


ADVANCING ADDICTION RECOVERY RESEARCH: DR. DONNA PROULX '03/'07G

(From Rivier Today, Fall 2019)

FACULTY SPEAKERS SERIES
*Presented by Regina Library
Sponsored by the Rivier University Alumni Association*

Donna Proulx

Learn about Rivier professor Dr. Donna Proulx's research on
**The Lived Experience of Postpartum Women Attending Outpatient
Substance-Abuse Treatment for Opioid or Heroin Addiction**






12:15 p.m.
Wednesday,
Oct. 23

Regina Library
Upstairs event space

This presentation will share the results of a qualitative phenomenological research project exploring the lived experience of 10 postpartum women with opioid use disorder who were enrolled in outpatient substance abuse treatment in Southern New Hampshire.

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Please feel free to bring along your lunch, or enjoy light refreshments.

Dr. Donna Proulx '03/'07G, Assistant Professor of Nursing and Director of Graduate Nursing Programs, presented the results of her doctoral research to the Rivier community as part of the Faculty Speaker Series sponsored by the Alumni Association.

Her qualitative research project, titled “The Lived Experience of Postpartum Women Attending Outpatient Substance-Abuse Treatment for Opioid or Heroin Addiction,” examined the concept of a “gateway drug” in the context of substance abuse, and explored the lived experiences of 10 postpartum women enrolled in outpatient substance abuse treatment programs for opioid or heroin addiction in New Hampshire.

Dr. Proulx's research identified five themes common in the research subjects' experiences: the presence of a stigma among healthcare providers; a fear of being reported to family services; children are their primary motivators to remain engaged in treatment; concern for the welfare of their infant; and several barriers to treatment. Barriers include a lack of treatment services, the cost of services, lack of awareness of available treatment programs, and long wait times for treatment engagement.

Her research findings support the provision of initial and ongoing opioid use disorder (OUD) education for direct healthcare providers, interdisciplinary training while in the academic setting for healthcare professionals, additional research on the long-term outcomes of women who engaged in medication-assisted treatment, and a need to advocate for evidence-based health policy changes. ■