



Academy for Justice Informed Practice Electives 2017

The Academy offers each elective approximately 2 times **each year**. To receive email notices about our trainings, sign up for our [mailing list](#). To browse current course offerings, [click here](#).

Employment Series Part I: Navigating Vocational Barriers and Exploring Employment Opportunities: Working with Justice-involved clients with Mental Illness to Pursue Employment Goals – Full Day

Clients with behavioral health issues and criminal justice involvement face significant vocational barriers. Often they are excluded from jobs due to their criminal record and they have significant gaps in their work history. In addition to these barriers, criminal justice and behavioral health providers may not always encourage these clients to pursue vocational goals, fearing they might lose public benefits, jeopardize psychiatric stability and place the client at risk of re-incarceration.

The purpose of this full-day training is to help attendees develop the skills, tools and resources to support justice-involved clients in pursuing their employment goals. First, we will discuss the myths and realities of the impact of employment on public benefits. In addition, we will explore a new way of thinking about "job readiness," helping providers to see the value of exploring vocational goals at all stages of a client's recovery. In addition, we will overview tips to help clients clean up their RAP sheets and obtain Certificates of Relief and Good Conduct. The goal of this training is to help attendees develop a range of practical skills needed to provide quality vocational services to the growing number of justice-involved clients that pass through their doors.

Employment Series Part II: An In-depth Look at RAP Sheets, Certificates of Relief/Good Conduct and Other Advocacy TIPS to Improve Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Criminal Justice Histories – 1/2 Day

This 3-hour training conducted for the Academy by the Legal Action Center is a useful companion piece to our full day Employment training (Navigating Vocational Barriers and Exploring Employment opportunities). In this training we will focus on the following topics:

- The laws that prohibit employment discrimination based on a criminal record;
- How employers obtain criminal record information;
- How to get and correct errors on rap sheets (criminal history information);
- Basic facts about Certificates of Relief from Disabilities and Good Conduct;
- How to help clients address a criminal record when filling out job or housing applications; and
- Useful resources to help clients overcome criminal record-related job discrimination.



Helping People with Mental Illness and Criminal Justice Involvement Apply for Supportive Housing in NYC – Full Day

This full day training is targeted to staff that assist clients with mental illness and criminal justice histories access supportive housing in New York City.

It can be challenging to develop housing referral packets for clients with complex histories that highlight their strengths while accurately representing their criminal justice backgrounds and psychiatric histories. Often available clinical documentation is unbalanced, focusing on a client's past crimes and not on the progress they have made over time. This training will begin by outlining the types and levels of supportive housing available to people with MI in NYC. Following this overview, we will highlight the ways in which providers can draw out clients' strengths and goals, to develop a fair and honest housing packet that is holistic and balanced.

Medicaid Managed Care in New York: Leveraging Opportunities for Justice-Involved Individuals with Behavioral Health Needs – 1/2 Day

In this 1/2 day training, we will outline NYS's transition to Behavioral Health Managed Care and its implications for clients involved with criminal justice system. We will overview this changing landscape and provide information to help providers leverage these changes to access needed services for clients. Get tips for working successfully with Managed Care Organizations, learn to speak the language of the Affordable Care Act, and understand how best to connect your clients to new programs, services and benefits including but not limited to: Health Homes, Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) and Health And Recovery Plans (HARPs). Additionally, we will outline new regulation guidelines and discuss what it means to be client-centered and recovery oriented in today's managed care climate. We will also discuss an integrated care paradigm within a managed care context. The training will utilize a didactic and interactive training approach to help participants integrate the information presented. In addition, we will provide handouts and takeaways for practical use.

Mental Health Law for Non-lawyers Working with Criminal Justice-Involved Clients with Behavioral Health Issues – 1/2 Day

Non-legal professionals serving clients who are involved in the criminal justice system often encounter legal terms and concepts that are confusing and foreign. To best serve these clients it is important for providers to communicate knowledgeably with legal professionals and to understand the legal language and statutes that are impacting their clients' criminal cases. In this half-day training we will provide an overview of some key legal concepts. In layman's terms we will discuss the use and implications of Article 730, which comes into play when a client is thought to be unfit to proceed in a criminal proceeding; Criminal Procedure Law Section 330.20, which governs a client's life after a successful insanity defense; Mental Hygiene Law Section 9.43, which can be used to bring a client to a psychiatric hospital, where the client can be screened for potential commitment; and Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) orders. People who attend this session will come away with an understanding of these statutory mechanisms and how they impact the clients they serve. Attendees will also learn how to tailor their advocacy efforts as clients navigate their criminal proceedings.



Motivational Interviewing I – Full Day

This training targets direct service staff working with justice-involved individuals with mental illness. It is intended to be the first part of a two-part series.

