

Substance Abuse Diagnosis and Treatment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Is substance abuse a disease or merely a moral weakness? This has been a long standing debate, which has profound implications when it comes to treating individuals with this behavior. Since people who use alcohol or drugs fall along a continuum of use, when does it become abuse, or dependence? How do you determine whether it is a problem or not?

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:

The participants will gain:

- An understanding of the terminology and criteria used in determining substance abuse or dependency using the DSM-IV
- The ability to appropriately use these terms and criteria with other professionals and persons seeking assistance
- An understanding of the assumptions and stigma attached to the Moral Model, and substance abuse
- An understanding of the brain and the pathways substances use in brain
- An understanding of the effect that genetics, stress, and environment play in addiction and a person's path to recovery
- An understanding of the process of adaptation, homeostasis and craving as seen through how the brain functions from a medical model
- An understanding of variables behind poor outcomes and implications for treatment
- learn and practice skills using Stages of Change interventions for treatment of a substance use disorder
- 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, a chart of drug classifications, the Jellnek phases of addiction, and a user friendly DSM-IV criteria worksheet.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Participants are encouraged to actively engage in dialogue with the instructor and other participants during the interactive segments of the training.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

This course is designed as a four hour, interactive course.

Evaluation:

Depending on the desires of the hosting organization, a short post test can be done to determine learning of the participants. A standard course evaluation will be done at the end of the seminar.