

Title: *The role of the mental health provider in medication treatment adherence: HIV/AIDS as a Case Study*

Abstract:

Many clients are living with chronic illnesses, ranging from diabetes or HIV/AIDS to high blood pressure and mental illness. The common thread is the need for consistent and successful medication treatment. The challenges faced by many clients include poverty and limited resources, and lack of access to information or the affects of stigma and discrimination.

However, there are factors known to positively affect medication adherence for chronic illnesses. These include use of available supports, a means to accommodate one's daily routine, an understanding the implication of poor adherence, and individualized strategies.

Using HIV/AIDS as a case study, the content will review factors affecting adherence, the role of the mental health care provider in adherence, the benefits of harm reduction strategies, and stages of behavior change to identify barriers and steps to adherence. A holistic practice model will be reviewed as one step towards promoting culturally competent practice with individuals, families, and within the broader communities affected by HIV/AIDS.

Through the use of case studies, group exercises, and lecture participants will build knowledge and skills in their ability to:

- Define adherence and understand the importance and challenges of medication adherence
- Assess professional/personal issues in identifying and effectively working with substance using clients with HIV/AIDS and related mental health concerns.
- Review key concepts to ensure culturally competent practice
- Understand the unique role of the mental health care provider in promoting adherence
- Learn how to apply ADHERE, a skill-building model for application of adherence strategies.

This workshop is 3.5 hours.

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-psychosocial–spiritual perspective.

For more information, contact Evelyn Tomaszewski at etomasze@naswdc.org or *NASW HIV/AIDS Spectrum: Mental Health Training and Education of Social Workers Project*, 750 First Street, NE, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20002-4241. (Contract # - 280-04-0120) Or contact NASW at www.socialworkers.org