

Webinar:

Get to Know the Great Lakes PTTC

ANN SCHENSKY: Good morning, everyone. Thank you for joining us for the introductory webinar to learn more about the Great Lakes PTTC, our work in region five, and how we can support your efforts, and how you can access our free training and resources. Our presenter today is Julia Parnell Alexander, the Co-Director of the Great Lakes Prevention Technology Transfer Center, which is the recent SAMHSA initiative that was created to support the efforts of the Prevention Workforce in region five by providing free resources, training, and technical assistance. Julia is also the state program manager for the Great Lakes PTTC, ATTC, and MHTTC for the state of Indiana.

Just a little bit of housekeeping. Today's audio will be broadcast through your computer speakers. So please make sure your speakers are turned on and up. There is no call-in number. And you may use the chat box feature throughout the webinar to ask questions or to add comments. We will have a question and answer session after the presentation.

And I'm going to hand it off to you, Julia.

JULIA ALEXANDER: Thank you, Ann. I appreciate that introduction, and thank you, everyone, for joining us today, taking the time out of your day to learn more about the Great Lakes Prevention. Technology Transfer Center

Today's webinar is going to be a pretty broad and basic overview. Our main goal today is just to make sure that you know that we exist, that we're here, how we fit into the technology transfer model, a little bit about our process and our team, and where to go from there. So, I will be walking us through these issues and some information. Again, thank you for your time.

People may be at different levels of awareness of what the TTC's, the Technology Transfer Center's project is. And we'll get into that a little bit. But our basic purpose for all of the TTCs is to develop and strengthen the specialized behavioral health care and primary care workforce that provide substance use disorder and mental health prevention treatment and recovery support services. So, we really help people and organizations incorporate effective practices into the work that they do in these areas.

The TTCs are based on the Addiction Technology Transfer Network. And our Great Lakes PTTC is part of the National Prevention Technology Transfer Network that SAMHSA created following the success of the Addiction Technology Transfer Network. And this ATTC network is celebrating 25 years of addiction treatment and recovery services field. Our Great Lakes region has had the Addiction Technology Transfer Center this last half grant round starting last year.

So, the technology transfer program structure is really a group of networks, through the addiction, mental health, and prevention. There's a cousin to our programs, called the FMI Advisor, and that's really a TA center specifically for clinicians who work with serious mental illness. So, all of these networks fit under a larger umbrella of the TTC program. This program includes, like I mentioned, the Addiction Technology Transfer Center, mental health, and prevention.

So, the Health and Human Services divides the country up into 10 regions. Our region, the Great Lakes region, is region number five. So, every region has one ATTC, MHTTC, and PTTC. Additionally, there is a National Center for American Indian, Alaska Native Center, and then also one national center for Hispanic and Latino populations. And then of course there's the network coordinating office. So, the network coordinating office oversees each of those networks of addiction, mental health, and prevention.

This is what you will see when you go to our website, which we'll be talking about a little bit more. But these are all 10 regions across the country for prevention, and then the two special population centers. Ours, of course, is the Great Lakes Prevention Technology Center, region five. And it's a little bit different than previous models of TAs in that we're not a grant from SAMHSA. But it's what's called a cooperative agreement. And it's a five-year cooperative agreement.

Our current budget period started last Fall in September. And our current year goes through September 29. Our next year starts September 30. And our entire project goes through five years, until September of 2023.

This kind of gives you a little visual of the different regions across the country. We're right there in the orange. And then just kind of give you a broad sense of the PTTCs across the country. And all of the other Technology Transfer Centers for mental health and addiction are also within these geographical regions that HHS has defined.

The purpose of the Prevention Technology Transfer Network is to improve implementation and delivery of effective substance use prevention evidence-based practices. We will be providing training and technical assistance, developing and disseminating some tools and strategies. Also, at times providing intensive technical assistance, and then, of course, we want to be able to provide tools and resources to help support the prevention professionals. And we really want to make those accessible across the region as much as possible.

Some of you may be familiar with a previous model of technical assistance that SAMHSA had set up through CAPT and that was a contract that they had with CAPT. And this new model is a little bit different than the previous CAPT model. But one of the things that our national coordinating office is currently working with, CCAP, to make sure a number of those resources that were created through CAPT are again available through the Prevention Technology Transfer Center website.

