



## Newsletter

**May 2020**

### **COVID-19 Pandemic and SUD: Online Learning & Resources**

We find ourselves in a new reality as COVID-19 continues its course through our communities. As providers, we are having to show unprecedented flexibility and creativity to meet the continued demand for services. Because substance use doesn't stop for a pandemic, while the rest of the world is on lockdown, our work continues to protect those we serve.

Further complicating things, the coronavirus poses an even greater threat to the populations we work with. [According to the National Institute of Drug Abuse](#), because it attacks the lungs, the coronavirus could be an especially serious threat to those who smoke or vape, people with opioid use disorder, and people with methamphetamine use disorder, due to the drugs' effects on respiratory and pulmonary health.

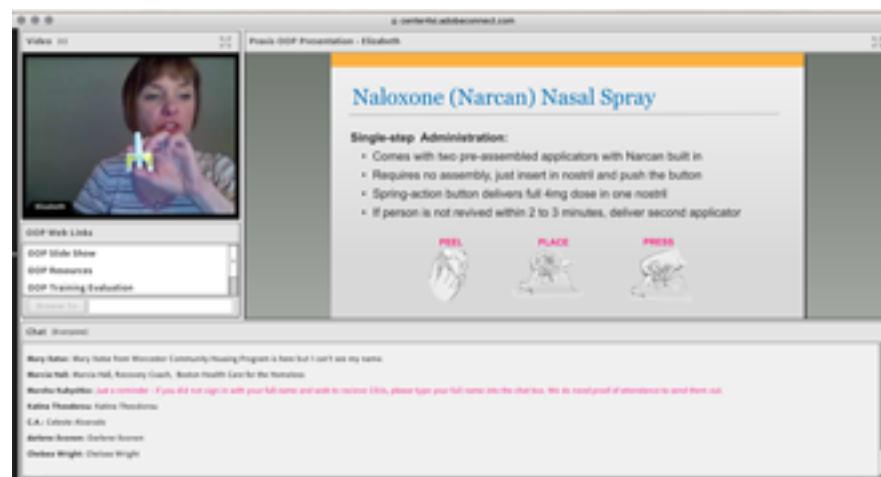
At a time when people with substance use disorders are most vulnerable, we at Praxis are more committed than ever to our role as a trusted resource. We know the work we do together, perhaps now more than ever, is truly lifesaving. We hope you, your loved ones, your clients, and your colleagues are staying healthy. Over the last few weeks, we have sent out information about ways that Praxis can support you and your staff outside of our general trainings. Please [email us](#) if you have any questions about our offerings.

#### **Online Learning**

Over the last month, many of us have been thrown into a different way of working with our colleagues, with our clients, and with each other. Praxis is no different. We have moved all of our trainings online and while we miss seeing you in person, there are some benefits to online

learning:

- Each live, webcast can be recorded and archived for:
  - Employees who are unable to attend the live session due to prior commitments or emergencies.
  - Third shift and part-time employees and volunteers who are unable to attend trainings during regular business hours.
  - Staff who join the organization after the live webinar takes place.
- Organizations that have many different sites, locations, and programs can have people attend from their desktops, laptops, tablets, and smartphones—decreasing the amount of funds spent on travel and training space.
- Staff do not need to be taken away from their responsibilities for more than 90 minutes at a time. The webcasts can be scheduled during lunch breaks or already planned meeting times to ensure little to no disruption in services to clients.



We look forward to continuing to work with you in new, flexible ways as so we can all continue to provide best practices for the people that we serve.

## Special Online Event: Motivational Interviewing Webcast

Praxis is offering a special webcast on Motivational Interviewing (MI). MI is a "collaborative conversation style for strengthening a person's own motivation and commitment to change." This evidence-based approach is highly relevant for staff working in BSAS-funded programs. [Register](#) and join us on **May 21 at 3:00 pm ET**.

## Resources

Some national and local resources to help promote best practices in the safest manner possible:

- [CDC COVID-19 National Information and Resources](#)
- [Massachusetts DPH COVID-19 Updates and Information](#)
- [BSAS: Preventing and Mitigating COVID-19](#)
- Coronavirus Resources: Posted on [March 24](#) and [April 2](#) from C4 Innovations
- [Racially Equitable Responses to COVID-19](#) from C4 Innovations

## Introducing Our New Trainer, Iliana



*(Iliana pictured with her best bud, Rio)*

We are so happy to welcome Iliana Ojeda-Rivera to the Praxis team! Iliana has more than 20 years of substance use treatment experience. Before joining C4, Iliana was Director of Residential Services at the Boston Public Health Commission. There she oversaw Entre Familia, a 20-bed facility for Latina pregnant, post-partum and parenting women and their children; Transitions Program, a 45-bed, co-ed Transitional Support Services program; and Wyman Recovery Home, a 30-bed home for men with a history of substance use disorders who are re-entering the community from incarceration.

She has participated in the development of and trained on the Boston Consortium Model which is on the SAMHSA National Registry of Evidence-Based Program and Practices. She is also a Co-Trainer in the Latino Behavioral Health Workforce Training Program, a BSAS funded Substance Use Counselor Certificate Program for Latinos. As a person in long term recovery, Iliana's experiences have given her a unique insight into the needs and challenges of the individuals she serves. She is passionate about this work and enjoys serving as a role model to women in recovery.

Iliana received a Master of Education in Counseling Psychology and is a Certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor and Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor I. She is also a 2001 SAMHSA Women's Addiction Services Leadership InstituteAlumni (WASLI) and was a WASLI Coach in 2013.

Iliana shares, "I feel so thankful to have been hired to work with the BSAS programs and Praxis team. This is an amazing opportunity, and I am looking forward to meeting everyone in person soon!" We welcome Iliana to the Praxis family and look forward to the many contributions she brings to our team!

## Contact us

Praxis provides training to all Massachusetts Bureau of Substance Abuse Services funded substance use disorder treatment programs on

- [Co-Occurring Disorders](#)
- [Harm Reduction](#)
- [HIV/AIDS Care Integration](#)
- [Medication-Assisted Treatment](#)
- [Opioid Overdose Prevention](#)
- [Viral Hepatitis Care Integration](#)

Contact us to request training or technical assistance at [praxis@c4innovates.com](mailto:praxis@c4innovates.com).



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