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## Series Editor's Note

Social workers in most fields of practice deal with people suffering from substance abuse addictions and/or with people who suffer because a loved one is addicted. Substance abuse drains individual, familial, and social networks and community resources. In child welfare settings, workers daily witness the association between the abuse of alcohol and drugs and the abuse and neglect of children. In family agencies, workers experience the explosive consequences of alcohol and drugs on intimate partner abuse and the deterioration of family life. In mental health agencies, workers encounter the increasingly common phenomenon of dual diagnoses. Substance abuse further degrades mental functioning and is frequently a trigger for hospitalization. In the health care field, workers observe addiction's deleterious effect on the immune system and vital organs and consequent life stressors. In the world of work, employee assistance counselors help addicted persons hold on to their jobs and spare them and their families the destructive consequences of unemployment. In school systems, social workers develop alcohol and drug prevention programs and help youngsters deal with substance experimentation and abuse. Finally, in communities, workers struggle to deal with the devastation caused by drugs.

Professor Freeman makes an important and distinct contribution to the literature on this subject. She integrates individual and social perspectives and engages the complexity of substance abuse and addiction. Specifically, she links alcohol and drug abuse to personal, interpersonal, and environmental factors and emphasizes interventions at all these levels. She bridges

individual, family, and group services; community practice; administration; and policy practice. For example, Professor Freeman effectively explores how policy, funding, and service delivery systems affect delivery of direct services and simultaneously illustrates with case, community, and organizational practice examples how these systems can be influenced. Providing consumers with the opportunity to empower themselves is at the core of her practice framework. Professor Freeman instructs us on how to collaborate with clients along the continuum of care (intervention, prevention, and rehabilitation), using various modalities (individual, family, group, community) and phases of service delivery.

I present this fifth book in the “Empowering the Powerless” series published by Columbia University Press, *Substance Abuse Intervention, Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Systems Change Strategies: Helping Individuals, Families, and Groups to Empower Themselves*, with special pride. Professor Freeman’s comprehensive review of the empowerment literature and substance abuse research makes a powerful contribution to our understanding of both substance abuse and related social work practice.

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