

# Preface

Several important developments motivated us to pull together a volume on social work practice in the addictions. First, social workers represent the largest body of addiction and mental health service providers in the USA and many other countries. Consequently, a growing interest in issues of addiction in schools of social work throughout the USA and abroad is being observed. This is exemplified by an increased number of addiction-related courses, certificate programs, field placements, research projects, and peer-reviewed articles. Despite these developments and the impact that addictive behaviors have on client populations, the field of social work lacks authoritative resources to help ensure social workers receive training based on the best available knowledge and interventions in addictions. Quite simply, social workers are not being exposed to the most current developments in the field of addiction research. Existing texts are not sufficiently comprehensive and not based on the cutting-edge information. As such, the flowering of evidence-based science in this domain is inhibited.

The absence of an authoritative book on addictions specifically written for social workers is critically needed. Thus, this volume fills the gap by providing a comprehensive evidence-based guidebook that can serve as the cornerstone for courses in the addictions at schools of social work. Cutting-edge yet user-friendly, this book can be used by not only graduate and undergraduate students in social work but also researchers and practicing social workers who seek to update their knowledge. This volume is designed to provide state-of-the-art information that can be used as a reference guide that will facilitate the advancement of knowledge in social work and beyond.

Several issues bear mention that pertain to terminology and the future of diagnostic systems. We use the term addictions as an umbrella term in this volume to include substance use, abuse, and substance-related problem behaviors and not solely dependence. The reason for this is substance dependence is intimately connected to these other categories either by prior progression and relapses or by the myriad behavioral consequences of dependence. Thus, several chapters discuss and present information pertaining to the use and abuse of intoxicants and related

behaviors. Although we realize that many behaviors such as compulsive video game playing and exercise dependence can be considered under the general rubric of addictions, our focus is on alcohol and other drugs. However, much of what is covered in this volume is applicable to these emerging areas of addiction. At the time this volume was completed DSM-V has not been implemented. As is the case with the classification of mental health disorders we realize that the revisions to substance use disorders are projected to be significant. In order to maintain relevance especially to information consistent with DSM-V we will add updated supplemental materials to the web site for this book. This will be especially useful for instructors who adopt the volume for their courses and wish to remain current.

Contributing authors represent many of the leading social work addiction researchers. Additionally, we include researchers from other allied fields, including psychiatry, psychology, and epidemiology, to ensure a strong interdisciplinary focus. In short, this is an impressive lineup of distinguished scholars and rising stars. Unlike other texts on addiction outside of the field of social work, this book is infused with content relating to social justice and practice with diverse communities to represent the knowledge base of social work. Further, we add chapters on the etiology and epidemiology of addiction and alcohol and drug policy, elements typically not included in social work books on addictions. We include these elements because in our view social workers benefit from an understanding of the causes of addiction, their prevalence, and patterns, and the policy context in which alcohol and illicit drug use, abuse, and dependence occurs. Thus, this volume is comprehensive, social work friendly, and interdisciplinary.

The structure of the volume is divided into four major parts. Part I covers foundational material related to the various perspectives on addiction, epidemiology, and explanatory theories. In Chap. 1, “Historical and Contemporary Perspectives,” Howard, Garland, and Whitt document the rise of perspectives on addictions including important developments that formed addictions as a professional and academic field. They also describe the various models of addiction and substance abuse such as the moral, educational, spiritual, psychological, sociocultural, biological, public health, and neurocognitive. The distribution of addiction and its mental health comorbidities particularly with respect to services for afflicted persons is taken up by Michael Fendrich in Chap. 2, “Epidemiology.” In Chap. 3, “Etiology,” Michael Vaughn uses a cell-to-society framework to provide an explanation of the genetic and environmental causes of substance abuse and addiction.

