



Addiction & Vulnerable Adults

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Guardian Assistance Program
8th Annual guardianship Conference



Overview

- Designed for guardians of adults 18 and over
- Includes additionally
 - attorneys
 - nurses
 - social workers
 - others

Purpose of Presentation – Learner Objectives



- Overview of addiction
- How this applies to guardianship
 - People with mental health issues
 - People with intellectual & developmental disabilities
 - Older adults
- Provide brief background of substance abuse
- Introduce model of substance abuse
- Provide initial resources
- Have opportunity to discuss



Common Concerns

- Key mental health and substance misuse issues across different populations
 - Older adults may self medicate
 - Persons with mental health problems may have co-occurring substance abuse
 - Persons with IDD may be vulnerable with peers



Overview of Addiction

- What to expect initially
- When working with persons who abuse substances, expect
 - Denial
 - Minimization
 - Projection
 - Rationalization
- First objective is to break through these issues
- Helping attitudes and behaviors



Overview

- Five Models of Addiction
 - Moral Model posits that AOD is a choice
 - Sociocultural Models look into ethnic, cultural, religious, and environmental conditions as causes
 - Psychological Models view addiction as a secondary condition of underlying psychological disorder
 - Disease Model views addiction as a primary, chronic, and progressive disease
 - Biopsychosocial model views addiction as a result of interacting variables



Current Models & Approaches

- Disability and substance misuse coexist
- S-BIRT
- Navigating help with a guardian (confidentiality)



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Moral Model

- Result or consequence of personnel choice
- A 1988 Supreme Court decision stated that crimes committed by a person addicted to alcohol were willful misconduct and not the result of a disease
- A common model for the general public to view substance abuse and addiction
- Addiction or substance abuse caused by spiritual or character deficiencies



Sociocultural Models

- Focuses on factors external to the individual including
 - Cultural
 - Religious
 - Family
 - Peers
 - Psychological factors
- Contrary to popular beliefs, immigrants have lower rates of substance abuse, may rise over several years



Psychological Models

- Problem caused by emotional pain, substance abuse is a symptom
- Substance abuse temporarily relieves the that pain
- Need to deal with underlying causes to that pain

Disease Model

- Has a medical model orientation
- Has been useful as a funding mechanism since 1955
- Allows treatment services to be billed through many health insurance plans
- Views addiction as a
 - primary
 - chronic
 - Progressive (e.g., Jellenik Chart)



Biopsychosocial Model

- Commonly used, consistent with a social work orientation
- Combines
 - Medical
 - Social
 - Psychological models



Resources/Alternatives

- SAMHSA Treatment Locator
www.samhsa.gov/find-help
- *Addiction resources in DC area (SAMHSA)*
 - *Harm reduction*
- *Addiction and recovery factors related to incapacitated adults*



Discussion

- For example
 - What has been tried?
 - What barriers exist?
 - How to identify issues?



Thank You