

CROSS-TRAINING for Youth with Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders Involved in the Juvenile Justice System

Developed by the National GAINS Co-Occurring Disorders and Justice Center: A SAMHSA Initiative.

Overview:

The National GAINS Center was created in 1995 as a national locus for the collection and dissemination of information about effective mental health and substance abuse services for people with co-occurring disorders who come in contact with the justice system. The Center is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)- Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) and Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). The Federal partnership for the National GAINS Center also includes the National Institute of Corrections, the Office of Justice Programs, and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Description of Cross-Training:

Eric Trupin, Ph.D and Lisa Boesky, Ph.D. developed this cross-training curriculum to fill major gaps in service provision for youth with treatment needs involved with the juvenile justice system. It is designed to increase collaboration among professionals in the fields of mental health, substance abuse, and juvenile justice when working with youth with co-occurring disorders in the juvenile justice system. The training supplies participating professionals with information to better understand the needs of juveniles with co-occurring disorders and to provide more effective treatment and management. Participants engage in activities to practice collaboration with professionals from the other systems. This curriculum will be specifically tailored to the needs of the jurisdiction and the participants. The main topic areas include:

- An overview of the juvenile justice and treatment systems
- Screening and assessment tools
- Effective treatment approaches
- Strategies for improving communication among systems

Target Audience:

- Juvenile Justice Professionals (correction officers, juvenile care-workers, public and non-profit professionals administrators, program managers, supervisors, etc.)
- Mental Health Professionals (psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, supervisors, program managers, administrators, etc.)
- Substance Abuse Professionals (chemical dependency counselors, substance abuse specialists, supervisors, program managers, administrators, etc.)
- Attendance will be limited to 30-45 individuals with an even distribution from each of the three groups.

For Further Information:

- For information concerning cross training or costs, please contact Policy Research Associates. Costs may vary by location.

For more information or to request training, please contact:

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CURRICULUM DESCRIPTION:
Overview of juvenile justice and treatment systems

In this training, professionals review the guiding philosophies and the methods of processing and treating juveniles in the juvenile justice and treatment systems. The objective is to provide participants with enough information about the other systems to decrease the barriers that have interfered with collaboration in the past, and to provide common ground from which to proceed.

The overview also emphasizes:

- The role of related systems, such as schools, special education, and child welfare in planning transitions to the community;
- The importance of engaging family members in treatment;
- The treatment implications of females, persons of color, and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered youth given their special needs and barriers to their treatment; and
- The high prevalence of mental health disorders, substance abuse disorders, and their co-occurrence among youth in contact with the juvenile justice system.

Screening and assessment

The curriculum defines screening and assessment and describes how treatment in the juvenile justice system varies in approach. Standardized screening and assessment instruments for mental health and substance abuse are introduced. Professionals are alerted to the difficulties in obtaining accurate histories from youth and are guided in ways to improve accuracy and usefulness of self-reported information. Training participants also review collaborative models of screening and assessment, such as Juvenile Assessment Centers. Emphasis is placed on collaboration among systems during screening and assessment, as they are the gateways to treatment.

Treatment strategies

In addition to reviewing traditional mental health and substance abuse interventions, trainers introduce emerging treatment approaches for co-occurring disorders, such as cognitive-behavioral skills-based approaches and multi-systemic therapy (MST), among others.

Additionally, participants:

- Discuss various individual and systemic barriers to treatment;
- Are reminded to anticipate, prevent and address relapse;
- Consider the sequence, comprehensiveness and length of treatment interventions; and
- Learn about motivational strategies to engage youth and families in treatment.

System Integration

The training concludes with a discussion of the importance of coordinating services, systems and strategic planning efforts. The following components of successful community transition are highlighted:

- Establishment of community-based linkages
- Pre-release plans with initial relapse prevention strategies
- Aftercare or continuing care services
- Coordinated case management

Training participants are encouraged to communicate with staff from the other systems about problems, expectations, boundaries and avenues for information sharing and problem solving. This training serves as an initial step in the effort to increase collaboration among systems in order to improve the outcomes for youth with co-occurring disorders in the justice system.