

Mental Health in APS Practice



During this highly engaging and captivating skill building session, participants will continue the learning from the foundational eLearning and review characteristics of common mental health disorders to better understand challenges and problem solve solutions when working with clients with mental health conditions. While exploring the stereotypes and stigmas surrounding mental health conditions, participants will develop empathy which will help the APS professional enhance rapport building skills and understanding to ensure a thorough service plan is created. Participants will work through a powerful thought disorder simulation, allowing them to engage in an experiential activity of someone who is living with an untreated mental health condition. This skill-based session provides participants a safe place to explore working through a suicide risk assessment in order to confidently assess for suicide risk when working in the field.

Learning Objectives

After completion of this training, participants will be able to:

- Describe the common symptoms and behaviors of the five broad categories of mental health disorders and how they may impact APS casework.
- Identify personal and cultural experiences which influence working with clients with mental health conditions.
- Explain ways to adapt the interview and case planning process to better accommodate a client experiencing symptoms of mental health conditions.

Course Requirements

To receive completion credit, participants must complete the [Mental Health in APS Practice eLearning](#) within 3 months prior to attending the virtual instructor-led skill building session. If participants have completed the eLearning prior to January 2, 2025, it is recommended they complete the course again to receive full credit.

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VIRTUAL EVENT

Cohort 1:

Dates: April 2, 2025

Time: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Lunch: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Cohort 2:

Dates: April 10, 2025

Time: 9:00 am – 2:30 pm

Lunch: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

This course will be conducted remotely through **Zoom**. A link will be sent to the participants a week before training.



REGISTRATION

Please register through your respective county's training process.

The registration due date for this training is Mon.

March 17, 2025



AUDIENCE

This course is designed for new APS professionals as well as Aging & Adult Service partners (e.g. IHSS, Long-Term Care Ombudsman). This course is also appropriate for experienced staff that could benefit from knowledge and/or skills review.

Meet the Trainer

Brenda Wilson-Codispoti

Brenda Wilson-Codispoti is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 25 years of experience working for Social Services and as a curriculum developer/trainer/educator. Brenda works as a Workforce Development Specialist for San Diego State University Academy for Professional Excellence and has worked as a Special Consultant for the National Adult Protective Services Association (NAPSA). Brenda is also Adjunct Faculty for Cypress Community college. Brenda previously held the position as Training Manager for the County of Orange Social Services Agency, in California from 2015-2020.

Prior to her position as Administrative Manager II she worked for Adult Protective Services in Orange County for 11 yrs. as both a social worker and a supervisor. She was the lead trainer and considered a Subject Matter Expert (SME) for APS. She has created and provided specialized training for judicial officers, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and financial institutions. Prior to her work with Adult Protective Services Brenda worked for the Healthcare Agency, Behavioral Health as a Clinical Social Worker.

She has presented at numerous conferences including the California Bankers Association, NAPSA, and the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)

Virtual Training Protocol

- Download or update the most recent version of Zoom
- Please log in 5 to 10 minutes prior to the workshop to allow for troubleshooting, if needed
- It is highly recommended to use a headset for this workshop, as participants will be asked to participate in group discussions and small break-out groups
- Use "Computer Audio" for optimal experience
- If you have access to a functioning camera, we ask that you turn it on for the full duration of the workshop as it offers a more conducive learning experience.
- If you are planning to log on to the training using two separate devices (one for audio, one for video), please be sure to mute one of the devices to prevent any audio feedback.
- Please be sure your screen name is your first and last name in Zoom. Learners who are not able to identify themselves within the first 15 minutes of training, and remain unresponsive after the moderator has attempted to make contact via chat or verbally multiple times will need to be removed from the training session.
- Please refer to the "[Virtual Learning Tips](#)" handout for additional information on how to update your Zoom screen name, etc.

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