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Case Study

Southeast Missouri Behavioral Health improves treatment planning based on better assessment of clients

ASI-MV Connect provides clinicians more accurate, in-depth information

About SEMO-BH

For more than 30 years, Southeast Missouri Behavioral Health (SEMO-BH) has provided treatment services for people suffering from chemical dependencies and other life crises in 20 outpatient and residential treatment centers throughout the state. Various mental health, social services and substance abuse recovery programs are provided within the network.

Challenge

SEMO-BH utilizes a therapeutic and psychological approach to addiction treatment. All clients are evaluated and assessed for possible co-occurring disorders and further psychiatric evaluations are provided when needed. Additional counseling for issues which may lead to addiction, such as abuse or mental health issues, are also provided.

According to Clif Johnson, CASAC, Director of Clinical Compliance at SEMO-BH, the primary challenge prior to implementing the Addiction Severity Index-Multimedia Version (ASI-MV) Connect was generating useful factual information about the client's background and substance abuse issues in order to properly implement a treatment plan.

"We found that before we started using [the ASI-MV Connect], many of the clients who were coming in to treatment for the first time were nervous," said Johnson. "They weren't very trusting. Many of them had these drug and alcohol problems and didn't know who this person was that was asking questions. It was difficult for us to come up with treatment options."

Also, "It was very difficult getting clients to be completely honest and forthright," said Johnson. "Clients were in various stages [of addiction] when they came in, and it was difficult for us to identify them at a particular stage based on what they told us in the interview."

Solution

Since 2009, SEMO-BH has been using the ASI-MV Connect as its primary method of assessing new clients.

The ASI-MV Connect is an interactive, multimedia tool that clients self-administer on a computer. Once the client completes the interview, the severity scores and detailed clinical reports are immediately available for the counselor to use as they complete their face-to-face assessment. One of the functions of the ASI-MV Connect data gathering is to provide a summary of client information so that clinicians can use it as a guideline for treatment planning.

Johnson estimates that between 60-70% of clients who enter the SEMO-BH network of facilities self-administer the ASI-MV Connect.

Results

According to Johnson, the ASI-MV Connect program has led to more detailed and pertinent information from clients when detailing their particular needs. Johnson said using the ASI-MV Connect generated more positive feedback from clients because it is a “less intrusive” assessment process.

“In the past, clients probably felt they were being quizzed by another person,” said Johnson. “But sitting in front of the computer seems to put them at ease.”

About the ASI-MV Connect

The Addiction Severity Index-Multimedia Version (ASI-MV) Connect system is a powerful web-enabled solution for behavioral health assessment, treatment planning, and data management. The system includes clinically validated assessment tools: the ASI-MV, a client self-administered version of the Addiction Severity Index (ASI) for adults, and the Comprehensive Health Assessment for Teens (CHAT) for adolescents. It also provides access to clinical reports and an online data center. These tools help you streamline your assessment procedures, expedite treatment planning, and simplify data gathering and analysis of population needs outcomes. Learn more and download a free 30-day trial at www.asi-mvconnect.com.