
The course addresses HIV/AIDS within a bio-psychosocial-spiritual perspective. The content includes a brief overview of HIV disease progression, including medications and adherence issues; and central nervous system (CNS) complications. Participants will also increase their skills in identifying and distinguishing client/consumer’s common psychological reactions to living with HIV/AIDS from those that warrant a mental health diagnosis; discuss dual and multiples diagnoses; be able to differentiate mental health disorders from neuropsychiatric complications; and identify appropriate social work interventions.

Using an integrative framework for case/care management, participants will draw upon both knowledge and skills to practice culturally competent assessment and intervention planning and the micro and macro levels. National and state resources will also be reviewed. This workshop, developed to increase both knowledge and skill-level, is for social workers across the range of practice settings, working with diverse groups of clients/consumers.

1. Discuss the epidemiology; demographics; and changing course of HIV disease;
2. Identify medical management issues for social workers who provide services to people living with HIV/AIDS;
3. Identify mental health challenges and strengths across the spectrum of living with HIV/AIDS;
4. Learn to assess for a range of mental health issues and concerns; including depression, delirium, dementia, and co-occurring conditions of substance abuse and severe mental illness;
5. Identify, describe, and formulate relevant social work interventions from a holistic mental health perspective;
6. Review the role of advocacy at the macro/systems level.

The workshop is 6.0 contact hours (plus one hour for lunch and two breaks).

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The NASW HIV/AIDS Spectrum: Mental Health Training and Education of Social Workers Project strives to provide the necessary HIV and mental health practice skills for people working in social work, mental health, and substance abuse fields to enhance and promote culturally competent practice with individuals, families, and communities affected by HIV/AIDS. The target audience includes social workers, allied mental health care providers, and students in schools of social work. The curriculum is presented via knowledge-focused training that addresses mental health and HIV/AIDS within a strengths-based bio-psychosocial–spiritual perspective.

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