



Main Story / 02.20.08

Unity House's G.R.A.C.E. House to Co-Sponsor March 27, 2008 NY State Office for Prevention of Domestic Violence Workshops

AUBURN – On March 27, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the office of C.H.A.D. (Confidential Help for Alcohol and Drugs) alcohol and drug outpatient treatment agency at 75 Genesee Street in Auburn, NY, Unity House's G.R.A.C.E. House residential chemical dependency recovery program will co-sponsor with C.H.A.D. and the Auburn Drug and Alcohol Treatment Court two workshops for treatment providers that will focus on the prevention of domestic violence.

The two workshops are being offered to the community free-of-charge.

To be presented by Susan Perry, Ph.D., coordinator of the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Training Project at the N.Y. State Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, the first training workshop, entitled 'Helping Victims of Domestic Violence,' will emphasize the impact of domestic violence on victims' lives and their mental health. Its goal will be to help clinicians understand the connections between domestic violence victimization and mental health problems and chemical dependencies, and to recognize how domestic violence affects its victims and the risks they encounter in leaving an abusive partner.

Providers participating in the trainings will learn how to routinely screen for domestic violence in chemical dependency treatment settings, assess the safety of proposed interventions, and collaborate with domestic violence service providers.

Perry's afternoon training, 'Safety and Accountability in Work with Abusers,' intends to help clinicians understand the behavior of domestic abusers as purposeful and socially supported, and to recognize the complexity of the interaction between partner abuse and chemical dependency. Participating providers can expect to learn how to identify behaviors characteristic of batterers and differentiate treatment from accountability-based approaches to batterers.

Each workshop has been approved for 3.5 CASAC (Certified Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor) credit hours.

"We're thrilled to be able to team up with our Drug and Alcohol Treatment Court and C.H.A.D. to put on these two free trainings to our treatment provider community," said G.R.A.C.E. House Director Michele Leonello. "The training topics are very important to our G.R.A.C.E. House program and services, our community of consumers and their recoveries, and especially the caregivers who treat them."

Auburn Drug and Alcohol Treatment Court Coordinator Carol Colvin agreed that the trainings are important for providers of individuals with mental health illnesses and chemical dependencies who also have suffered from domestic violence.

"Most if not all of the treatment providers work with many such individuals and it's important for them to be stay abreast of what works and what doesn't and learn as much as possible about offering the most effective treatments," she said. "Trainings like these offer that.

That they're free makes them all the more valuable. We're indebted to Sue Perry and the state for bringing these trainings to our community.”

Providers can register for the two trainings by calling Colvin at 315-253-3001.