So, their priorities-- as I'm sure a lot of people are aware, there's been a little bit of a gap in some of the online courses in this transition from the CAPT model to the Prevention Technology Transfer Center model. But we do want to let you know that the national coordinating office, their priorities through these CAPT resources is the ethics and prevention, which is a moderated online course, and an introduction to substance abuse prevention that was the self-paced online course. So, we don't have an ETA for those yet. But the national coordinating office is very aware of the request for those. And we hope to have more information around that soon.

Another piece that's a little bit different and important to mention with this transfer from the CAPT model to the Prevention Center model is that the technical assistance that's available is not solely for grantees-- SAMHSA grantees or go through the state. We will really serve all practitioners, all organizations, all systems. Anybody is able to access our resources. And it's not dedicated solely to SAMHSA grantees. We will, of course, continue to support and serve the SAMHSA grantees, but our work isn't limited to those grantees.

We're a little bit unique in our Great Lakes region in that we are one of two regions across the country that has all three TTCs under one umbrella. So that is the Addiction Technology Transfer Center, which is co-directed by Jeanne Pulvermacher, and then the Mental Health Technology Transfer Center, which is co-directed by Lou Kurtz. I am the Co-Director for the Prevention Technology Transfer Center. And then Todd Molfenter is our director across all three centers.

The states that we serve in our Great Lakes is Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin. Our specific goals for our PTTC is to accelerate the adoption and implementation of evidence-based prevention practices for substance use disorder, heighten the awareness, knowledge, and skills of the workforce. We really want to develop strategies for delivering culturally informed care and increase access to publicly available and-- this is key-- free of charge training and technical assistance for the prevention services field.

We also-- as each prevention technology transfer center has areas of focus. So, this is also something that's a little bit unique from the transfer from the CAPT model to the network-- Technology Transfer Center networks. In every region of the 10 across the country have special focus areas. And the national coordinating office really wants to make sure that we're not duplicating effort. So, while this is a focus, that's not by any means the only area that we'll be working with or implementing. But our areas of focus are naloxone education, particularly for first responders and lay audiences, overdose prevention, and anti-stigma efforts.

Because we're a cooperative agreement, the way that our work with SAMHSA is that we have a dedicated work plan. That work plan is divided up into goals, objectives, and activities over a timeline. So, the plan goes year to year. That work plan is approved by the SAMHSA project officer and reviewed by our SAMHSA regional administrator.

The items in the work plan are the type of work that we'll be doing, will include everything from events, training, conferences, creating learning collaboratives, meetings, topical work groups. And products that we will develop include things like tool-kits, online courses, online modules, informational sheets, brochures, opportunities to learn more about evidence-based practices, and implementing our training and TA.

In addition to our focus area and our work plan, while our work plan is fairly broad in the way that it's written, one of the specifics is that we're able to provide work around what's called the NIATx Change Leader Academy. And that's a one-day, face-to-face workshop on the NIATx model process improvement, and following that is three months of pure networking and support from a NIATx coach. What that Change Leader Academy is, it's structured in a team-based approach to change management that relies on the power of making small changes that produce results quickly.

So, participants who are part of this effort-- it's the one-day effort-- would select a change project, set a project aim, and engage teens in the change process, achieve measurable and sustainable improvements. So, for example, if there's a project or a program that you're implementing in your community, and you want it-- it's something that you've done consistently but there could be some improvements, that could be a change project that you choose. And then we work you-- work with you through that process of the one day, face-to-face, and then work with you to implement that as you move forward. So, it's a great tool in working at-- looking at how to implement new changes and strengthen the work that you do. So, I just want to say too if the Change Leader Academy is something that you're interested in, or that you would like to learn more information about, we'll be providing access points and information. Please let us know, we'd be happy to bring a Change Leader Academy to your area.

I want to go in a little bit into our process and how we're going to be moving forward. We're going to be collaborating very closely with our other two TTCs under our umbrella at the University of Wisconsin Madison, and the network coordinating office. And we've really created the team on our staff to really work with you in the work that you're doing across the region. So, we'll have one person who covers training and technical assistance, really making sure that we're working with the needs of that particular state across all three Technology Transfer Centers for mental health, substance use disorder, or prevention. So, you have one contact person that's dedicated to your state across those three topics.

