**Addressing Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in Substance Abuse Treatment**

***Part 1*** of the TIP is for substance abuse counselors and consists of two chapters.

Chapter 1 presents the “what” and “why” of working with clients with substance use disorders who have suicidal thoughts and/or behaviors. It covers:

* Basic suggestions for addressing suicidal thoughts and behaviors, along with points to keep you on track and positive attitudes and behaviors that will help you provide services to clients who are suicidal.
* Background information about suicide and substance use disorders, including risk factors and warning signs for suicide.
* A four-step process for addressing suicidal thoughts and behaviors in substance abuse treatment, summarized by the acronym GATE (Gather information, Access supervision, Take responsible action, and Extend the action).
* *•* A set of competencies counselors should incorporate to work effectively with clients who are suicidal.

Chapter 2 presents the “how to” of working with clients with suicidal thoughts and/or behaviors. Chapter 2 contains:

* Representative vignettes of counseling sessions with clients who have suicidal thoughts and behaviors.
* Master clinician notes and comments that help you understand the client, his or her issues related to suicide, and approaches you can take in your counseling work with clients with suicidal thoughts and behaviors.
* “How-to” descriptions of specific counseling techniques.

*It is strongly recommended that you read chapter 1 before reading chapter 2.*

***Part 2*** is an implementation guide for program administrators and consists of two chapters. Chapter 1 lays out the rationale for the approach taken in chapter 2 and will help you understand how administrators can provide support for programs and counselors as they address clients’ suicidal thoughts and behaviors. It is hoped that this knowledge will enable treatment programs to become suicide capable: that is, to treat substance abuse while concurrently addressing the specific needs of those who have warning signs for suicide. Chapter 2 provides detailed information on how to achieve high-quality implementation of the recommendations in *Addressing Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in Substance Abuse Treatment, Part 1*.

The following topics are addressed in Part 2:

* The benefits of addressing suicidality in substance abuse treatment programs.
* The role of administrators and mid-level staff in providing care for clients with suicidal thoughts and behaviors.
* Different levels of program involvement in addressing the needs of substance abuse clients with suicidal thoughts and behaviors.
* Legal and ethical issues for consideration in managing and providing treatment to clients with suicidal thoughts and behaviors.