Great Lakes ROTA-RC

Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Center
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Hosted by University of Wisconsin-Madison, Division of Extension

Impact of Stigma on Recovery: Professional Communities

Thursday, December 12, 2024

9:00 – 10:00 AM CST / 10:00 – 11:00 AM EST

Stigma surrounding drugs and the people who use them is ubiquitous, but it isn't always recognized or understood. Research shows that substance use-related stigma is high among the general public, among treatment professionals, and even among people who use drugs themselves. The burden of stigma is a particular challenge for former, current, or aspiring professionals who face additional barriers related to hiring, promotion, and social engagement. In this session, we explore the impact of stigma on professional communities as well as evidence-based strategies to reduce it.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Define stigma as it relates to SUD
2. Describe the impact of stigma on professionals in recovery from SUD
3. Identify strategies to empower professional communities to reduce stigma

Presenter: Alex Elswick, Ph.D



Dr. Elswick joined the Department of Family Sciences in 2020 as an Assistant Extension Professor for Substance Use Prevention and Recovery. He began his journey with the department as a graduate student in 2015, where he earned his Master's and PhD and later served Family and Consumer Sciences Extension as an Extension Associate and as an Extension Specialist. Using this experience, Dr. Elswick's Extension emphasis focuses on equipping Extension to build recovery capital in the community. Dr. Elswick's research agenda examines long-term recovery from substance use disorder. Much of his research examines recovery capital, an assets-based approach to understanding addiction recovery. As co-founder of a Lexington-based non-profit organization called Voices of Hope, Dr. Elswick is a tireless advocate for people with substance use disorder. He works to promote long-term recovery by providing education in the community, reducing stigma, and studying the effectiveness of recovery support services.

For more information, contact:
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Continuing Education:
Certificates of attendance for CE contact hours will be available after the event.

*The Great Lakes Rural Opioid Technical Assistance Regional Center (ROTA-RC) is funded by SAMHSA to serve rural areas **through technical assistance, education, and outreach.** The University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension leads ROTA-RC in partnership with the University of Illinois-Extension, Purdue Extension, Michigan State University Extension, University of Minnesota Extension, and Ohio State University Extension. Learn more at our website https://greatlakesrota.extension.wisc.edu*