And our overall team, as I mentioned, is Todd Molfenter is our project Director. I'm the Co-Director. Maureen Fitzgerald is our Communications Manager. And you'll be hearing from her when we send out newsletters or blasts about different events that you can access. Ann Schensky is our project coordinator who put together our webinar and is doing really amazing work in getting our center going and up and off the ground.

And then we also have two prevention managers that have recently joined our team. And some of you may be familiar with their name and their work previously in the prevention TA world with CAPT. And that's Chuck Klevgaard, who will be working with

the state program managers, and then the states of Indiana, Michigan and Ohio, and Erin Ficker, who will be working with the states and the state program managers in Illinois, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

So, part of the team dedicated to those states is the state project manager, as I mentioned. In Illinois, that's Scott Gatzke. I cover and work dedicated to Indiana. Jeanne Pulvermacher, who I mentioned is the Co-Director for the Addiction Technology Transfer Center, works with Michigan. Kris Kelly will work with the state of Minnesota. Lou Kurtz, who is the Co-Director of the Mental Health Technology Transfer Center is working in Ohio. And Laura Saunders is working in the state of Wisconsin. So, each state really has a team dedicated to supporting the prevention workforce across the region, and then dedicated to work specifically in that state.

The prevention and state project managers will work to implement that work plan. They will deliver trainings and TAs for state stakeholders and others in the region based on their subject matter expertise. They will also work together to develop needed products, tools, and resources, provide feedback for continuous improvement, and then of course provide outreach to the region.

Another little bit more about our process. And as I mentioned, we differ a little bit from CAPT, the previous model. And we're now available to serve on the entire region and the workforce, and not only the SAMHSA grantees. And the way that this process works, is, again, a little bit different from the previous model where we have this broad work plan, and then we implement it into the region, based on what those regional needs are.

So, the way that we discover what those regional needs are, are through our annual survey. And I'll talk a little bit more about that in a moment. Interviews with stakeholders. We have an advisory board that we work with to get feedback and have them advise how we implement the plan, and then, of course, engagement with the regional prevention workforce.

So, the survey is a key place that we're able to gain the information around how we should best implement our work plan with SAMHSA for this project. So, for example, if our work plan says we do 18 workshops across the region, we're getting that information from the survey on what should those topics be. What are the highest need per state in the region around those topics for evidence-based practices or other areas that support the workforce? We're going to be looking towards that survey to find how to best implement this work plan. So, participating in the survey is going to be a key place that you're able to have your voice heard on how we provide technical assistance and training that you can access for free.

Our survey was opened at the beginning of March. And it closes this Friday. We will, after this webinar, Ann will be sending out the slides and she'll provide a link to our website and a link to the survey. So strongly suggest that you take a moment to fill out

the survey. That's one of the strongest ways that we can learn what your needs are in your state and in your local area.

How you can access TA from the Great Lakes Center. You can attend in-person and virtual events, whether they are trainings, meetings, learning communities, participate in online courses and webinars, and then of course utilize the free and publicly available resources as we begin to develop them. Of course, if you have a specific need, we want to hear from you. We want to have that open communication and know what your needs are. And we can work together to consider how to best address your needs and our work plan in our efforts.

What's not possible in this new transition is we're not able to directly, on demand provide a TA to one organization based on their unique needs, especially if the activity is not already in our work plan. Having said that, there might be something that's really needed in your area and actually does fit well with our work plan. And we can work to maybe add it sometime in this year, or as we're developing our work plans coming up. So, we definitely want to hear from you and know how we can best serve your workforce and your state.

All of our technical assistance and training is free because we're SAMHSA funded. So, there's no charge for the work that we do. But if there is something that is outside of the scope of what we do or outside of our capacity, we may be able to suggest some options of where you can purchase technical assistance.

A little bit about our advisory board. As I mentioned, this is one way that we use to gain information on how to implement our work plan. And our advisory board is composed of state prevention directors and other state leadership, including NPM. We have persons with lived experience and personal recovery and/or family recovery, community prevention organizations, and other entities.

