# **Methamphetamine use in Wisconsin**

# **Avalon Conference Center**

# **Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin**

# July 26, 2017

Presenter: Sam Minsky, MA, LMFT

****

Legal and specifically illegal categories of drugs that stimulate the central nervous system have been responsible for major problems worldwide for over 60 years. The addictive and illegal use of amphetamines, cocaine, ecstasy and specifically methamphetamine have been responsible for major epidemics on virtually every continent on this planet. Parts of Asia and the Americas, and Europe have been especially hard with major impacts in the domains of health, criminal activity frequent violent psychotic behaviors, and the transmissions of serious STD’s like HIV and Hepatitis C.

This presentation will review some of the basic knowledge about the treatment of Methamphetamine users. Issues presented will included, a brief history of Methamphetamine, toxicity of chemicals involved in manufacturing meth, aspects of the medical treatment of Methamphetamine overdose, intoxication, psychosis, and the cognitive dysfunction related to brain chemistry changes typically present in chronic users of this drug.

This seminar will primarily focus on the efficacy of a number of evidence based practices in the treatment of Methamphetamine Use Disorder and discuss examples of clinical techniques and strategies inherent in those practices.

**Goals and Objectives**

* To discuss the limbic brain and its involvement in the progression from recreational use or using Methamphetamine for a specific purpose to full blown addiction.
* To distinguish the mythology surrounding the treatment of Meth users from the reality of working with this population, based on science and research.
* To highlight the variety of clinical challenges inherent in treating Methamphetamine users.
* To review a number of evidence based practices that are recommended for working with the stimulant and /or methamphetamine using clinical population.

**Anticipated Outcomes**

* A better understanding of brain chemistry changes inherent in chronic Meth users.
* A better understanding of how to explain the progression and evolution of these brain chemistry to the patients and their families and how this helps the treatment process.
* The attendees will learn about a number of different evidence based practices in the treatment of Methamphetamine Use Disorder and the clinical strategies that are applicable to the treatment.
* The attendees will have a better understanding of why behavioral modalities seem to be more effective in working with this population than insight oriented or psychodynamic modalities, specifically in early recovery.
* The attendees will learn some work around tools, strategies and interventions, to negotiate the brain dysfunction issues inherent in many long term Meth users, i.e. language processing issues, poor word and picture recall, short term memory dysfunction.