The Rutgers DSW Program

Module Title: What is Addiction?
Instructor:
Residency: November 2018
Time:

Module Description:
In our current climate of increasing rates of substance abuse and overdose deaths, polarizing discussions around decriminalization of drug use, and potential legalization of marijuana, it is important to critically examine our current understanding of addiction and how it influences our individual and societal response to those who struggle with substance use disorders.

Module Objectives:
1. To explore and contrast how addiction is understood by the general public, the legal system, treatment providers, and researchers
2. To critically examine the master narrative of addiction as a disease and consider the counter-narratives that offer alternative understandings of addiction.
3. To consider how our understanding of addiction impacts the treatment of substance use disorders. reflect on how the narratives of individuals with substance use disorders influence how addiction is understood.

Required Reading:
1. Volkow, N., Koob, G. & McLellan, T. (2016). Neurobiologic advances from the brain disease model of addiction. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 374: 363-71
2. Lewis, M. (2017). Addiction and the brain: development, not disease. *Neuroethics*, 10:7-18.
3. Szalavitz, M. (2017). Squaring the circle: addiction, disease and learning. *Neuroethics*, 10: 83-86.

Recommended Readings:
1. Heyman, G. (2013). Addiction and choice: theory and new data. Frontiers in Psychiatry, Vol 4;31, doi: 10.3389/fpsyt.2013.00031
2. Felitti, V. J. (2003). The origins of addiction: Evidence from the adverse childhood experiences study. *Praxis der Kinderpsychologie und Kinderpsychiatrie*, *52*(8), 547-559.