**Executive Summary**

***Course Title:* Enhancing Your Investigative Skills: Interviewing Alleged Perpetrators**

Interviewing alleged perpetrators is a key part of conducting an APS investigation. Some APS professionals are highly skilled at such interviews while others find the task challenging and difficult. This interactive and challenging training course is designed to advance the ability of APS professionals to effectively interview alleged perpetrators. It will include reminders about basic aspects of alleged perpetrator interviews such as anticipating dangers and enhancing safety, setting the tone for the interview, and rapport building as well as more advanced topics such as exploring defenses, cultural considerations when interviewing alleged perpetrators, addressing volatility, and creating an environment for disclosure and problem solving.

The following instructional strategies are used throughout the course: short lectures (lecturettes), interactive activities/exercises including individual, class and small group discussions; several which are built around case studies, PowerPoint slides, role playing/demonstrations, and video clips to stimulate discussion and skill development.

**Course Requirements:**

Because this is an advanced course to enhance skills, participants are encouraged to have completed Modules 8 (Dynamics of Abusive Relationships), 9 (Communication and Interviewing) 16 (Investigation First Steps) and 22 (Working with the Criminal Justice System) of the NAPSA Core Competency Curriculum found at <https://theacademy.sdsu.edu/programs/apswi/core-competency-areas/> . The course is also designed for APS professionals with investigative experience handling variety of types of abuse. *All participants are required to role play APS interviewers and alleged perpetrators and to model effective techniques for class members.*

**Target Audience**:

This course is designed for APS professionals, including Supervisors and Training Staff who conduct interviews of alleged perpetrators, train staff on interviewing alleged perpetrators, and have experience conducting such interviews. Allied social services professionals who conduct interviews of alleged perpetrators may also benefit from course content. *The course is not designed for law enforcement professionals.*

**Course Training Goal:**

To enhance participants’ skills and ability to effectively interview alleged perpetrators of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

**Outcome Objectives for Participants:**

By the end of this training participants will be able to:

* List the purposes of APS interviews with alleged perpetrators (A/P)
* Recognize cultural, racial, and gender biases and assumptions of APS professionals and A/Ps that may affect the interview
* Identify safety concerns APS professionals may encounter during the interview process with an A/P
* Model effective techniques for building rapport with an A/P
* Develop strategies to address defenses when interviewing an A/P
* Model techniques to address A/P volatility during an interview
* Compare benefits and challenges of conducting joint A/P interviews with law enforcement