

Substance Abuse Diagnosis and Treatment: A Co-Occurring Perspective

National statistics indicate that 62% of individuals with a severe and persistent mental illness also abuse alcohol and other substances, yet when reviewing cases with your agency, this diagnosis is often not reflected, even if reading the record indicates frequent references to the problem. A co-occurring disorder is to be expected in serving this population not an exception. So why is a substance disorder so traditionally under reported? It may be because the clinician is not looking for it, or perhaps does not understand the importance of treating both disorders as equally important, and at the same time.

This one day workshop will focus on understanding the disease of Substance Abuse, review the diagnostic criteria for Substance Use or Dependence diagnosis, and treatment strategies for working with clients with a co-occurring disorder.

Course Objectives:

Participants who complete this course will be able to:

1. demonstrate a working knowledge of the diagnostic criteria for Substance Use and Substance Dependence
2. learn and practice techniques to talk with clients about their use
3. learn and practice skills using Stages of Change interventions for treatment of a substance use disorder
4. develop a plan for bringing this information into their clinical practice

Learning Materials:

The instructor will supply handouts of the PowerPoint presentation used in this course. Lecture and discussion will be the main learning activities along with the extensive use of small group activities. A short post-test will also be used to measure learning.

Assignments:

Participants are expected to actively engage in dialogue with the instructors and other participants during interactive segments of the course.

Evaluation:

There will be an opportunity for the participants to complete an evaluation of the course and the instructor. Depending on the requirements of the hosting organization, there may be a short post-test of the material at the end of the seminar.