

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

•Reno

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My name is Gary Fisher and I am the Director of the Center for the Application of Substance Abuse Technologies (CASAT) at the University of Nevada, Reno. We are a grant-funded unit in the College of Human and Community Sciences and have offered university-based courses and continuing education workshops in the alcohol and other drug field for the past 10 years.

I would like to take the opportunity to acquaint you with the training experiences we have already developed related to co-occurring disorders and what still needs to be done.

Training occurs at the pre-service and in-service levels. Pre-service refers to those who are still in undergraduate or graduate training programs. In-service training is for those who are already working as professionals. At the pre-service level, CASAT offers a required graduate-level course in alcohol and other drugs for all marriage and family therapy and school counseling students. We offer a similar elective course for undergraduate social work students. To my knowledge, there is no required or elective course for master's level social work students or clinical psychology students. I would certainly recommend that the undergraduate elective course for social workers be required and that graduate students in social work and clinical psychology be required to take the same course that marriage and family therapists and school counselors take.

EXHIBIT <u>V</u>	MentalHealth	Document consists of <u>3</u> pages
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entire document provided.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Due to size limitations, pages ____ through ____ provided.		
A copy of the complete document is available through the Research Library (775-684-6827 or e-mail library@icb.state.nv.us).		
		Meeting Date <u>11-15-02</u>

For drug and alcohol counselors, CASAT has both undergraduate and graduate level training. Students take a course in assessment and diagnosis. The graduate level course covers all types of mental disorders while the undergraduate course is focused on substance use disorders. We have also developed a course on co-occurring disorders for both undergraduates and graduates.

At the in-service level, there are numerous opportunities for cross-training. In 12 months, CASAT provided 44 different one to two day workshops in Reno and Las Vegas. Topics in the alcohol and other drug field relevant to mental health professionals included signs and symptoms, fetal alcohol syndrome, trauma and addiction, assessing substance use disorders, building relationships in recovery, adolescent assessment and marijuana. We also had cross-training topics for the drug and alcohol counselor including dual diagnosis, trauma and addiction, the suicidal client and building relationships in recovery. We offered 11 continuing education workshops on-line, four through CD-ROMS and 10 by video tape for the convenience of rural providers. At our annual summer institute, we have offered a full-week track on co-occurring disorders. We provide continuing education hours for drug and alcohol counselors, marriage and family therapists, social workers, nurses, employee assistance professionals and peace officers. Although we are not formally approved to offer continuing education hours by the psychologist board, they have accepted our workshops for re-licensure. However, none of these allied professional groups are required to earn continuing education hours in the alcohol or

other drug field. It would clearly help if they were required to do so, particularly if they did not have this training at the pre-service level.