

The Blending Initiative

The blending of resources, information and talent is the distinctive methodology behind a landmark agreement between the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). The interagency agreement established the NIDA/SAMHSA-ATTC Blending Initiative, a unique partnership that uses the expertise of both agencies to meld science and service together to improve drug abuse and addiction treatment. The Initiative encourages the use of current, evidence-based treatment interventions by professionals in the treatment field.

Blending Teams, comprised of Community Treatment Programs (CTP) and researchers affiliated with NIDA's Clinical Trials Network (CTN) and staff from CSAT's Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network, are charged with the dissemination of research results that are ready for adoption and implementation into practice. These Teams will identify and develop activities and materials (e.g. trainings, self-study programs, workshops and distant learning opportunities) for the addiction treatment field that will provide the tools necessary to access and adopt NIDA research protocols. ●

MIA:STEP Products

Briefing Materials help introduce the MI Assessment protocol to key stakeholders.

MI Assessment Protocol provides a full description of the protocol, research report on the results of the NIDA clinical trials, talking points and PowerPoint slides.

Teaching Tools for Assessing and Enhancing MI Skills include brief handouts describing principles and skills plus self-assessment review criteria.

Supervisor Tape Rating Guide describes a system for monitoring clinician MI adherence and competence.

Demonstration Materials include demonstration tapes in English and Spanish, MI Assessment transcripts, completed skill rating worksheets, feedback forms, and skill development plans.

Supervisor Training Curriculum for a 10-hour event focuses on an overview of how to best utilize the entire MIA:STEP package plus skill development in the rating of recorded MI Assessment interviews and their use in building counselor skills.



MIA:STEP Services

Services provided by MIA:STEP Trainers and the ATTC Network include:

Introduction of the MIA:STEP package of products and how it can be used to help assure competency of clinical assessment services.

Briefing for decision makers and leaders regarding the MI Assessment protocol and how it can enhance client retention during the first 30 days of treatment.

Training for supervisors on how to use MIA:STEP, how to rate interview tapes, and how to provide feedback that helps counselors enhance MI skills.

For More Information

*Contact the ATTC
Regional Center in
your area for more
information on this topic.*

See back panel.

Motivational Interviewing Blending Team Members

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● Visit ATTCnetwork.org for more information on the ATTC Regional Center in your area. ●

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Gulf Coast ATTC
LA, NM, TX

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AR, KS, MO, NE, OK

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Northeast ATTC
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ATTC National Office
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more information: 816-235-6888 or
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Motivational Interviewing Assessment: Supervisory Tools for Enhancing Proficiency (MIA:STEP)

A new package of treatment improvement products has emerged from the work of the NIDA Clinical Trials Network (CTN). A Motivational Interviewing Assessment protocol has produced improvements in frequency of client attendance and retention in treatment during the first month of care, two predictors of positive treatment outcome. The package is available to agencies interested in learning about and perhaps adopting this empirically-supported treatment practice.



blending initiative
NIDA • SAMHSA

The MIA:STEP package is a collection of tools for mentoring counselors in the use of MI skills during clinical assessments. Using this package will enhance both counselor MI skills and supervisor ability to provide more structured, focused and effective clinical supervision. ●