

Abstract

Background: In the addiction treatment continuum, there is a relatively large group of clients with a dual diagnosis who repeatedly fail in treatment and follow-up treatment, with frequent relapses and recurrences of the disease and subsequent returns to the treatment continuum. The case study is focused on the perception of the integrated treatment of dual diagnosis in the follow-up care program by clients with dual diagnosis.

Objectives: The research aims to map the perception of the integrated treatment of dual diagnosis in the aftercare service by the clients themselves. The sub-goals were to map the perception of the connection between addiction treatment and their mental disorder, what factors clients perceive as important in their journey to recovery, and how they perceive the presence of clients without mental illness.

Methods: The theoretical part was processed in the form of a search of professional literature. The research part was carried out in the form of semi-structured interviews with three clients of the after-treatment program, the processing of their case reports, and their subsequent comparison.

Research group: The research group consists of three clients of the after-treatment program selected by purposeful selection. The condition for participation in the research investigation was that the research participants were clients with a dual diagnosis of substance dependence and mental illness who were abstinent and attending outpatient aftercare services.

Results: The life stories of the respondents are similar in many ways, and we can find similar factors in the emergence of addiction and its development. All the respondents in their life went through a series of unsuccessful medical hospitalizations, from which they dropped out due to the inability to meet the requirements of the treatment regimen, paranoid ideas, and bad interpersonal relationships stemming from them. The path to recovery for them was entering integrated treatment focused on both addiction and mental illness, where they were provided with an individual time allowance and a personal approach to their problem.

Conclusion: The findings from this work can be used to find new ways to help clients with a dual diagnosis and can be put into professional work with clients. Furthermore, it is possible to use this information in therapeutic, counseling, and other activities that deal with the issue of dual diagnoses.

Keywords: Integrated treatment – dual diagnosis - addiction services - aftercare service
- case series