And our advisory board meets bi-annually, virtually on an online platform. That is kind of my largest overview. And we'll have some time for questions and answers around those topics. And I wanted to turn it over to Maureen Fitzgerald to talk a little bit about our communications and ways that you can stay connected.

Communications:

MAUREEN FITZGERALD: Thanks very much, Julia. That was a great introduction to our center. And just an overview of our communications, our website launched for the first time in February of this year. So, we're in the process of building a website and adding content on a regular basis. Next slide, please. And here's a picture of our home page.

Our website is the main way that we'll communicate with you and it's the way that you can connect with us right now. Next slide. On our website, you'll find a place where you can join our listserv if you'd like to receive regular email updates from us and get

information about events, news, and new products. You can also follow us on Twitter. And we really hope you do because we keep an active Twitter feed going to keep you abreast of what we're up to.

You can also subscribe to our quarterly newsletter. And we just issued our first one last week. It includes a couple of interesting articles, one on naloxone as another chance for recovery, and then also in recognition of April as Alcohol Awareness Month. We have a guest article from Julie Sherman, who is the coordinator of the Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project. We hope you'll take a look at the newsletter.

If you haven't received it, it's posted on our website. In our navigation bar, just click on Great Lakes PTTC News. We really do like hearing from you, and we'd like to hear from you on how we can make our website better. Also, we're looking for contributions to our newsletter. We're always looking for guest writers. If you have a topic or an event that you'd like to write about, just please contact us. Next slide.

And we're also ready today to answer any questions that you might have about our overall communications. Thanks.

Question - Answer

JULIA ALEXANDER: Thank you, Maureen. Ann, do we have any questions to answer?

ANN SCHENSKY: We have a couple. We have a question about what is the best way to submit requests for products, tools, and training?

JULIA ALEXANDER: OK. That's a good question. Thank you. There's two points of that I want to respond to. One, we're a different model than previous. So, we don't do-- we're not through a request process. So, it's not something that can be requested on demand. Having said that, particularly for this issue around tools and resources and training, there's two ways that you could submit what your needs are so that we can address that.

One would be as mentioned the survey, filling that out. It's a pretty comprehensive survey, looking at what the needs are across the region. And then I would also urge you to connect with your state program manager. And they can discuss what your needs are, find out if and where that fits into our work plan, and how we're planning to address those issues that you have for those needs.

So, we want to be really responsive and open and communicate and hear what those needs are. The best way to do that is through your survey. A follow up way is to get connected with your state program manager. At the end of the webinar, when Ann sends out the slides and the links to the survey and the website, she'll also be providing

a one pager for the Prevention Technology Transfer Center. And that lists all of the contact information for each state program manager.

ANN SCHENSKY: Great, Julia. Thank you. The next question is from Columbus, Ohio, and the need for developing evidence-based models for urban populations, African-Americans, immigrant and refugee populations, for mental health promotion and AODA prevention. Are any of these included in our work plan?

JULIA ALEXANDER: So, again, we're really designing the implementation of the work plan based on the survey and needs that we get from our stakeholder interviews and our advisory board, and also hearing from you. So, my suggestion would be in Ohio to reach out to Lou Kurtz, who is the state program manager and have a discussion with him about those needs. So that would be a bit beyond the scope of today's webinar to go into that detail. But I would strongly suggest connecting with your state program manager. And he can really work with our team to answer those questions.

ANN SCHENSKY: Great. Jennifer had a question. Is there any collaboration with southern rural areas? And I'm not sure, Jennifer, if you mean in our region or in other parts of the US.

JULIA ALEXANDER: Well, I'm going to first answer that based on the rural areas of our region.

ANN SCHENSKY: OK.

JULIA ALEXANDER: And I can tell you that we've had a strong response to our survey from individuals that say they serve rural areas. So that's definitely something so far that's come across strongly. And we know that there's all different types of communities that we're going to be serving across the region. So again, if there is something that's really particular to your needs in that rural area, I know I sound repetitive, but the survey is a great way to articulate that. There are some questions in the survey around demographics. And then also connecting with your state program manager.

ANN SCHENSKY: Good. There's another question from-- it says, is there a version of the Illinois Teenage institute that still exists?

