



Academy for Justice-Informed Practice Behavioral Health-Criminal Justice Certificate Program 2017

What is the Behavioral Health/Criminal Justice (BH-CJ) Certificate Program?

It is a certificate-bearing training program that is designed to teach foundational information and skills to behavioral health, alternative-to-incarceration and reentry professionals in NYC serving people with serious mental illness involved in the criminal justice system. The curriculum is taught by experienced professionals from across the criminal justice and mental health fields. To receive a Certificate of Completion, participants must complete 8 ½-day core training modules.

Why should I participate in this program?

The dramatic increase in the numbers of criminal justice-involved individuals with serious mental illness participating in community-based programs requires the behavioral health workforce to develop foundational knowledge and skills necessary to facilitate successful reentry and support service delivery. Our BH-CJ Certificate Program is designed to help providers better understand how to serve this population and collaborate with criminal justice professionals to foster better outcomes for clients. Because of the staggering numbers of people with mental illness with current involvement or histories of involvement in the criminal justice system, it is incumbent upon all behavioral health and reentry professionals to have working knowledge of how to best serve these individuals.

How much time will it take to complete the full curriculum?

The curriculum consists of 4 full days of training (8 half-day modules) scheduled over a one-month cycle. This 8-training cycle is repeated 7 times per year. If possible, we highly recommend that participants complete all 8 modules over the course of a single cycle. However, if this is not possible, participants can complete them at different times of the year when they are offered. We have created this program to allow maximum flexibility for busy professionals with demanding workloads. We ask that participants complete the training within one year.



What specific trainings are offered?

The following training topics are offered through this certificate program:

- Understanding and Navigating the Criminal Justice System: An Overview
- Reducing Recidivism and Promoting Recovery: Understanding and Addressing the Factors That Contribute to Re-arrest
- SPECTRM: Sensitizing Providers to the Effects of Incarceration on Treatment
- How Being Trauma Informed Improves Case Management Responses for Justice Involved Clients
- Cross Systems Collaboration: Supporting Mandated Clients
- Evidence-Based Principles of Drug Treatment for Justice-Involved Populations
- First Person Perspectives: From Incarceration to Recovery
- Understanding Violence: Assessing and Managing Risk

For a full description of each module, [click here](#).

How often is the BH-CJ core curriculum repeated each year?

Currently, the core curriculum is offered five times a year during the following cycles:

- Cycle I: September
- Cycle II: November
- Cycle III: January
- Cycle IV: March
- Cycle V: April
- Cycle VI: May
- Cycle VII: June

Email notices will go out approximately 4 weeks prior to the start of each cycle so that people can register for trainings.

Who conducts the training?

We have a distinguished list of faculty from across the criminal justice and behavioral health systems. To learn more about our trainers, please contact us at the email below.

Who can benefit from this training program?

While the curriculum was developed with a behavioral health audience in mind, other professionals, including staff working in alternative-to-incarceration programs, probation, parole and others will find the content relevant to their work. This program is open to all.



Is this an in-person or on-line program?

The training program is conducted in person at our CUCS headquarters in East Harlem. We hope to offer online content in the future.

Do I have to take all 8 modules to receive a certificate?

Yes, if you want to receive a certificate of completion, you must complete all 8 training modules.

Is there a cost involved in participation?

No. All training is free of charge, thanks to the support of the NYS Office of Mental Health and the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Does the Academy offer other trainings in addition to the ones offered through the Certificate Program?

Yes, we offer many trainings throughout the year in addition to those listed above. Sign up for our [mailing list](#) you will receive regular postings of our training offerings.

Does the Certificate Program provide Continuing Education Credit Hours for licensed social workers?

Yes! As of June 2015, CUCS is an approved provider of continuing education credit hours for licensed social workers in New York State. Almost all of the trainings in this program confer credit hours.

Does the Certificate Program provide CASAC renewal hours for licensed CASAC professionals?

Yes! Please note that our trainings **do not** provide credit hours for initial CASAC certification. Our classes offer CASAC renewal hours only.

I would like to talk with someone about the program. Who can I contact?

We're happy to speak with you about it. Call us at 212-801-3303 or email us at academy@cucs.org.

[Join Our Mailing List](#)
[Register for Training](#)