



Addictions: Extra Ethical Considerations

Barbara Russell, Bioethicist

Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto
U of Toronto's Joint Centre for Bioethics

Journal of Ethics in Mental Health conference 2008

Ethical “Extras”

- Highlighted in 4 treatment and care situations
 - drug treatment courts
 - pain management
 - pregnancy
 - gambling
- Approach: research → reflection → practice

Toronto Star (Sept. 29, 2008)

“Drug Treatment Court Gives Users Second Chance”

“....The judge says, ‘Let me take a moment before I sentence you ... I saw a sincerity about your need to stop using drugs ... you weren't ready the first time ... be proud, be thankful to your mum ... I am going to suspend your sentence. You are to report to a probation officer. You are to continue treatment. I wish you the best. I don't want to see you any more. I don't expect to see you. I know I won't.’

His name is Brian. You will meet him Wednesday.”

Drug Treatment Courts

- Research – Toronto & Vancouver Drug Treatment Court studies

TO: 16 % versus 84 %

both ↓ charges & convictions

?? post-program drug use

VAN: 13 % versus 65 %

no Δ in charges & convictions

?? post-program drug use

Werb 2007

- Reflection

- Practice

Drug Treatment Courts

- Research – Toronto & Vancouver Drug Treatment Court studies
- Reflection – is therapeutic jurisprudence an oxymoron?
 - what's collaboration versus co-opting?
- Practice – motivational rather than coercive
 - more focus on the social determinants of health
 - needs to be evidence-based



Toronto Star (Oct. 1, 2008)

“Off Drugs, Off the Streets and Going Good Again”

“.... He also took courses at George Brown College... that’s progressive, and that part of the way he earned a graduation certificate from Drug Treatment Court.

He reads now, he studies, he has a job, and he keeps his day organized in strict half hour blocks. His reward? A suspended sentence. Our reward? There is a guy off the streets and going good again.”

References

- “Translating Justice and Therapy: the drug treatment court networks.” (2007) Moore. *British Journal of Criminology* 47: 42-60
- “Drug Treatment Courts in Canada: an evidence-based review.” (2007) Werb et al. *HIV/AIDS Policy & Law Review* 12: 12-17
- “Adult Drug Treatment Courts: a review.” (2007) Jensen et al. *Sociology Compass* 1: 552-71
- “Toronto Drug Treatment Court Project.” (2007) http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/cp/bldngevd/_fl/2007-ES-09_e.pdf
- “Toronto Drug Treatment Court: procedures manual.” (2004) www.iadtc.law.ecu.edu.au/pdfs/Toronto%20DTC%20...

References

- “Canadian Compulsory Community Treatment Laws: recent reforms.” (2005) Gray & O’Reilly. *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* 28: 13-22
- “Community Treatment Orders: profile of a Canadian experience.” (2005) O’Brien & Farrell. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry* 50: 27-30
- “Drug Treatment Courts—a Viable Option For Canada? Sentencing issues and preliminary findings from the Toronto court.” (2002) La Prairie et al. *Substance Use & Misuse* 37: 1529-66
- “A Survey of the Use of Community Treatment Orders by Psychiatrists in Saskatchewan.” (1996) Marlowe et al. *Drug & Alcohol Dependence* 42: 77-84

Pain Management

- Research – Rosenblum et al study of methadone clients (2003)
 - 37 % with CSP & 68 % interfered with ADLs
 - Fontana study of APRNs (2008)
 - COIs with clients' BIs low
- Reflection –
- Practice –

Pain Management

- Research – Rosenblum et al study of methadone clients (2003)
 - Fontana study of APRNs (2008)
- Reflection – how much does pain matter, really?
 - how does autonomy erode for client and clinician?
 - when does power creep in?
- Practice – education about pain mgmt options needed
specialists to collaborate
supportive, transparent practices

References

The Book of Ethics: expert guidance for professionals who treat addiction. (2008) Edited by Geppert & Roberts

"The Social and Political Forces Affecting Prescribing Practices for Chronic Pain." (2008) Fontana. *Journal of Professional Nursing* 24: 30-5

"ASPMN Position Statement: pain management in patients with addictive disease." (2004) *Journal of Vascular Nursing* 22: 99-101

"Prevalence and Characteristics of Chronic Pain Among Chemically Dependent Patients in Methadone Maintenance and Residential Treatment Facilities." (2003) Rosenblum et al. *JAMA* 389: 2370-8

"Ethical Perspectives: opioid treatment of chronic pain in the context of addiction." (2002) Cohen et al. *Clinical Journal of Pain* 18: S99-107

"An Ethical Analysis of the Barriers to Effective Pain Management." (2000) Rich. *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics* 9: 54-70

Pregnancy

- Research – Hofman study of IDU women (2003)

68 % involved in income gen illegal activities

42 % with kids @ home; 8 % homeless

- Reflection

- Practice

Pregnancy

- Research – Hofman study of IDU women (2003)
- Reflection – what gender ideologies at play?
 - how to see as a maternal-fetal unity?
 - how is she multiply vulnerable?
 - how is relational autonomy more fitting?