JULIA ALEXANDER: That I don't know the answer to. I can follow up. I can find the answer. And we can follow up with you. Ann, if you can make note of who asked that question, and we'll follow up.

ANN SCHENSKY: OK. And then there's a question that's sort of a housekeeping question, is, yes. The PowerPoint is-- and this entire webinar-- is being recorded. We will make sure that it is put up on our website after we're able to get a transcript of it. But everything will be included on our website. In the short term, the PowerPoint will be sent to you with a link to our website, our survey, our one-page description. And we will get all of that out to you within the next day.

JULIA ALEXANDER: Thank you, Ann. Are there any other questions?

ANN SCHENSKY: There is one more. The best way to access addictions counselor trainings.

JULIA ALEXANDER: So, I think that might be a question better for the Addiction Technology Transfer Center if it's speaking specifically around clinical counselors. And I would urge everyone to not only follow the Prevention Technology Transfer Center, our news and communication, but also sign up for our Mental Health TTC newsletter, and Addiction TTC newsletter.

Those are really ways-- we know that these areas aren't siloed in the individual and families of those that we're serving. And so, one of the things we're excited about having all three centers under one umbrella is that we're able to maneuver some of those together, bring these issues together. A good example of that is when we look at the similar protective and risk factors for suicide and opioid overdose.

And so that's a good example of a collaboration between our Mental Health Technology Transfer Center, Addiction Technology Transfer Center and Prevention Technology Transfer Center. So, if you're new to the TTC model and have not been familiar with the ATTC, I would really urge you to go on to the website for both of those, sign up for those communications, and find the resources that they have across these centers and fields of work.

ANN SCHENSKY: Thank you, Julia. That looks like all for the questions. Does anyone have--

JULIA ALEXANDER: Well, we moved through it a little quickly. And, again, our basic goal was to let you know that we exist, that we're here, that we're really here to serve our region, and support the work that you're doing. And so, wanted to take this opportunity for an introductory webinar to give you a broad overview. More information will be coming out as we begin to deliver trainings and TA. We have some events on our website already. So, I'd take a look at that.

And then just again we really want to make sure that we're hearing what your needs are and that we're in communication. So, if you do have more questions or would like to discuss technical assistance or training needs, as I mentioned, please reach out to your state project manager. You can also reach out to me. And Ann will be providing that contact information.

ANN SCHENSKY: OK. We do have a couple more questions, Julia.

JULIA ALEXANDER: Sure. OK. Great.

ANN SCHENSKY: One is, will there be training available for educating workers, house parents, volunteers, of recovery residencies?

JULIA ALEXANDER: So again-- and I am sorry if I sound like a broken record-- but we're really going to be looking at what comes back from that survey, what the highest needs are in the region. So, I would urge you to communicate those needs with your state program manager and fill out the survey so that those needs are articulated.

ANN SCHENSKY: OK. Thank you. And then again there's another question about what our areas are, and we will get those through the survey. So, when you get the link for the survey, please fill it out so that we make sure that we know what areas you're specifically looking for.

JULIA ALEXANDER: Thanks, Ann. Are there any other questions?

ANN SCHENSKY: I do not have any more.

JULIA ALEXANDER: Well, thank you again, everybody, for participating, taking some time out of your morning to learn more about our center and the work that we're doing and will be doing. You will be receiving a follow up survey that's required by SAMHSA. I really would appreciate it if you just take a minute or two to provide your feedback. That's the way that we're able to improve and let SAMHSA know about the work that we're doing. It's really super, super quick.

And I know everybody is tired of surveys. But it's really a way that we're able to continue the work that we do and offer our resources at no cost to the community. So, thank you. We're really excited to begin our work with you.

And then the last slide I have is just all of our contact information. I know that's really small for this slide. You don't have to write anything down. You'll be receiving this information with the follow up that Ann will be sending out. So, unless there's anything else, I just really want to thank everyone again for joining us. And we look forward to working with you. And please keep your eyes open for communications that come out around our training events, our opportunities for connecting, and any workshops. Follow us on Twitter and connect with us so we can learn more about you and your needs. Thanks, everyone.

ANN SCHENSKY: Thank you.