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American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry Receives \$3 Million Grant to Address Opioid Addiction

Providence, RI, September 12, 2014. [The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry \(AAAP\)](#) has been awarded a \$3 million grant from the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#) to train healthcare professionals to use evidence-based practices in treating opioid dependence.

The three-year project, entitled [The Providers' Clinical Support System—Opioid Therapies \(PCSS-O\)](#), begins in September 2014. AAAP will lead a consortium of national professional organizations — Addiction Technology Transfer Centers, American Academy of Neurology, American Academy of Pain Medicine, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Physicians, American Dental Association, American Medical Association, American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine, American Psychiatric Association, American Society for Pain Management Nursing, International Nurses Society on Addictions, and Southeast Consortium for Substance Abuse Training — in conducting PCSS-O.

"This funding will allow us to offer providers from diverse healthcare backgrounds free and accessible science-based clinical training in how to treat pain, identify patients at risk for opioid addiction, and effectively treat opioid addiction," says Kevin Sevarino, MD, PhD, medical director of PCSS-O.

AAAP is a professional organization of healthcare providers – psychiatrists and mental health professionals; medical faculty; and medical students, residents, and fellows – dedicated to serving people with substance use and related mental health disorders through excellence in treatment, research, policy, and prevention.

With the SAMHSA funding, AAAP and its partner organizations will provide instruction to thousands of multi-disciplinary healthcare providers a year, delivering web-based trainings on a dedicated PCSS-O website, along with guidance documents, self-assessment tools, community resources, and opportunities for peer networking.

Opioids are a class of substances that include illicit drugs, such as heroin, and prescription drugs, like OxyContin and Vicodin. Opioid abuse is a major public health problem in the U.S., with the most recent [National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#) estimating that 2.1 million Americans are dependent on opioids. Most Americans addicted to opioids don't receive proper treatment, and educational gaps in healthcare providers' understanding of, and adherence to, best practices for opioid prescribing increase the risk of abuse.

"PCSS-O will create provider education opportunities that will improve public health and safety, and address the needs of individual patients who require opioid medications for chronic pain or for treatment of an opioid use disorder," explains Sevarino. "We will provide clear guidance on the safe and effective use of opioids, as well appropriate mentoring and educational materials for providers involved in substance use disorders and chronic pain treatment."

Many thanks go to SAMHSA for the award of this grant. SAMHSA is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

To learn more about PCSS-O visit: <http://www.pcss-o.org>

About The American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry

American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) is the professional membership organization for learning and sharing about the art and science of Addiction Psychiatry research and clinical treatment.

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