for day's activity. Simplifying dose regimens when there are multiple medications. Planning doses around routine activities (after evening news, before breakfast).	Directly dispensed and observed doses.	

WHAT YOU OBSERVE	POTENTIAL BARRIERS	CUE	PLANNING	DIRECT	BEHAVIORAL
Missing Appointments.	<p>Memory: Forget appointment time.</p> <p>Initiation: Miss cues that it is time to go.</p> <p>Neglects goal.</p>	<p>Alarm in phone.</p> <p>Wall calendar.</p>	<p>Use Goal Management Training.</p> <p>Does the client have transportation, have a fare, and know the route?</p>	<p>Escort to appointment.</p> <p>Phone-call reminder.</p>	<p>Incentive for attendance and task completion.</p> <p>Eliminate potential distractions occurring before or during the appointment.</p>
	<p>Gets distracted by trigger.</p>	<p>Gets distracted by trigger.</p> <p>Goal sheet to remind the client of goals.</p>	<p>Take a different route to avoid triggers.</p>		<p>Plan for activity that will compete with trigger situation (e.g., attend a meeting or time with a supportive friend).</p>



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SERVICE DELIVERY

- Outreach groups
- Intake
- Community Linkages
- Motivational Interviewing
- Community Reinforcement and Family Approach (CRAFT)
- Specialized Referrals

Adaptation for Outreach Services

Many people living with cognitive impairment have difficulty identifying and seeking out services that would be beneficial. Resources across service sectors will help clients to find and benefit from your services. In addition, having links with providers in other sectors can serve as a source of consultation and referral. Joint training opportunities with providers of ABI services is one way to make connections and ensure that you are aware of services in your area. For example, offering to swap training or provide training on topics such as the identification of substance use disorders and available treatment opportunities with a provider of ABI services, who can provide similar information related to brain injury, will provide an excellent resource for staff members and begin the process of building referral relationships.

Many clients with brain injury will require a more assertive approach to care, which may include meeting clients in the community. They are also more likely to require case management services that include supporting a client to follow through with a referral.

Adaptation for Intake Services

In the section on assessment, you learned about ways to screen for brain injury as well as the resulting impairments. Often clients with cognitive impairments will have greater difficulty attending appointments on time, waiting for appointments, or following through with multi-stepped referral processes. To avoid barriers to care,

Pulling It All Together (worked example)

Using a table like the one below will help you to organize your interventions for treatment planning purposes. Consider how your clients' difficulties might impact their ability to participate in treatment and address treatment goals.

	ALERTNESS/ FATIGUE	ATTENTION	PROCESSING	MEMORY	EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATION BEHAVIOR
Observations	Sleepy in appointments after 2 p.m. Often arrives hungry.	Changes topic, distracted by noise.	Gets only part of the message.	Needs reminders for appt. and tasks.	Dominates in groups. Often makes off-color jokes.

GOAL AREA	SUPPORTIVE STRATEGIES
Attendance and participation	Review how to make reminders in phone (set alarm for one hour before appointments). Schedule for morning appointments.
Attention and comprehension	Use notes in session as cue for topic. Take picture for reminder. Slow down/break down messages.
Learning and remembering new information	Picture of session notes. Review previous session at start of session. Organize information into top two or three things to remember. Repeat key messages.
Following through with tasks	Make specific plans, and help to create reminders in phone or as notes/posters at home. Break tasks down into small elements. Encourage client to enlist help of family to support follow-up.
Understanding strengths and needs	Use goal setting. Ask client to predict behavior/track progress. Review events, and modify approach as needed.
Setting realistic goals	Encourage client to dream big and start small with a goal that can be done in the next week. Build on most recent success.

CARE PLANNING

- Encouraging specific goals related to managing ABI symptoms.

INTRODUCING SUBI WORKBOOK 2.0

- MI adapted approach
 - Inclusive language
 - Readings to be completed with a client to encourage discussion
 - Exercises to encourage self-reflection
- Is my Substance use Something to Worry About?
- Tackling My Substance Use
- Coping strategies for Life
- Skills for Maintaining Health and Relationships
- Pulling it All Together

CLIENT WORKBOOK

Substance Use and Brain Injury



Second Edition

SUBI WORKBOOK 2.0

- MI adapted approach
- Inclusive Language
- Brief readings to encourage discussion and reflection

Chapter 3: How satisfied are you with your life right now?



