Instructions for Skit:
Mary Has All Kinds of Troubles

This skit can be used in a variety of settings: to cross-train advocates and other providers; to generate discussion in a support group meeting; or to educate the public about the fragmented social services system often encountered by people who seek help for both trauma and co-occurring issues.

Note: You will need to do some advance planning for this group. For each role, you may want to a yellow highlighting marker to highlight that actor’s part in their copy of the script to make it easier to follow. (For example, you will highlight the “substance abuse counselor’s” part in the copy of the script that you give to the person playing the role of the “substance abuse counselor,” the social worker’s part in the copy of the script you give to the “social worker,” etc.)

CAST: Mary (an individual seeking help from the social service system), 4 Helping Professionals (Advocate, Substance Abuse Counselor, Social Worker and Mental Health Professional) and 1-4 Volunteers to tape labels on the Mary as they are mentioned by the Helping Professionals. The facilitator or a group member can moderate a discussion following the skit.

PROPS: 4 chairs up front for Helping Professionals. Sunglasses for Mary to wear. Masking tape and labels for Volunteer to tape to Mary. Make labels on 8x10 sheets of paper. Laminate them if you want to re-use them.


AUDIOVISUAL NEEDS: If the group is large or group participants’ voices are soft, you may want to use a cordless or hand held microphone for Mary and also for the Helping Professionals.

SCENE: “Mary” puts on a pair of sunglasses and a large, long-sleeved shirt and stands in front of a row of 4 “Helping Professionals,” seated in chairs. While the “Helping Professionals” are speaking, “Volunteer” tapes labels on the Mary to match the labeling language. Advise the Volunteer not to worry if labels get out of sequence.