

Executive Summary

Course Title: Mental Health Issues in Child Welfare: Understanding Psychological Evaluation

Outline of Training:

This training will address areas of mental health and psychological evaluation as they pertain to child welfare. This training will explore and review symptoms of the most frequently diagnosed disorders associated with the work of child welfare. Participants will develop a better understanding of the evaluation process, the language and terminology used by mental health professionals, and interventions based on evidenced based practice.

Social workers will explore and engage in experiential activities that will enhance their process of empathic response and will enhance their abilities to understand the elements of psychological evaluation and demonstrate an ability to utilize this tool effectively in case planning and in direct work with families. This training will use didactic lecture, interactive exercises, and skill building activities to explore these critical issues. A power point presentation will provide the visual background. Video clips will be used to enhance visual learning. Informational handouts will be available to each participant.

Target Audience: New and experienced line staff and supervisors

Outcome Objectives for Participants:

As a result of this training, participants will be able to;

- Identify symptoms of primary mental health diagnoses and related terminology
- Demonstrate understanding of the use of psychological evaluations
- Identify important elements and terminology of a psychological
- Demonstrate effective utilization of aspects of the psychological evaluation in case planning
- Understand and demonstrate the importance of using engagement strategies when addressing mental health issues with families