

## **Executive Summary**

**Course Title:** Psychiatry in Child Welfare: Understanding Evaluations, Psychopharmacology, and case management issues.

### **Outline of Training:**

This workshop provides an brief introduction to the most common disorders of children and adolescents (Mood disorders, Anxiety disorders, Disruptive behavior disorders, and Schizophrenia) and the psychotropic medications usually prescribed for these conditions. Basic neurobiology and the role of neurotransmitters in human physiology will be reviewed along with a discussion of the effect of medication. In addition, there will be a brief discussion of how medications are approved by the FDA. Finally, there will be a discussion of the different types of evaluations available along with case management issues that are important for youth in foster care settings. Handouts will include the course slides, a chart of commonly prescribed psychiatric medications with common side effects, a summary of common diagnoses, an article about the FDA, and a summary of different types of evaluations that can be requested for adults and youth.

**Target Audience:** This workshop is designed for child welfare workers, counselors, probation officers, court personnel, case workers, case managers, supervisors, and licensed clinical staff working with children, adolescents or families.

### **Outcome Objectives for Participants:**

As a result of attending this course, participants will be able to:

- Identify common disorders of children and adolescents
- Recognize common medications prescribed for disorders of children and adolescents
- Educate caregivers, and/or children about psychiatric medications, their use, the side effects, and what to report to their physician
- Improve the delivery of services by ordering evaluations during court proceedings that are targeted to meet the specific needs of the youth or family.
- Improve communication with physicians who are prescribing medications for children and adolescents
- Improve the coordination of care among providers of mental health services and avoid crises that arise from changes in placement.

### **Ways that Supervisors can support the Transfer of Learning from the classroom to the job...**

#### **BEFORE the training**

Supervisors can support the learning process by attending this workshop, by reviewing the executive summary or course announcement with interested staff. Staff members who have children or adolescents on medication should be encouraged to attend this training.

**AFTER the training**

Staff members can be asked to present an overview of the training or share the handouts with co-workers. Staff members can be encouraged to bring patient education handouts from the training and discuss with supervisors the appropriateness of routinely using/sharing these with clients and families.