Evidence for 12-Step Facilitation

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Cincinnati, OH, June, 2008
Pacific Northwest 12-Step Salmon Recovery Program

http://www.grist.org/comments/ha/2002/02/04/becker-salmon/
Why Consider 12-Step Approaches?
Why Consider 12-Step Approaches?

- Why climb a mountain? Because it’s there.
- Why study 12-Step? Because it’s a mountain in the substance abuse field – because it’s there.

Mt. Rainier
Why Consider 12-Step Approaches?

• 12-step orientation/philosophy is the predominant approach found in U.S. substance abuse treatment
• 12-step groups represent a readily available, no-cost recovery resource
• Millions of substance abusers benefit from 12-step involvement, with increased evidence of its effectiveness
• Consistent with community-based treatment program and counselor treatment philosophy
Why Consider 12-Step Approaches?

- Applicable to a broad range of clients in different settings and can augment a wide range of standard treatments
- A high priority of the CTN’s CTP Caucus
- Recent development of efficacious interventions to facilitate 12-Step involvement
- Availability of 12-Step Facilitation therapy manuals and training materials
“Are you just pissing and moaning, or can you verify what you’re saying with data?”
What Is the Relationship Between 12-Step Attendance/Involvement and Outcomes?
CAUTION!!
The Following Slides Contain Graphic Information
Abstinence Rates at 1-Year Follow-Up as a Function Posttreatment 12-Step Group Attendance

Moos, et al., 1999

χ² = 248.3, p < .001
Abstinence Rates at 8-Year Follow-Up by Duration of 12-Step Meeting Attendance in the First Year

Moos, et al., 2004
Abstinence Rates at 8 Years by Duration of Meeting Attendance in Years 2 to 8

\[ \chi^2 = 28.3, \ p < .01 \]

Moos, et al., 2004
Drug and Alcohol Use During 6 Months Prior to 24-Month Posttreatment Follow-Up as a Function Frequency of 12-Step Group Attendance

% Subjects Reporting Any Use

Drug Use

Alcohol Use

Any 12-Step Participation

Yes (n = 128)

27.3

**

No (n = 134)

32.0

***

Weekly or More Frequent Participation

Yes (n = 103)

22.3

*

No (n = 25)

25.2

***

Fiorentine, 1999

* p < .05

** p < .01

*** p < .001
Drug and Alcohol Abstinence During 6 Months Prior to 24-Month Posttreatment Follow-Up as a Function Frequency of 12-Step Group Attendance

% Abstinent from Drug and Alcohol Use in Prior 6 Months

Never (n = 134)  Less than Weekly (n = 25)  Weekly (n = 103)

12-Step Meeting Attendance

Fiorentine, 1999
Percent of Clients Abstinent at Both 6- and 12-Month Follow-Ups Based on SHG Meeting Attendance

Timko & DeBenedetti, 2007
Percent Abstinent from Alcohol & Drugs at Both 6- and 12-month Follow-ups According to 12-Step Involvement

Timko & DeBenedetti, 2007
The Crushing Weight of the Data Support the Potential Positive Benefits of 12-Step Involvement
Results from Previous Research on 12-Step Involvement

- AA and NA participation is associated with greater likelihood of abstinence, improved social functioning, and greater self-efficacy
- 12-Step self-help groups significantly reduce health care utilization and costs
- Combined 12-Step and formal treatment leads to better outcomes than found for either alone
- Engaging in other 12-Step group activities seems more helpful than attending meetings
Results from Previous Research on 12-Step Involvement

- Consistent and early attendance/involvement leads to better substance use outcomes.
- Even small amounts of participation may be helpful in increasing abstinence, whereas higher doses may be needed to reduce relapse intensity.
- Reductions in substance use associated with 12-Step involvement are not attributable to potential third variable influences such as motivation, psychopathology, or severity.
"You're just mad because I found a scholar to back me up."
Do People Use 12-Step Support During or After Treatment?
“Dreamt I joined a twelve-step program.”
Do People Use 12-Step Support During or After Treatment?

• 75% of alcoholics entering residential treatment reported they had attended AA meetings previously. However, only 16% indicated that they had ever worked any of the 12 Steps.