Motivational Interviewing (MI), an evidence-based practice developed by William Miller and Stephen Rollnick. It is an approach to working with clients around behavior change that elicits, supports and strengthens their own motivation and commitment to change. MI ONE provides a basic overview of the principles and skills of MI. Attendees will learn about the *Spirit* of Motivational Interviewing: the mind-set and heart-set that is a cornerstone of this approach. In addition we will provide an overview of primary skills used to effectively engage clients around behavior change: Open-ended questions, Affirmations, Reflection and Summaries. Please Note: this course is a pre-requisite for MI II.

Motivational Interviewing II – Full Day

This follow up training is for practitioners who have a command of the basic principles and skills of MI I and is intended to be the second part of a two part series on the subject. Following a short review, MI TWO will focus on helping participants understand and work with resistance as well as elicit, identify and support “change talk” – expressions of the clients own motivational drive. In addition we will discuss the roadblocks that can derail communication and learn how to replace these communication traps with more effective partnerships around the change process. Please note: MI I is a pre-requisite for MI II.

Supporting Justice Involved Parents with Behavioral Health Needs in the Child Welfare System – 1/2 Day

This 1/2 day training provides an overview of the child welfare system and family court process with a focus on supporting parents who have concurrent justice system involvement. Participants will learn strategies to help clients engage in mental health and other services with the goal of improving the quality and frequency of family visits, and speeding safe and lasting reunification. We will also explore the interplay between criminal and family court proceedings and the importance of coordination between systems when mandates conflict. The training will cover the following topics:

- **Overview of the population:** We will provide an overview of family court participants and the typical allegations that are commonly seen. We will also discuss the disproportionate rates of women being charged with abuse and neglect and the prevalence of mental illness among this population.
- **Family Court 101:** The training will also provide an overview of what happens when a parent is suspected of neglecting or abusing their child with a focus on how mental illness can lead to involvement in the child welfare system. We will review the family court process, which often begins with a call to the state maltreatment registry, is followed by an investigation, an initial filing in family court, and in certain circumstances, the placement of children in foster care. We will also discuss family reunification and the role that social workers can play in helping to support families to safely reunify.
- **Family Court and Criminal Court – When Systems Intersect:** Additionally, we will discuss what can happen when proceedings in Family Court and Criminal Court intersect and provide guidance to participants on how to help clients navigate seemingly conflicting mandates.
- **Advocating for justice involved parents in family court:** We will also provide concrete strategies to advocate for a parent with behavioral health needs who are involved with both criminal and family court proceedings, including parents who are incarcerated.



Supporting the Needs and Rights of Justice-Involved LGBTQ Clients Across the Criminal Justice Spectrum – 1/2 Day

This 4-hour training will outline the ways that providers can support the needs and legal rights of their LGBTQ clients who are involved in the criminal justice system in New York City. First, we will discuss the importance of developing cultural competency around issues of sexual orientation and gender identity/expression. Following this, we will outline common pathways into the criminal justice system with a focus on poverty, discrimination and involvement in survival economies. In addition, we will discuss the struggles that LGBTQ persons face when they encounter discrimination across the spectrum of the criminal justice system. We will end the training with a focus on LGBTQ rights and the ways that providers can support their clients as they navigate police interactions, court proceedings, prison/jail and reentry.

Understanding Vicarious Trauma: A Workshop for Professionals Serving Justice-Involved People with Behavioral Health Needs – Full Day

When professionals working with justice-involved consumers routinely come into contact with the trauma and suffering of these individuals, it can potentially take a serious toll on well-being, causing cognitive, spiritual, physical, and emotional alterations. It can negatively impact one's job performance and impede recovery progress for the consumer. We refer to these effects as vicarious trauma. Vicarious trauma can affect an array of workers, including behavioral health and other healthcare workers, parole, probation, and correction officers, 911 dispatchers, law enforcement, and defense and prosecution attorneys. Often people don't recognize the signs and symptoms that lead to vicarious trauma and are not aware that they are being so profoundly affected.

This training will provide a framework for conceptualizing vicarious trauma. We will examine causes and risk factors, and discuss prevention and treatment measures. In addition, we will explore the importance of self-care beyond the blanket list of suggested options. Additionally, this training will empower participants to engage their agency in taking measures that address and prevent vicarious trauma. This interactive training includes a variety of exercises designed to encourage participants to evaluate the impact of ongoing exposure to trauma on their well-being. Ultimately, we aim to equip participants with knowledge and resources—both internal and external—to support themselves and their colleagues in maintaining personal and professional wellness.

Working with Justice-Involved Women with Mental Health Needs: The Importance of Creating Gender-Responsive Models of Treatment and Engagement – 1/2 Day

Women represent one of the fastest growing segments of the criminal justice population in the United States today. This training will provide an overview of justice involved women with behavioral health needs and highlight the importance of understanding, engaging and responding to their needs in gender-responsive ways. We will overview women's common pathways into the criminal justice system and discuss the role of trauma and other gender-specific risk factors that can perpetuate ongoing justice involvement. The overarching goal of this training is to familiarize participants with the needs of justice-involved women and why and how they differ from that of men. In addition, it is to help participants recognize the importance of creating a gender-responsive model of treatment to reduce recidivism and support women's recovery.

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