



Howard University College of Medicine Capitol Region Telehealth Project (HU CRTP)

Case Study for: March 25, 2015 Webinar: “Integration of Mental Health and Substance Abuse into HIV Prevention - Part 2”

Case Study #1

Ms. Rodriguez, a 28-year-old Black female was recently released, after being incarcerated for possession of cocaine and prostitution. She tested HIV positive 8 years ago while in a methadone program. She has a history of mental illness. She discontinued her medication regimen due to the interaction with methadone.



Case Study #2

Ms Cutler, is a 39-year-old Black female patient with AIDS and A history of methamphetamine and heroin abuse, presents With depressed mood, complaints about losing interest in everyday activities, like bathing, grooming, or getting dressed lack of feeling or emotion (apathy), having little emotion or inappropriate feelings in certain situations and having less ability to experience pleasure.



Case Study #3

Alfonso a 48-year-old Latino male diagnosed with HIV 15 years ago. He has a history of intravenous drug abuse and consistently adhered to antiretroviral therapy (ARTs) while incarcerated for the murder of his young brother. He presents with a history of obesity, insulin-dependent diabetes mellitus, hypertension, and degenerative joint disease. He wants to restart ARVs. He was incarcerated for 14 years until his release 4 months ago. He returned to active alcohol and drug use after his release. His latest labs are as follows: CD4+ T cell count: 550 cells/mm³ HIV RNA: 29,000 copies/mL

Alfonso has reported feeling a pervasive low grade depression for the last 5 years and may meet DSMV criteria for Persistent Depressive Disorder (Dysthymia).

Case Study from Lee Carson, MSW, LSW



Case Study #3 continued

He reports often feeling like there is a "cloud hanging over me" and he hasn't been able to string together more than a few weeks of happy mood at a time over the past 5 years. He does report feeling some joy when spending time with his grandchildren and some family members, but aside from this doesn't seem to find much joy. He feels he has few good things going for him in his life and has a low self worth and self concept due to his long period of incarceration, obesity and multiple health issues. When not high and/or drunk, he feels bad about his active addiction, but these very feelings lead him back to using to help him cope with his negative feelings about himself. In the past 6 months his depressed mood has increased and it's possible that he could be headed to a major depressive disorder, but he will need to be monitored for a longer period of time and have some sobriety under his belt before this diagnosis can be made.

Case Study from Lee Carson, MSW, LSW

