



Concurrent Session

Education and Training in Harm Reduction Strategies and Approaches

Title: How to build an international network for education and training in harm reduction strategies and approaches; plans for preparing an evidence-based curriculum

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The presentation will build upon the preparatory enquiry undertaken by I-ThETA and reported in the major session. The I-ThETA survey indicates that training and development activities are driven by providers in a top-down fashion, and are rarely based upon competence gaps, and needs assessments informed by practitioners.

STRADA (Scottish Training on Drugs and Alcohol) has undertaken training needs analyses leading to local training and development strategies and the development of learning and development programmes in Scotland. It has developed a tool kit for local training needs assessment which will form the basis of the presentation.

The principles of an evidence-based curriculum will be addressed through the contexts of who are the substance misuse workforce; what is a competence framework and what knowledge and skills are needed to work with substance misusers their families and communities, at various stages of intervention.

Examination will be made of the use of competence frameworks, matched to the levels of engagement staff have with service users (generic and specialist services). This matching is then used to determine the levels of learning and development recommended to form part of an evidence-based curriculum. Examples will be given, from the STRADA work, of generic and specialist programmes of both academic study, and the acquisition of skills. The challenges of evidence based curricula for the commissioners of training and development, for employers and managers, for educators and training providers and for practitioners will be identified. Service users' views on education and training will also be reported. Responsibilities for training and education to be undertaken by the afore mentioned groups and national policy makers will be discussed. Replication at an international level of this approach to training needs analysis will be discussed, and the setting out of a further work plan for I-ThETA including further international collaboration will be announced.