Has your drinking or drug use caused problems in any of these areas of your life? You might not have thought about this before, or recently. When you stop to consider it, you might decide that parts of your life or your relationships have been affected by your behavior.

Take a minute to think about it. Follow the instructions below.

Check-In: Your Level of Satisfaction

1. Circle the problems that have happened to you in the last three months:

Physical Health (accident or injury, illnesses)

My Mood (feeling guilty, depressed, or thinking about regrets)

My Relationships (other people complaining about my alcohol or drug use, arguments with family or friends.)

Things that I am doing (being late for appointments, mistakes at home or at work)

Breaking the law (getting into fights, theft, even if you were not arrested or charged)

Managing money (running out of money I need for rent or food or spending money on things I do not need while drunk or stoned).

2. Here is a list of symptoms of heavy drinking and drug use. Have you had any of these in the past three months? ✓ Check the ones that apply to you.

	Often	Sometimes	Never
Trouble getting to sleep			
Waking during the night			
Headache or Hangover			
Stomach problems			
Rapid heartbeat			
Shakiness, unsteady hands			
Sweating, particularly at night			
Poor memory			
Trouble Concentrating			
Mood changes			
Feeling tired			

3. How satisfied are you with your life?

	Happy	Okay	Little unhappy	Very unhappy
Health				
Emotional Health (mood)				
Relationships with family				
Relationships with friends				
Money situation				
Ability to think, remember and problem solve.				
How I spend my free time				
How well I get things done (work, volunteering, things around the house).				
Legal status				

4. Is there a link between your drinking or drug use and any of the areas of your life that are problems for you? Circle the areas of your life you might be interested in changing.

INTRODUCING SUBI WORKBOOK 2.0

- MI adapted approach
 - Goals
 - Information
 - Tips
 - Check-in
 - Plan

Chapter 9: Coping with Cravings

Goals

- ✓ Learn about cravings
- ✓ Develop coping strategies for cravings

Information

How do you know if you are having a craving?

Everyone who changes their drinking and drug use has cravings. A craving is a feeling that you want to get high. Sometimes these feelings are very strong, and it is hard to think about anything else. Other times, the feelings are weak, and you can easily focus your mind on something else. You know you have a craving when:



- You think about wanting to use drugs or alcohol
- You have physical sensations, like a knot in your stomach or tension
- You find yourself thinking about how to get alcohol or drugs

Tips

Once you start to pay attention to your thoughts find a way to be your own best coach. This is not easy at first, but practice will make it easier. Here are a few useful thoughts to review when you get a craving:

- It is normal to have cravings. It does not mean I am not getting better.
- Cravings do not last forever. They go away even if I do not get high.
- The longer I do not drink or use drugs the weaker the cravings get.
- The longer I do not drink or use drugs the fewer cravings I will have.
- Cravings might be uncomfortable, but they will not hurt me.
- I have been doing well.
- I have worked hard. I do not want to spoil it now.
- I can do this!


Check-In: Stop and Think About Cravings

When you recognize thoughts or feelings that are part of a craving, stop and review this list to help you fight it. Check any that might work for you:

- Keep a picture of a stop sign in my wallet, purse, or somewhere I will see it often.
- Wear a rubber band on my wrist and snap it to stop my thoughts.
- Review my reasons for avoiding drugs and alcohol.
- Practice breathing or relaxation or meditation.
- Distract myself with something interesting or fun.
- Find book, song, poem, prayer, or photo of person/place that gives me hope & strength.
- Have something to eat.
- Listen to music.
- Talk to someone I trust
- Write in my journal (Chapter 15)
- Leave the situation or do something to change it
- Read my journal or workbook
- Pat myself on the back
- Make a list of my accomplishments
- Audio or video-record my own self-pep talk that I can watch or listen to when I need it

Plan

Having a plan to cope with cravings will help. Practicing your plan before you need it will help even more. One way to get ideas about what to do is to think about a time when you did not have a craving. What were you doing? Where were you? Who was with you?

Coping Card	Emergency Plan
Use this Coping Card of ideas to make your plan.	Top 5 reasons for change
	1. _____
	2. _____
	3. _____
	4. _____
	5. _____
Call: _____ Phone: _____	*Leave the situation
Call: _____ Phone: _____	*Go somewhere safe such as:
	*Take a few breaths and try to relax.



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