

Executive Summary
STRATEGIES FOR WORKING WITH METHAMPHETAMINE USING FAMILIES

Course Description

This training is designed to provide health and human services professionals with an understanding and application knowledge of the biological, psychological, and social/cultural aspects of methamphetamine abuse, addiction and recovery. This course outlines current manufacture and use patterns of the drug; describes the physical impact of chronic use, with a special focus to neurological impact and fetal development; and, discusses the psychological and social aspects of methamphetamine addiction. The course concludes with a discussion of research based, best practices, for intervention and recovery work with this population. This course is presented by lecture and video format with both large and small group discussion on vignettes relevant to the course material.

Outcome Objectives

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

1. Describe illegal manufacture practices, recognizing signs of a drug lab site, and understanding the management strategies for drug lab/chemical exposure;
2. Identify current use patterns and the impact of methamphetamine use on the community and its resources;
3. Understand the neurological effects of chronic methamphetamine use with focus on how these effects translate into behavior at the various stages of use, early abstinence, and recovery;
4. Discuss the elevated risks to children in a home where methamphetamine is being used, describing possible short-term and long-term effects to drug exposed children, and identifying important strategies for improving outcomes for these children;
5. Understand and functionally describe empirically supported recommendations for intervention and treatment with methamphetamine abusers, identifying at least one skills base they can use in their practice.
6. Describe the culturally appropriate clinical application of the five major evidence-based, best practices with methamphetamine abusers.

Ways Supervisors Can Support the Transfer of Learning

BEFORE the training:

Supervisors can provide the staff with focused time to review the various issues related to their work with methamphetamine involved individuals and families. Staff should be prepared to make suggestions regarding policies or procedures based on the learning they gain from this course.

AFTER the training:

The impact of the information and learning from this course should be discussed at team or focus group meetings for several months following this training. Decisions to change practices, strengthen linkages in the community, or pursue more training on critical skill sets should be reinforced and pursued.