Loyola University Chicago’s School of Social Work, Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, and Stritch School of Medicine are pleased to announce the receipt of a 3 year, $870,000 grant supported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in an effort to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness upon marginalized communities.

This collaborative interprofessional training grant will bring the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) model and motivational interviewing techniques into classrooms and community organizations across Chicago.

**The Need**

- Unhealthy and unsafe substance use is a major preventable public health issue, resulting in more than 100,000 deaths each year and costing society more than $600 billion annually.
- About 1 in 12 Americans need some form of substance use treatment, but only about 11 percent of these people actually received treatment.
- Expanding screening techniques across health professions can increase early intervention and referral for treatment.

**What is SBIRT?**

- SBIRT stands for: Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment practice model.
- A comprehensive, public health approach to delivering early intervention and treatment services for individuals with substance use disorders or those at risk for developing these disorders.
- Screenings that quickly assess the severity of substance use and identify the appropriate level of treatment.
- Brief interventions that focus on increasing insight and awareness regarding substance use and motivation toward behavioral change.
- Referral to treatment that provides those identified as needing more extensive treatment with access to specialty care.
- SBIRT training programs utilize online education, simulation and interactive virtual patients.
- SBIRT utilizes motivational interviewing techniques to create positive behavioral changes to support better health outcomes. Motivational interviewing techniques express empathy, avoiding confrontation and support self-efficacy.

**The SBIRT@LUC Training Program**

- SBIRT@LUC’s 3 schools will train over 3,500 students, faculty and community medical and behavioral health professionals in the SBIRT model and motivational interviewing techniques.
- LUC students will learn about SBIRT in their foundation and advanced health courses through classroom content, online simulation trainings and role plays.
- Annually, 30 students across the 3 schools will have the opportunity to become SBIRT Ambassadors - participating in an extensive certificate program, including practicum experiences.
- 200 community health professionals working within organizations serving racial/ethnic and sexual/gender minority populations will receive training on the SBRT model and motivational interviewing techniques.
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