• Despite “strong encouragement” to attend, 30% of cocaine abusers receiving outpatient treatment and 40% of those discharged from inpatient treatment reported that they had attended 12-Step groups.
Do People Use 12-Step Support During or After Treatment?

- During the follow-up period in the NIDA Collaborative Cocaine Treatment Study, 33.6% were classified as consistently high attenders, 47.9% as consistently low attenders, and 18.5% as decreasing attendance.
Jones would walk through a blizzard to score his dope. The question remains: what will he do to get to a meeting?

http://recoveryjonescartoons.com/book_1.htm
Factors Contributing to Greater 12-Step Involvement

- Patients are less likely to become involved in 12-step activities if left to do so on their own than if more active encouragement and referral are provided in treatment.
- Treatment programs that are 12-Step based produce higher rates of Self-Help participation than programs that are not 12-Step based.
- Patients from 12-Step based treatment seem to gain more (have better outcomes) from self-help participation than patients from non-12-Step based treatment.
- Programs that are 12-Step oriented and have a higher percentage of staff in recovery are more likely to refer to 12-Step Self-Help groups.
- Professional facilitation strategies increase engagement in mutual help groups.
Influence of General Program Treatment Orientation
Posttreatment 12-Step Self-Help Group Involvement of Substance-Dependent Veterans Treated by 12-Step or Cognitive-Behavioral Programs

Note: Involvement was measured 1 year after discharge by patient reports of activities in the past 3 months.
Source: Humphreys et al. 1999.
Average Per-Patient Costs for Substance Abuse and Psychiatric Services During Follow-Up Periods

Humphreys & Moos, 2007
Why Focus on Facilitating 12-Step Involvement?
Don’t We Already Do 12-Step Facilitation?

- “Making the case that treatment programs should prioritize self-help group involvement can be difficult because many treatment providers believe they ‘do this already’; indeed, that every program does.”

- “In practice, however, what this often means is that at some point during treatment a counselor gives the patient a list of local self-help groups and suggests that the patient attend a meeting, which is a minimally effective clinical practice.”

Humphreys & Moos, 2007
Don’t We Already Do 12-Step Facilitation?

• “We therefore encourage treatment providers to use the more intensive methods of promoting self-help group involvement empirically demonstrated to be effective …such efforts will maximize the maintenance of treatment gains.”

Humphreys & Moos, 2007
"Stop fighting and surrender, Jones. As your sponsor, all I ask is that you attend 90 meetings in 90 days."

http://recoveryjonescartoons.com/more_cartoons!.htm
What methods to increase 12-step involvement are empirically supported?

- **TSF** – Twelve Step Facilitation (Project Match)
- **GDC + IDC** – Group Drug Counseling plus Individual Drug Counseling (NIDA Collaborative Cocaine Study)
Overview of TSF

- *Not* 12-Step support group
- Written down in a *manual* (Project Match reviewed and approved by Hazelden)
- About twelve sessions (Individual in most studies)
- Facilitated by a drug counselor or therapist
- 3 Goals
  - (1) facilitate "acceptance"
  - (2) facilitate "surrender"
  - (3) facilitate active involvement in 12-Step meetings and related activities
Mean Percent Days Abstinent as a Function of Time (Outpatient)

Project MATCH Research Group, 1997
Mean Drinks per Drinking Day as a Function of Time (Outpatient)

Project MATCH Research Group, 1997
Percent of Project MATCH Outpatients Attending No Meetings during 1-Year Follow-Up

Connors et al. 2001
“Millions of people put their faith in the Twelve Steps every day. As a treatment provider, however, you need more than faith: you need proof to show accountability. *The Twelve-Step Facilitation Handbook* documents the efficacy of Twelve Step Facilitation (TSF) as proven in Project MATCH, a nationwide study that found TSF as effective as motivational enhancement and cognitive-behavioral treatment. Suitable for group or individual treatment programs.”
Twelve Step Facilitation Therapy for Drug Abuse and Dependence

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Days of 12-Step Attendance During 12-Week Treatment Phase of Cocaine Addicts as a Function of Type of Treatment

Carroll, Nich, et al., 1998
Days of 12-Step Attendance During 1-Year Follow-Up of Cocaine Addicts as a Function of Type of Treatment

Mean Number of Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Treatment</th>
<th>Mean Number of Days</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TSF</td>
<td>48.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBT</td>
<td>24.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>33.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Carroll, Nich, et al., 1998
Percent of Cocaine-Alcohol Dependent Clients with 3 or More Consecutive Weeks of Abstinence

Carroll, Nich, et al., 1998
What is GDC + IDC?

