

## ***Substance Use, Mental Health and HIV/AIDS: An Integrated Response***

### **Abstract:**

Social work with clients affected by HIV/AIDS often includes working with clients who are involved in substance use and abuse. For some clients, HIV and substance abuse are identifiable co-factors. For others, substance use begins with a diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, or as they find themselves slipping on the path of recovery while living with HIV. Practitioners must take steps to ensure an understanding of the complex bio-psycho-social-spiritual issues experienced by those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS and substance abuse, and the role of the social worker and allied mental health care providers.

The overall goal of the workshop is to increase the practitioner's ability to more effectively serve clients affected by HIV/AIDS and substance use. Through the use of case studies, group exercises, and lecture participants will build knowledge and skills in their ability to:

1. Describe the common risk factors that link HIV and substance use together.
2. Understand the bio-psycho-spiritual and behavioral aspects of substance use and HIV/AIDS.
3. Assess professional/personal issues in identifying and effectively working with substance using clients with HIV/AIDS and related mental health concerns.
4. Review clinical interventions for clients with multiple diagnoses, including mental health concerns.
5. Identify and describe risk reduction techniques to use with substance users living with HIV/AIDS.
6. Demonstrate application of a comprehensive and integrated practice model for working with substance using clients affected by HIV/AIDS.

Prerequisite for workshop participation is a basic working knowledge of HIV/AIDS. This workshop is 6.0 contact hours (plus lunch and breaks).

### **PROJECT OVERVIEW**

The *NASW HIV/AIDS Spectrum: Mental Health Training and Education of Social Workers Project* strives to provide the necessary HIV and mental health practice skills for people working in social work, mental health, and substance abuse fields to enhance and promote culturally competent practice with individuals, families, and communities affected by HIV/AIDS. The target audience includes social workers, allied mental health care providers, and students in schools of social work. The curriculum is presented via knowledge-focused training that addresses mental health and HIV/AIDS within a strengths-based bio-psycho-social-spiritual perspective.

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