

Santa Clara County  
Department of Alcohol & Drug Services

## The DADS Substance Use Disorders Grand Rounds Newsletter

Substance use disorders create an enormous burden of medical, behavioral, and social problems and pose a major and costly public health challenge. Despite the high prevalence of substance use and its consequences, physicians often do not recognize these conditions and, as a result, provide inadequate patient care. At the center of this failure is insufficient training for physicians about substance use disorders (O'Connor PG, et al. *Ann Intern Med.* 2011;154:56-59). Substance use disorders and their complications are omnipresent in primary care medicine and can be quickly and reliably detected and effectively managed in primary care settings and by referral. Unfortunately, these evidence-based practices are underutilized, primarily because PCPs have not received proper training.

Based on the data and research on health care cost savings resulting from integrating primary medical care and addictions treatment, DADS has developed several projects including adding addiction specialty treatment within medical homes, an integrated care program at the Alexian Health Clinic, Screening and Brief intervention and Referral to treatment (SBIRT) at VMC's Trauma Center, integrated pain management and addiction treatment, medical resident training in addiction medicine in conjunction with the Valley Health Homeless Project, and the Substance Use Disorder Grand Rounds newsletter.

The DADS Grand Rounds newsletter is developed for healthcare professionals to provide them with information that can help identify and address substance abuse and related problems in their patients. The quarterly newsletter brings current evidence-based information from trusted and credible sources including the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), Institute of Medicine (IOM), Addiction Technical Assistance and Transfer Center ATTC of UCLA, University of California San Francisco (UCSF), and draws upon related articles from professional journals including JAMA, Annals of Internal Medicine, Family Physician, NEJM, Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment, and others.

For comments or feedback about the field of alcohol and drug abuse or about training services for your clinic or agency, contact Robert Garner, DADS Director: [Bob.Garner@hhs.sccgov.org](mailto:Bob.Garner@hhs.sccgov.org)

For comments or questions about the Grand Rounds newsletter, or if you have ideas for newsletter topics, contact Mark Stanford, Ph.D., Editor of the Grand Rounds newsletter and Division Director of the DADS Addiction Medicine & Therapy Services: [Mark.Stanford@hhs.sccgov.org](mailto:Mark.Stanford@hhs.sccgov.org)