Practice – services outlook needed

- look for relational, sexual, reproductive health & safety
- social determinants of health to be included

References

The Book of Ethics: expert guidance for professionals who treat addiction. (2008) Edited by Geppert & Roberts

“Compounding Vulnerability: pregnancy and schizophrenia.” (2006) Dudzinski. *American Journal of Bioethics* 6: 1-14

“Management of Women Who Use Drugs during Pregnancy.” (2007) Walker. *Seminars In Fetal & Neonatal Medicine* 12: 114-8

“The Role of Coercion in the Treatment of Women with Co-occurring Disorders and Histories of Abuse.” (2005) Clark et al. *Journal of Behavioral Health Sciences & Research* 32: 167-81

“Relational Ethics: when mothers suffer from psychosis.” (2004) Seeman. *Archives of Women’s Mental Health* 7: 201-10

“At-Risk Drinking and Illicit Drug Use: ethical issues in obstetric and gynecological practice.” (2004) ACOG Committee. *Obstetrics & Gynecology* 103: 1021-31

References

- “Maintaining Respectability and Responsibility: gendered labor patterns among women injection drug users.” (2003) Hofman et al. *Health Care for Women International* 24: 794-807
- “Ethical considerations in caring for women with substance use disorders. (2003) Roberts & Dunn. *Obstetrics & Gynecology Clinics of North America* 30: 559-82
- “Substance Use Disorders in Women: special considerations during pregnancy.” (2003) Bolnick & Rayburn. *Obstetrics & Gynecological Clinics of North America* 30: 545-58
- “Psychopathology in Pregnant Drug-Dependent Women with and without Comorbid Alcohol Dependence.” (2001) Miles et al. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research* 25: 1012-7

Gambling

- Research – Williams and Wood gambling study (2007)

\$1.4 b gambling rev in Ont. ← PGs (35% of g rev)

Ont. spends \$457 m on advertising and \$36 m on prev/tx

- Reflection

- Practice

Gambling

- Research – Williams and Wood gambling study (2007)
- Reflection – how does consumption connect to personal success and failure?
 - how much counts as strong desires versus uncontrolled cravings?
- Practice – watch for belonging versus social control
 - watch for double standards

References

- “The Proportion of Ontario Gambling Revenue Derived from Problem Gamblers.” (2007) Williams & Wood. *Canadian Public Policy* 33: 367-87
- “The Social: a missing term in the debate over addiction and voluntary control.” (2007) Levy. *American Journal of Bioethics* 7: 35-6
- “Addiction is Not an Affliction: addictive desires are merely pleasure-oriented desires.” (2007) Foddy & Savulescu. *American Journal of Bioethics* 7: 29-32
- “The Neurobiology of Addiction: implications for voluntary control of behavior.” (2007) Hyman. *American Journal of Bioethics* 7: 8-11
- “An Investigation of Stigma in Individuals Receiving Treatment for Substance Abuse.” (2007) Luoma et al. *Addictive Behaviors* 32: 1331-46
- “Freedom and Resistance: the phenomenal will in addiction.” (2007) Gray. *Nursing Philosophy* 8: 3-15

References

- “Social Control and Coercion in Addiction Treatment: towards evidence-based policy and practice.” (2006) Wilde. *Addiction* 101: 40-9
- “A National Survey of Gambling Problems in Canada.” (2005) Cox et al. *Canadian Journal of Psychiatry* 50:213-7
- “Pressure and Coercion in the Care for the Addicted: ethical perspectives.” (2004) Janssens et al. *Journal of Medical Ethics* 30: 453-8
- “Consumption and its Discontents: addiction, identity and the problems of freedom.” (2004) Reith. *British Journal of Sociology* 55: 283-300
- “The case: Clint Wooder.” (1992) Hilfiker. *Second Opinion* 18: 42-53



Concluding Thoughts

- “ends” matter a lot; so do the “means”
- who gets to decide which ends matter
- belonging versus control or independence

- 
-
- **Questions?**
 - **Challenges?**
 - **Suggestions?**

Thank you

barbara_russell@camh.net