Social and Behavioral Health
Faculty Candidate’s Seminar

Thursday, May 16, 2019

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM, BHS 131

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Health Comorbidities among People with Serious Mental Illness: Challenges in Public Systems

Abstract

Individuals with serious mental illness experience marked physical health disparities compared to members of the general population, including increased rates of chronic comorbidities such as diabetes, cardiac conditions, and infectious diseases. Yet, the majority of research with this population documents the lack of evidence-informed materials and tools that assist community mental health clients to successfully manage these chronic physical illnesses. With the continued call for integration of primary and behavioral health care, the availability of programs and services that promote psychiatric recovery and whole health wellness are critical, particularly in publicly-funded physical and mental health service systems. This presentation will examine the impact of chronic physical health conditions among people with mental illness, gaps in health literacy, and discuss initiatives specifically aimed to address comorbidities among those with psychiatric illnesses. Early results of a longitudinal survey, including self-management and other health practices, and methods to implement and sustain these services within integrated community mental health settings as well as strategies to improve workforce competencies also will be described.