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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

PCSS Projects Merge and Launch a New Website to Streamline Efforts to Help Clinicians Address Opioid Use Disorders

EAST PROVIDENCE, RI, Feb. 22, 2018—Providers Clinical Support System (PCSS), a grant project funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is launching a new, streamlined website to make educational resources, trainings, and mentoring on substance use disorders and co-occurring mental disorders easier for healthcare professionals to access.

PCSSNow.org marks a natural transition from two SAMHSA-funded projects —PCSS for Medication Assisted Treatment and PCSS for Opioid Therapies—to a single overarching approach dedicated to providing cutting edge, evidence-based information on preventing and treating substance use disorders (SUD) with co-occurring mental disorders, chronic pain, and opioid use disorders (OUD).

“This is a logical and efficient approach that reinforces the need to address the interface between preventing and treating pain with opioids and the use of medications in treating opioid use disorders,” says Kathryn Cates-Wessel, CEO-AAAP, Principal Investigator and Project Director for both PCSS projects. “By consolidating all of our trainings and resources into a single website, clinicians will be more likely to access a broader, more comprehensive array of trainings and educational resources in the evidence-based practices they need to effectively treat their patients with SUD and OUD.”

The PCSS model was created to address the opioid epidemic and give clinicians evidence-based resources and trainings they can apply to their clinical practices. Led by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, PCSS is made up of a broad coalition of national healthcare organizations representing over one million health professionals nationwide (see full list below). PCSS's partners and steering committee members include physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, physician assistants, pharmacists, the recovery community, and other key stakeholders. Since its inception PCSS, has trained nearly 150,000 clinicians on a wide variety of topics.

In addition to providing trainings at no cost, such as online modules and webinars, another resource PCSS provides is clinical coaching program or mentoring. PCSS clinical coaching pairs an addiction specialist or pain management specialist. Most health providers receive little training in preventing, identifying, and treating SUDs so having access to addiction specialists is vital to their learning. Having a clinical expert available at no cost is extremely important in building the necessary knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to treat this complex disease, which is often accompanied by co-occurring mental disorders.

PCSS is structured to be user-friendly, easily accessible and provided in a variety of formats to meet the providers' needs. Check out the [new website](#) and [let us know](#) what you like and what can be improved.

Following is a list of partner organizations in the PCSS coalition: American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry; Addiction Technology Transfer Center; American Academy of Family Physicians; American Academy of Neurology; American Academy of Pain Medicine; American Academy of Pediatrics; American College of Emergency Physicians; American College of Physicians; American Dental Association; American Medical Association; American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine; American Psychiatric Association; American Psychiatric Nurses Association; American Society of Addiction Medicine; American Society for Pain Management Nursing; Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse; International Nurses Society on Addictions; National Association of Community Health Centers; National Association of Drug Court Professionals; Southeastern Consortium for Substance Abuse Training.

Providers Clinical Support System is a federal grant project funded, in part, by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The overarching goal of the PCSS project is to train primary care providers in the evidence-based prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of substance use disorders and particularly, opioid use disorder.

Funding for this initiative was made possible (in part) by grant nos. 5H79TI025595-03, 5U79TI026556-02 and 3U79TI026556-02S1 from SAMHSA. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and by speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.