Newly Funded Forensic ACT teams in 2016 –

UPDATE from the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH)*

The Forensic ACT Teams funding opportunity was made available through NYC Safe, an initiative that began in August 2015 to support New Yorkers with untreated serious mental illness (SMI), homelessness and past or potential justice involvement. NYC Safe includes enhanced and/or new services to reduce the fragmentation and silos within and between mental health, homeless service and criminal justice system, which leaves many people falling through the cracks. In accordance with this mission, five new Forensically-oriented Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) Teams were awarded.

The FACT team will deliver comprehensive treatment to adults (18 or over) with serious mental illness (SMI), justice-involvement, co-occurring substance use and homelessness by providing an integrated set of evidence-based treatment, rehabilitation, case management, and support services. The mobile, multi-disciplinary mental health team supports consumer recovery through a highly individualized, person-centered treatment approach that provides consumers with the tools to integrate into the community, by reducing criminal behaviors, increasing community tenure, promoting recovery by providing access to treatment and support services, housing, education, employment, and other meaningful activities. Key components of evidence based practices will inform treatment and will be derived from models such as Integrated Dual Disorder Treatment, Motivational Interviewing, Contingency Management, Trauma Informed Care, and other Cognitive and Behavioral modalities, to aid in the recovery of individuals with criminogenic risk factors. Services are culturally appropriate and provided to consumers in the community in the settings where they live and also spend their time including shelters, private residences, places of work and education. The team aims to reduce inpatient psychiatric and medical hospitalizations, emergency room visits, arrests, jail and forensic hospital admissions by providing accessible, flexible and assertive treatment. The FACT team supports consumers to achieve active participation in normal developmental life roles as evidenced by participation in school, employment, long periods of sobriety and contact with family, peers and others in natural settings.
Crisis intervention services are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The FACT program is the first contact for the after-hours calls for the consumer, family, and other providers (including, but not limited to housing, shelter, defense attorneys, etc.) The team provides services designed to prevent or resolve crises to avoid unnecessary use of emergency services. The FACT Team is not reliant on the court to determine appropriateness and this program is not an Alternative to Incarceration (ATI) or an Alternatives to Detention (ATD) program.

FACT Staffing consist of individuals from various disciplines such as, nursing, psychiatry, psychology and social work.

- Team Leader/ program Director (LCSW, LMHC)
- Psychiatrists (MD)
- Registered Nurse 1.00 FTE Family Specialist (LMSW/LCSW/LMHC)
- Criminal Justice Liaison (LMSW/LCSW/LMHC)
- Substance Use Specialist (LCSW, LMSW, LMHC)
- Housing Specialist
- Social Worker /Wellness Specialist
- Employment Specialist (LMSW/LCSW/LMHC)
- Peer Counselor
- Program Assistant (BA/BS)

*Submitted to the ACT Institute’s Newsletter by Hazel Phillips (DOHMH)*

The ACT Institute Welcomes Sascha Altman DuBrul, Recovery Specialist and Peer Trainer for ACT

Hello friends and strangers: my name is Sascha Altman DuBrul and I’m so excited to have this opportunity to work and collaborate with you all. I've been hired to help develop and support the peer specialist role at ACT and OnTrack and I'm looking forward to having the excuse to meet and work with a bunch of you and your teams.

A few things I’d love for you to know about me are that I come to this work after being on multiple sides of the mental health puzzle. I spent a bunch of time institutionalized and diagnosed with "serious mental illness" beginning when I was 18 years old. When I was 28 I co-founded an organization called The Icarus Project which was an attempt to change the language and culture of what gets called mental health and mental illness. I spent 12 years working for/with Icarus setting up an international media project and network of peer based support groups. Then 3 years ago I decided to go back to school at Silberman School of Social Work and I just graduated in June with an MSW on the clinical track. During my time in school I spent a year interning as a clinician on the NYC Parachute Manhattan Mobile Treatment Team, which is an experimental program that has similarities to the ACT and OnTrack models but it emphasizes the role of peer specialists (3 peers on
a team, 8 team members in total) working with clinicians, and is grounded in a systemic family therapy model called Open Dialogue.

I'm hoping that my diverse and eclectic working experiences will be useful in thinking about the roles of peer specialists on the ACT teams. In the meantime I'm looking forward to getting to know you all and learning the ins and out of ACT. I'm humbled to be here. Thank you for the opportunity!

You can grab anything you want from my website below:

Sascha Altman DuBrul
http://mapstothetherside.net

ACT Core/Treatment Planning Trainings:

❖ Please note 2016-2017 training dates will be posted on our website shortly

8/5/16. Hudson River - Westchester Behavioral Health 100 Woods Road Room A334

Valhalla, NY 10595. 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM - Treatment Planning

To register, please click link:  https://rfmh.csod.com/

PLEASE CHECK THE ACT WEBSITE FOR TRAINING


New: ACT Transition Curriculum

Transition from ACT is one step on the road to recovery.