♦ Group Drug Counseling
  ♦ Education about addiction
  ♦ Strong encouragement of 12-step involvement

♦ Individual Drug Counseling
  ♦ 12-Step oriented
  ♦ Education about disease and about 12 steps
  ♦ Strong encouragement of 12-step involvement
The GDC model strongly encourages participation in 12-Step self-help recovery programs such as Cocaine Anonymous (CA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). The importance of actively participating in these programs is emphasized in group sessions.
NIDA Collaborative Cocaine Study: Combined Group plus Individual Drug Counseling Superior

Crits-Christoph et al., 1999
Systematic Encouragement and Community Access (SECA) – A “Buddy System”

- Counselor suggests that patient attend AA or Al-Anon
- Counselor provides a printed list of meeting times and locations

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- In-session telephone call to current member of AA, NA or CA, who talks to the patient briefly and arranges to attend a meeting with him or her
- Reminder telephone call from the 12-step group member the night before the meeting
- 12-step group member drives the patient to or arranges to meet the patient at the meeting

Sisson & Mallams, 1981
Enhancing the Effectiveness of Referrals to Self-Help: Systematic Encouragement and Community Access (SECA)

**Sample:** 20 alcohol dependent outpatients and spouses

**Design:** Participants randomly assigned to standard 12-step self-help group referral or intensive referral

**Intervention:**
- **Standard** - description of self-help, a meeting schedule, and encouragement to attend self-help meetings
- **Intensive** - as above plus in-session phone call to active group member to arrange to go to a meeting together

**Results:** Attendance rate at AA or Al-Anon meetings over
- after intensive referral: 100%
- after standard referral: 0%

Sisson & Mallams, 1981
Abstinence Rates at 6-month Follow-Up as a Function of 12-Step Referral Procedure

Timko, et al., 2006
Change in ASI Drug and Alcohol Composite Scores from Baseline to 6-month Follow-Up as a Function of 12-Step Referral Procedure

![Graph showing the magnitude of change in Drug and Alcohol ASI Composite Scores.](image)

- **Drug**: Standard, n=164; Intensive, n=181
- **Alcohol**: Standard, n=164; Intensive, n=181

*P < .05* for Drug

*P < .01* for Alcohol

Timko, et al., 2006
Comparison of Standard and Intensive Referral Clients’ 12-Step Attendance and Engagement

Compared to individuals assigned to the standard referral condition, those in the intensive referral condition:

♦ did not differ on 12-step meeting attendance

♦ had greater engagement in 12-step activities
  ♦ doing service work
  ♦ having experienced a spiritual awakening
  ♦ and overall involvement

Timko, et al., 2006
Available research-based manuals are based on individual counseling.

Most community-based programs provide primarily group treatment.

Need research on group applications of TSF (e.g., Wells, et al., 1994; Brown, et al., 2002).

12 sessions of manual-based treatment may be too lengthy for some outpatient programs.

Need research on briefer approaches, such as SECA / Intensive Referral.
STAGE-12 Therapy Manual

Based on and adapted from *Twelve Step Facilitation Therapy for Drug Abuse and Dependence*

Adapted for use in group delivery format from Brown, et al. 2002

Integrated with Intensive Referral procedures developed by Timko, et al., 2006

STAGE-12

Stimulant Abuser Groups to Engage in 12-Step Programs

A Combined Group and Individual Treatment Program

Version Number: 2.0
January 2008

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What Is STAGE-12?

• Combined group- and individual-based intervention
• Combines elements of Twelve-Step Facilitation Therapy and Intensive Referral
• Introduces participants to concepts and principles involved in 12-Step groups
• Actively attempts to get participants involved in 12-Step meetings
IN CASE OF RELAPSE
DO NOT USE ELEVATOR
USE STEPS

http://www.recoverygreetings.com/cards/threads003.html