
Part 4

Empowering, Microcosm, and Empowered Substance Abuse Programs: The Voices of Special Populations

Part 2 of this book analyzes how the three subsystems of the multilevel substance abuse service system can work together and the typical barriers and supports that programs encounter. In contrast, part 3 describes an empowered substance abuse service process across the continuum of care, involving both self-help and service provider strategies. Essentially, part 2 focuses on the service system's structure while part 3 addresses an empowered change process for clients and the impact of the system's structure on that process. The discussion in those two parts of the book is, naturally, focused on the dynamics across various types of rehab programs.

Part 4, on the other hand, examines how all of these elements interact within each of four exemplary programs that serve special populations. The four chapters clarify how the needs of each population influence the empowerment process and the structure of the respective programs and vice versa. Clients' characteristics and experiences are considered along with the effects of interpersonal variables and factors in the larger surrounding environment. In each chapter, clients' voices, their own words and nuances of behavior, their often stunning narratives, their very subjective realities and experiences are presented to reflect the dynamic empowerment process in action.

Chapter 13 examines a community-based residential rehab program for a multicultural population of adolescents that, through state public policy reforms, is moving toward becoming more community centered. This chapter describes how staff struggle to operationalize empowerment practice with

clients who often suffer from developmental power cutoffs and impairments (or status barriers). The clients' creative responses to empowerment opportunities highlight their resiliency and commitment to recovery, along with the impact of practice in a secondary setting on this process. Their narratives illustrate the importance of their beliefs and developmental stage to their recovery and empowerment.

Chapter 14 focuses on recovery and empowerment in a community-centered day treatment program for perinatal women and children. As part of a broad-based umbrella organization, this program comes closest (among those described in part 4) to the comprehensive, integrated, community-centered system described in chapters 3, 4, and 5. The special gender-related political empowerment needs of this multicultural group and the unique program factors that facilitate that empowerment are clarified in the discussion. These clients' narratives reflect the effects of societal and programmatic oppression, as well as their own gender biases and socialization, on their recovery.

The focus of chapter 15, empowerment practice within a dual diagnosis program, involves a predominantly white but also multicultural population of adults. The program consists of combined outpatient and day treatment services within a mental health or secondary setting that is community based rather than community centered. The clients' control and power needs are analyzed in terms of medication compliance issues, acceptance of their dual substance abuse and psychiatric conditions, their strengths, and their involvement in innovative systemwide empowerment policies and implementation strategies.

Finally, chapter 16 describes a culture-specific rehab program for African American adults. This program provides multiple residential and outpatient substance abuse services in a primary setting, including services for the homeless and for women who are part of a parallel service arrangement of on-site programs and projects sponsored by a number of other organizations. The services and conceptual framework are based on Africentric values, traditions, and philosophical approaches that address cultural identity, community responsibility, and political empowerment as integral aspects of recovery.