The ACT Institute is pleased to announce that the new ACT Transition curriculum is now available to ACT Teams. The curriculum offers an overview of the ACT Transition Model, a three-dimensional approach designed to give structure to the transition process.
ACT Transition features: Clinical strategies to support transitioning consumers and their families

- Downloadable tools for ACT teams as they transition consumers to less intensive services
- Helpful instructional guides on how to use these tools
- Opportunity to earn 2 Social Work/CASAC CEUs upon completion of the curriculum*

To register for ACT Transition Curriculum, please follow these instructions:

1. Log into https://rfmh.csod.com/
2. Enter your username and password (if you have forgotten your password, please click the "forgot password" link on the login page)
3. Enter "ACT Transition Curriculum" in the search field in the upper right hand corner of the Learning Management System landing page
4. Click the Request button

* Social work CEUS/CASAC CEUs are provided as follows for each unit: Unit 1: 1 SW/CASAC CEU for watching the module, passing the knowledge quiz and completing the evaluation. Unit 2: 1 SW/CASAC CEU for watching all of the Instructional Videos, testing out the ACTion Planner, passing the knowledge quiz and completing the evaluation.

ACT Institute offers training for Team Leaders & Substance Abuse Specialists – NYC only

This year-long training continues to move forward. Now is the time to follow up on incomplete trainings. Luis Lopez will reach out to each of the substance abuse specialist to alert them about missing trainings. Please contact Luis Lopez at lpezlu@nyspi.columbia.edu for further assistance in
bringing your trainings up to date. The next ACT Substance Abuse Specialists on line webinar for Substance Abuse Specialists for NYC teams will take place on **Wednesday, August 31, 2016.**

**To register for the Substance Abuse Specialist and Team leader curriculum go to** [https://rfmh.csod.com](https://rfmh.csod.com)

**Registration**

All NYC Substance Abuse Specialists should complete the pre-test and register for the Substance Abuse Specialist Training curriculum. To register, please take the following steps:

1. Enter the CPI Learning Community by clicking [HERE](https://rfmh.csod.com). You will need to enter your username LMS Username.

2. Select "Request" to add the **ACT: Substance Abuse Specialist Training or ACT: Substance Abuse Specialists Training –Team Leaders** curriculum to your transcript.

3. Once you are on your transcript, click on "Take Pre-Test" next to the title **ACT: Substance Abuse Specialist Training**.

4. After completing the pre-test, you will now be able to register for trainings in the curriculum.

5. Next to the title, “**Recovery and the role of Substance Abuse Specialists in ACT**”, click "Select Session" under Options and then scroll down and select "Request" to register for this event.

**Stay tuned for events in September!!**

**ACT Profile Support Call**

The ACT Institute will host a quarterly support call for ACT Team Leaders to discuss the ACT PROFILE. Dr. Steve Huz will on the call to dialog with Team Leaders regarding any questions Team Leaders may have about the ACT profile. **The next call will take place on September 12th from 4-5PM.** Please feels free to invite agency supervisors and QA Departments.
To join the call please dial 866-776-3553 and enter the profile number: 52177374

Steve Huz, PhD. is a Research Scientist in the Office of Performance Measurement and Evaluation at the New York State Office of Mental Health. In that capacity, Dr. Huz oversees statewide performance measurement and evaluation for a number of OMH initiatives including Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS), Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) and assessment of consumer perception of service quality. Dr. Huz received his doctorate in Public Administration from the University at Albany, New York.

ACT Team Leader Retreats

We are pleased to announce our annual team leader retreats and workshop on 9/23 at the New York City Field Office and on 10/28 in Geneva, NY. This year we will focus on enhancing supervisory skills in two key areas of ACT: Harm Reduction and Suicide Assessment and Prevention. By the end of the training participants will

- Be familiar with key principles of working in a harm reduction framework
- Be able to employ tools to facilitate clinical supervision with the substance abuse specialist in MI and stage wise treatment.
- Be familiar with how to train and supervise team members in suicide assessment and prevention.

ACT Consultations

The ACT Institute provides consultations to support teams in various areas including developing CQI projects, providing programmatic technical assistance and/or training for teams at your site. Please contact Pascale Jean-Noel to schedule a time to visit your site. (jeannoe@nyspi.columbia.edu).

CQI FOLLOW UP SURVEY
We continue to follow up on the CQI project and are eager to hear about your progress. Additionally, we want to ensure that we are providing effective support to meet your team’s needs throughout the CQI process. Please copy and paste the link below into your internet browser (*do not click the link*) to answer a few brief questions. The survey should take no more than 5-10 minutes to complete. The information gathered will further assist us in finding ways to support your efforts with your team.

We greatly appreciate your participation. You can take the survey by copying and pasting the URL below into your internet browser:

https://cumc.co1.qualtrics.com/SE?Q_DL=3EFgig07tKLjSoR_7ZZWwkunCT6jihn_MLRP_bmu8Sre0U57QWq1&Q_CHL=email

**Listserv**

If you’d like to be part of the ACT listserv, please forward your email address to Pascale Jean-Noel at jeannoe@nyspi.columbia.edu.

Please watch for announcements of future events.

www.practiceinnovations.org