Part II brings together the major components of assessment, diagnosis, and treatment. In Chap. 4, “Assessment Strategies for Substance Use Disorders,” Michael Mancini elucidates the assessment process as acquiring and synthesizing information but most importantly establishing a productive therapeutic alliance in order to engage them in treatment and to develop an understanding of the role substances play in a person’s life across multiple psychosocial domains. In Chap. 5, “The Language of Diagnosis,” Ahmedani and Perron focus on using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) as a basis for diagnosis in social work practice. They provide an overview of the DSM, including basic information on the multiaxial assessment and diagnostic coding including making distinction between substance

use disorders (i.e., abuse and dependence) and substance-induced disorders (i.e., intoxication, withdrawal, and substance-induced mental disorders). Recent years have witnessed the rise of briefer motivation-based interventions in the addictions' field. In Chap. 6, "Brief Motivational Interventions to Change Problematic Substance Use," Ilgen and Glass examine the empirical evidence supporting brief motivational interventions and explain the essence of motivational interviewing. They argue that social workers employed in a variety of practice settings (e.g., substance abuse treatment, mental health or medical settings) are well positioned to identify individuals who could be appropriate for brief motivational interventions. In Chap. 7, "Cognitive Behavioral Therapy with Substance Use Disorders: Theory, Evidence, and Practice," Granillo, Perron, Jarman, and Gutowski tackle the cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) paradigm as applied to substance use disorders. CBT represents a broad class of interventions that take into account how learning processes are involved in developing and maintaining maladaptive thought patterns, emotional reactions, and behavioral responses. The final chapter in Part II examines the recovery process. In Chap. 8, "Philosophy and Practice of AA and Related Twelve-Step Programs," Pickard, Laudet, and Grahovac discuss the often misunderstood 12-step programs that are voluntary, nonprofessional, self-directed groups that use peer support to promote recovery from an addiction. As these authors astutely point out social workers possess minimal training in the philosophy and practice of 12-step programs, preventing them from maximizing the benefits of this important resource.

Part III is unique in providing cutting-edge information on specific populations. In Chap. 9, "A Framework for Integrating Culture, Diversity, and Social Justice in Addictions," Castro and Gildar recognize the important role that culture and diversity plays in addiction. They outline a multidimensional framework for integrating culture into addiction. Next, in Chap. 10, "Empirical Status of Culturally Competent Practices," Marsiglia and Booth examine effective prevention and treatment programs that are rooted in each individual client, their families, and their larger social and cultural networks. This chapter considers the role of culture of origin in relation to resiliency and protection from substance abuse and addiction processes. Substance use and abuse during adolescence is the focus on Chap. 11, "Adolescents," by Bender, Tripodi, and Rock. These researchers survey the empirical literature and highlight numerous concerns during this developmental period vis-à-vis substance abuse. These concerns include psychosocial problems, cognitive deficits, and reduced motivation to succeed academically. In Chap. 12, "Women and Families," Bonnie Carlson draws comparisons between males and females with respect to alcohol and drug use problems with particular attention to treatment admissions, stressful life events, childhood and/or adult interpersonal victimization, pregnancy issues, and impaired parenting. Carlson outlines and discusses available best practice guidelines for providing services for women who abuse or are dependent on substances. Finally, in Chap. 13, "Older Adults," Sacco and Kuerbis point out that greater numbers of older adults will need treatment for substance-related conditions. To prepare practitioners for these trends, this chapter specifies the unique

challenges and age-specific risks regarding assessment and treatment of unhealthy substance use, including prescription drug use, among older adults.

Social work practice in the addictions occurs within a definite policy context. Thus, Part IV focuses on key developments in alcohol and drug policy. Building a bridge between policy and practice is the overall goal of this section. In Chap. 14, “Alcohol Policy,” Jennifer Price-Wolf and Lorraine Midanik provide a critical appraisal of policies surrounding the use, abuse, and dependence of alcohol including biomedicalization, prevention, and harm reduction. Importantly, these authors demonstrate the links between these larger social issues and how they impact social work practices such as assessment. In Chap. 15, “Drug Control Policies: Problems and Prospects,” Maayan Schori and Eli Lawental confront issues of drug policy. More specifically, Schori and Lawental place special emphasis on historical, economic, legal developments as well as treatment and rehabilitation policies. These authors conclude, among other things, that real change in drug policy is difficult without a major shift in public perceptions about drug use.

In sum, this volume is designed to provide and enhance the knowledge and skill set of social workers about the addictions’ arena. Given the enormous number of persons affected by substance use disorders and substance-related problem behaviors it is our hope that this volume contributes to increased effectiveness by social workers in this often neglected domain of practice.

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