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Family Counts: Education for Family Systems Impacted by Addiction

Tanya Friese, MSW Student

Field Placement: Project Turnabout, Granite Falls, MN



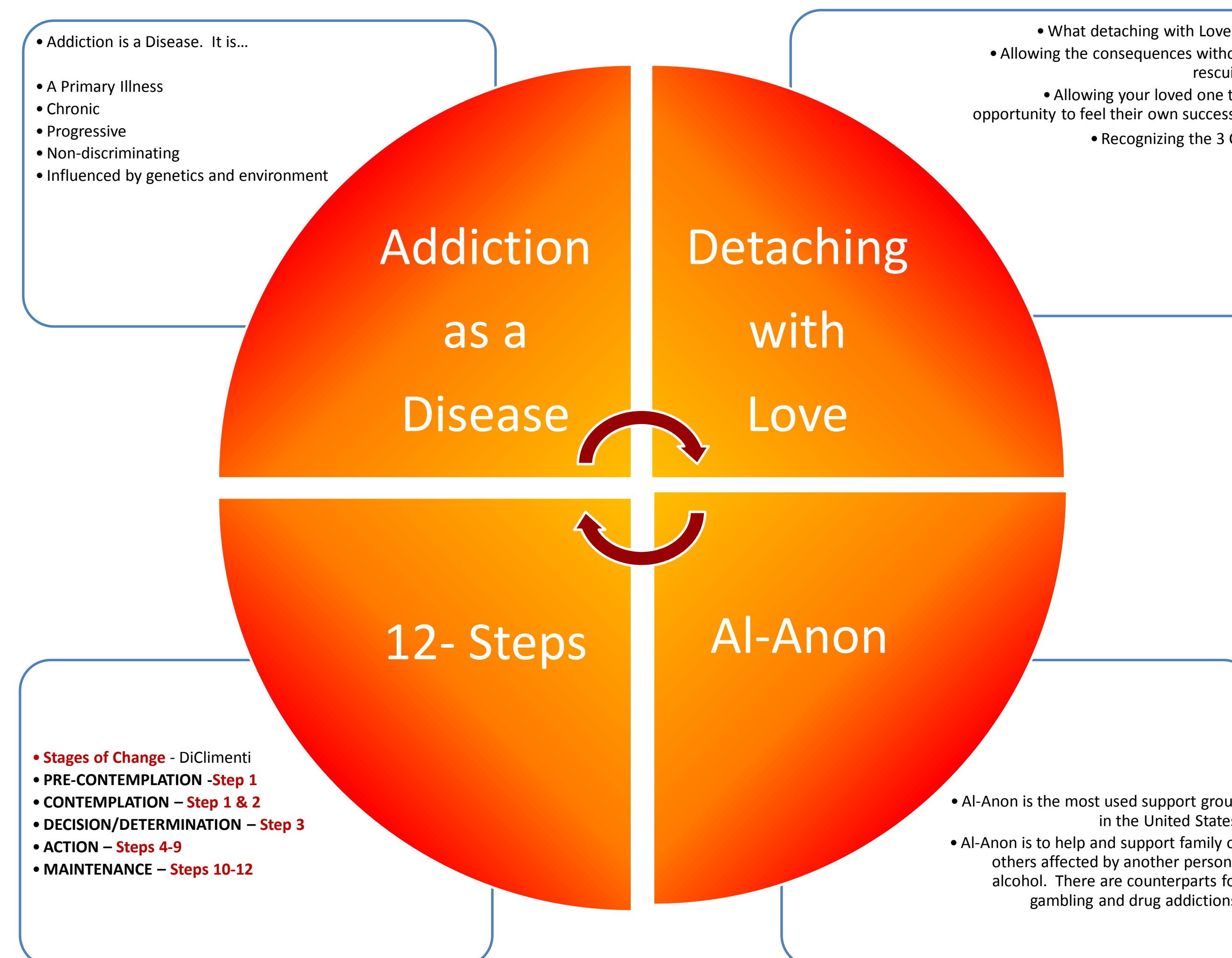
Statement of Purpose & Goal:

Educating and empowering families through education. By educating the families of Project Turnabout patients and families will be more able to take care of themselves. When a family members needs are met they will in turn be more able to support their loved ones recovery. The goal of the Capstone is to have 3 to 4 modules of education to share with families over the course of their participation in the Project Turnabout family program.

Brief Summary of Literature:

- Crisp, 2001:
 - Family members exhibit dysfunctional behaviors as well as the gambler.
 - Dysfunction in a spouse or partner is many times a result of stress and not a personality issue.
 - In addiction the family may look at addiction through a moral lens.
 - Through education family they can be educated about addiction as a primary disease.
 - In addiction family relationships can become enmeshed.
 - The family can benefit of learning about setting and keeping boundaries.
- Davis 1980:
 - Education for the family is a way to support them.
 - Teaching the family to not hide addiction and to seek help is important.
 - Educating the family about the resources available in their rural setting is important.
- Hornberger & Smith 2011:
 - Alcohol and drug addictions affect the individual, the family, and the community.
 - Educating the family brings them to a place of greater understanding.
 - When families have a greater understanding of addiction professionals are better able to provide care that brings in the family.

Educational Module Topics:



Methodology:

- Research:
 - Scholarly literature
 - Attendance at another treatment center family program
 - Interview a different treatment centers family program coordinator
 - Collaboration with Project Turnabout Unit Coordinators Sources were compiled and used as references throughout the development of educational modules for family programming
- Development of educational materials:
 - Modules incorporated onto power point
 - Educational modules drawn from educational materials, scholarly sources, and Project Turnabout staff
 - Modules reviewed by Project Turnabout Unit Coordinators and Project Turnabout Psychologist
- Topics of educational modules:
 - Addiction as a disease
 - Detaching with love
 - 12 steps
 - Al-Anon

Implications / Discussion in the Rural Setting:

- The literature supports families who are in the rural setting benefiting from addiction education when their family member is in treatment.
- The lack of resources in the rural areas of southwestern Minnesota shows a need for increased educational opportunities for families faced with addiction in their family system.
- Educational modules will enhance the education available to families with a family member receiving treatment at Project Turnabout.
- Dual-relationships:
 - According to the NASW Code of Ethics social workers are to avoid dual-relationships when possible.
 - Project Turnabout one of a few inpatient addiction treatment centers in a southwest Minnesota.
 - As a practitioner educating families while addressing potential dual relationships is important.

Special thank you for the support on this project:

Task Supervisor: Sherry Parker, MS, LADC, Manager Residential Treatment & Family Programming at Project Turnabout
 Off-Site Clinical Supervisor: Gordy Larson, LICSW
 Academic Advisor: Robin R. Wingo, MSW, LISW

References:

Available Upon Request from the author