



## Behavioral Health-Criminal Justice Certificate Program Course Descriptions

The following 9 training modules are offered through our Behavioral Health-Criminal Justice Certificate Program.

### **Cross-Systems Collaboration: Supporting Mandated Clients**

NYS Social Work & LMHC CE Credit Hours: 2.0

CASAC Renewal Credit Hours: 2.0

This training provides an overview of diversion and community supervision and the role that behavioral health providers can play in supporting clients who are mandated to treatment by the court, or as a condition of probation or parole. First, we will outline the processes involved in diversion and the requirements/mandates that are often imposed upon clients who participate in “alternative to incarceration” programs. In addition, we will examine the systems of probation and parole, and the requirements that these systems impose on clients. Whether mandated by the court through diversion or as a condition of probation or parole, behavioral health providers must learn to collaborate with these systems and play a role in monitoring and reporting clients’ progress. Through interactive and didactic training approaches, trainees will learn strategies and best practices for working with mandated clients and collaborating with the systems that criminal justice systems that oversee their treatment progress.

### **First Person Perspectives: From Incarceration to Recovery**

NYS Social Work & LMHC CE Credit Hours: 2.0

CASAC Renewal Credit Hours: 2.0

This training for behavioral health professionals offers a first-hand account of the experience of incarceration, reentry and recovery from those who have lived through it. Panelists will describe their day-to-day experiences of incarceration and the strategies they used to cope with that experience. In addition, they will explore the challenges and opportunities inherent in transitioning to the community from a correctional facility. They will also discuss how incarceration has affected their personal identity and behavior, and provide insight into the sources and impact of stigma on their recovery. Most importantly, they will share their stories of personal strength and resolve to move forward. Ultimately, they will help providers understand how they can best support and engage their justice-involved clients with mental health issues, as they carve a path to recovery.

### **Mass Incarceration, Criminal Justice and Mental Health: A Racial Equity Perspective**

NYS Social Work & LMHC CE Credit Hours: 2.0

CASAC Renewal Credit Hours: 2.0

This course will provide context and historical background on the effect mass incarceration plays on racial/ethnic communities and the people who comprise them. The training will include a basic understanding of definitions related to racial equity, health equity and disparities in the context of

marginalized communities, mental health and criminal justice involvement. Additionally, the course will utilize a racial lens when evaluating the different factors that affect an individual's ability to function and succeed in society. Attendees will gain an understanding about intersectionality and how different aspects of a person's identity shape the world around them. The material will help participants understand the concept of implicit bias and how we can mitigate the impact of bias when working with individuals with criminal justice involvement. The training will provide front line mental health workers with tangible actions they can employ to fight for racial justice in the lives of the people they serve.

### **Realizing, Recognizing, Responding: An Introduction to Trauma-Informed Care**

NYS Social Work & LMHC CE Credit Hours: 2.0

CASAC Renewal Credit Hours: 2.0

The effects of trauma often go unrecognized, particularly for those who experienced chronic exposure to toxic stress during their development. It is widely recognized that justice-involved individuals have higher rates of exposure to trauma than does the general population. This training will introduce participants to the concept of trauma-informed care. Centered around SAMSHA's 3 R's (Realize, Recognize, Respond), the session will review prevalence rates of trauma, examine the effects that trauma can have on the brain and behavior, and introduce steps that individuals and agencies can take to begin the process of transitioning to a trauma-informed model.

### **Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Recovery: Understanding and Addressing the Factors that Contribute to Re-arrest**

NYS Social Work & LMHC CE Credit Hours: 2.0

CASAC Renewal Credit Hours: 2.0

This training will explore the dynamic and static risks factors associated with re-incarceration and the ways that providers can intervene to help clients achieve successful outcomes. The class will begin with an overview of the current evidence-based paradigm for assessing and working with clients to reduce their risk for re-arrest (Risk-Need-Responsivity). Through interactive exercises and didactic lecture, participants will learn to expand their thinking about how to work with justice-involved clients with mental illness in ways that support recovery, mitigate the risk of re-arrest and reduce stigma.

### **SPECTRM: Sensitizing Providers to the Effects of Incarceration on Treatment**

NYS Social Work & LMHC CE Credit Hours: 2.0

CASAC Renewal Credit Hours: 2.0

This training explores the culture of incarceration and how it can impact a client's ability to adjust to a community behavioral health setting. It is designed to help sensitize providers to the reentry experience and provide strategies to engage and support clients through this vulnerable time. First the training will outline the informal and formal codes of conduct imposed upon incarcerated people, helping providers to understand the rules of behavior imposed by other inmates (don't snitch, never show weakness, trust no one, mind your own business, etc.) and those imposed by the correctional facility. The training will then help providers understand the adaptive behaviors that inmates develop to survive under these rules and in this setting. This will be compared and contrasted with the vastly different behaviors expected in community behavioral settings (share your feelings, collaborate with others, turn to staff for help) and the difficult transition that inmates must make to shift their survival behavior upon reentry into the community. The training then provides participants with strategies for engaging individuals upon reentry. The trainer will underscore the importance of respect and empathy for the client's past experiences, and helping

the client to share some of their “war stories”. The training also outlines some of the evidence-based practices that can help clients with mental illness as they reenter the community.

### **Understanding and Navigating the Criminal Justice System: An Overview for Behavioral Health Professionals**

NYS Social Work & LMHC CE Credit Hours: 2.0

CASAC Renewal Credit Hours: 2.0

This training for behavioral health professionals provides an introductory overview of the NYC criminal Justice System. The training follows the process from arrest through re-entry, highlighting the various places where community mental health providers can support their justice-involved clients as they are processed through the criminal justice system and transition to community living. The training is an important primer and outlines foundational information using both interactive and didactic training formats.

### **Understanding Violence: Assessing and Managing Risk**

NYS Social Work & LMHC CE Credit Hours: 2.0

CASAC Renewal Credit Hours: 2.0

This workshop will provide attendees with an overall understanding of violence and its origins from a bio-psycho-social perspective. Different types of violence will be reviewed, such as general violence, sexual violence and intimate partner violence. This workshop will examine the relationship between mental illness, substance abuse, personality disorders and violence. It will also review the risk and protective factors (individual and contextual) that have been shown by the empirical and theoretical literatures to be associated with violent behavior. Furthermore, attendees will learn about the different approaches to violence risk assessment and will be introduced to the HCR-20 (a violence risk assessment tool). Finally, this workshop will present different approaches to the management and treatment of violent behavior. To integrate the information learned through didactics, a clinical case will be presented and attendees will be asked to formulate the case in terms of violence risk and to develop a risk management plan accordingly.

### **Using Harm Reduction Approaches to Enhance Participant Outcomes: Increasing Our Engagement Toolkit**

NYS Social Work & LMHC CE Credit Hours: 2.0

CASAC Renewal Credit Hours: 2.0

Society's responses to drug use has been shaped by the misconception that people with addictions are morally flawed and lacking in willpower, resulting in an emphasis on punishment rather than prevention and treatment. This presentation will explore the application of harm reduction principles and interventions for people who use drugs and have contact with the criminal justice system. Participants will gain an understanding in the interplay between trauma, mental health, substance use, and the criminalization of addiction. Participants will learn valuable tools for working more effectively with their clients who may be facing these often interwoven, layered, and complicated barriers.