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 services and the 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 teams will deliver comprehensive treatment to adults (18 or over) with 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 Alternatives to Detention (ATD) program.

FACT staffing consists 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)

**ACT Core/Treatment Planning Trainings:**

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

**9/9/16. New York City OMH Field Office.** 330 Fifth Ave, 9FL, New York, NY 10016. 9:30 AM - 4:00 PM – CORE

**9/16/16. Long Island Field Office.** 998 Crooked Hill Road, Bldg. 45, 3rd Floor W. Brentwood, NY 11717 ; 9:30 AM-4:00PM – CORE

To register, please click link: [https://rfmh.csod.com/](https://rfmh.csod.com/)
PLEASE CHECK THE ACT WEBSITE FOR TRAINING

REQUIREMENTS. http://www.practiceinnovations.org/CPIInitiatives/ACTInstitute/Training/tabid/1

ACT Team Leader Retreats

We are pleased to announce our annual team leader retreats/workshops 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 & 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, and
- Be familiar with how to train and supervise team members in suicide assessment and prevention.

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

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

This year-long training continues to move forward. You should have received an email if you’ve missed any trainings. Please contact Luis Lopez at lopezlu@nyspi.columbia.edu for further assistance in bringing your trainings up to date. The next training for Substance Abuse Specialists on NYC teams is an online webinar taking place on Friday, September 9, 2016.

To register for the Substance Abuse Specialist and Team leader curriculum, visit 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. 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.

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 be on the call to dialogue with Team Leaders regarding any questions they may have about the profile. The next call will take place on September 12th from 4-5PM. Please feel 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 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. (jeanno@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=3EFgjgO7tKLJSoR_7ZZWwkunCT6jihn_MLRP_bmu8SreoU57QWq1&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 jeanno@nyspi.columbia.edu.

Please watch for announcements of future events.

www.practiceinnovations.org