



Summer 2014

COLUMBIA
ADDICTIONS
CENTER

CAC & Dr. Gagliardi train Howard County Officials



Pictured left to right: Kim Oldham, Deputy State's Attorney; Eileen Dewey, LCSW-C and Director of Columbia Addictions Center; and N. Joseph Gagliardi, MD.

December 12, 2013: Opiate & Synthetic Drug Use in the Adolescent & Young Adult Population. This in-service was presented to Juvenile Masters and others working with youth in the Howard County Court system. Eileen Dewey, LCSW-C facilitated the discussion regarding the scope of opiate and synthetic drug use by adolescents and young adults. Dr. N. Joseph Gagliardi presented information about the physiological effects of these drugs and discussed emerging drugs of abuse. Drew Sandberg, LGSW shared various treatment options. Drew has a unique talent in connecting with adolescents, young adults and their families, and is a trained Interventionist.

May 15, 2014: The Impact of Substance Use Disorders. During this presentation at the Howard County State's Attorney's Office, Dr. N. Joseph Gagliardi demonstrated that a major hallmark of substance abuse is impaired executive functioning, and explained how the frontal cortex and limbic system of the brain are affected by drug use. He also reviewed the behavioral changes that occur when an adult abuses drugs. Drew Sandberg, LGSW presented best practices in detoxification and treatment. Eileen Dewey, LCSW-C concluded with ways to enhance collaboration between the legal system and treatment providers.

If you would like to receive a PDF of the training materials or would like to schedule a training for your organization, please contact our Program Administrator, Melinda Whittemore, at cactar@verizon.net.



Drew Sandberg, LGSW

Marijuana...the changing landscape



In the last legislative session, Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley signed medical marijuana (House Bill 0881) and marijuana decriminalization laws (Senate Bill 0364). Both laws go into effect on October 1, 2014.

To briefly summarize Senate Bill 0364, the purpose is to alter the penalty for the possession of less than 10 grams of marijuana, resulting in issuance of a civil citation as opposed to an arrest for a criminal offense. However, this very detailed nine-page bill has other important details as well.

The bill includes provisions that allow the Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to suspend the driving privileges of a child licensed to drive in Maryland if caught with *any* amount of marijuana. For that same minor to be caught a second time can result in a driver's license suspension until age 21!

Another detail that some may have overlooked is that the bill does not change the current laws for possession of paraphernalia, which will remain a criminal offense. For a person thinking getting caught with a little bit of weed will no longer be a big deal, that person needs to be aware that the baggie in which the pot is held can result in a \$500 fine; the rolling papers, an additional \$500 fine! The bottom line is that you need to be fully informed and choose wisely before making decisions that can have significant consequences!

