The problem of Incorrect Diagnosis: Methamphetamine and Mental Health

In 2019, psychologists, psychiatrists, and forensic examiners as well as a mix of treatment providers and other Minnesota Department of Human Services staff were asked about their experience with encountering incorrect diagnosis between Methamphetamine and mental health.

Results:

1. In your professional work, do you encounter individuals with co-occurring mental health issues and substance abuse? (47 responses)

   - YES: 66.0%
   - NO: 34.0%

2. In your professional work, do you encounter situations in which you have to differentiate between symptoms of mental illness and effects of mood-altering substances? (47 responses)

   - YES: 53.2%
   - NO: 46.8%

3. In your professional work, have you encountered cases in which errors were made by practitioners in attributing a client’s presentation to mental illness rather than substance use? (47 responses)

   - YES: 53.2%
   - NO: 46.8%
4. In your professional work, have you encountered situations in which inaccurately attributing a client’s presentation to mental illness rather than substance use has resulted in significant implications (e.g., loss of liberty, civil commitment, etc.)? (47 responses)

5. In your opinion, do providers within your organization typically have the necessary education and resources to differentiate between mental health symptoms and the effects of substance use? (43 responses)

6. In your opinion, do providers in the community have the necessary education and resources to differentiate between mental health symptoms and the effects of substance use? (44 responses)

7. In your opinion, is there a greater need for informational resources related to the presentation and effects of commonly used mood-altering substances? (46 responses)
8. Would it be beneficial to have a website available to both DHS and community practitioners describing the effects of commonly used mood-altering substances and how they may confound accurate diagnosis? (47 responses)

9. What mood-altering substances would be most important to highlight in educational materials? (check all that apply) (47 responses)

10. If only one mood-altering substance were highlighted, which would be the most important for providers to receive education about? (47 responses)