

PDH Academy

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Understanding the Criminal Justice Approach to Domestic Violence for Social Workers

Course Abstract

The goal of this course is to provide the practicing social worker with additional knowledge and tools to provide appropriate resources and support to the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence by recognizing potential issues when working within the system of criminal justice. This course is appropriate for moderately experienced social workers. Social work practitioners unfamiliar with domestic violence concepts would improve their knowledge base with this training as well.



"This program is Approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval # 886745725-5003) for 4 continuing education contact hours."

Learning Objectives

1. Define the theoretical and legal terms of "domestic violence" and "intimate partner violence"
2. Describe the historical and contemporary issues when social work intersects with the criminal justice system and domestic violence
3. Identify potential clinical issues when working with domestic violence victims and offenders in the legal system
4. Identify diversity in domestic violence victims and offenders, including barriers and obstacles to intervention
5. Describe how to integrate issues of diversity into case conceptualization/management of domestic violence victims and offenders

Timed Agenda/Outline

- A. Introduction (5 min) 85 min
1. What is Domestic Violence? (10 min)
 2. Why Does Language Matter? (5 min)
 3. Behaviors in Domestic Violence (5 min)
 - a. Physical Violence (5 min)
 - b. Emotional/Psychological Abuse (5 min)
 - c. Coercive Control (5 min)
 - d. Sexual Abuse (5 min)

- e. Economic or Financial Abuse (5 min)
 - f. Stalking/Cyberstalking (5 min)
 - 4. Theories of Domestic Violence (10 min)
 - 5. Risk Factors (10 min)
 - 6. How Common is Domestic Violence? (10 min)
- B. The Criminal Justice System and Intimate Partner Violence (5 min) 65 min
 - 1. Law Enforcement (15 min)
 - 2. Mandatory Arrests (5 min)
 - 3. Court-Related Issues (5 min)
 - 4. Restraining Orders/Orders of Protection (5 min)
 - 5. No-drop laws (5 min)
 - 6. Attorney and Judicial Response to Domestic Violence (5 min)
 - 7. The Law and Legal Issues (10 min)
 - 8. Confidentiality versus Mandated Reporting (10 min)
- C. Diversity and Intimate Partner Violence: Intervention Issues (5 min) 50 min
 - 1. Men vs. Victims (5 min)
 - 2. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer+ (10 min)
 - 3. Persons with Disabilities (5 min)
 - 4. Person of Color (5 min)
 - 5. Immigrants and Domestic Violence (5 min)
 - 6. Children Exposed to IPV and Child Maltreatment (10 min)
 - 7. Correctional System (5 min)
- D. Tying it All Together (5 min) 40 min
 - 1. Intervention Considerations – Victim (10 min)
 - 2. Intervention Considerations – Offenders (10 min)
 - a. Mandated Treatment (5 min)
 - 3. Keeping Current (10)
- E. Conclusion

Total Time **240 min**

Delivery Method

Correspondence/internet self-study course, including a provider-graded final exam. To earn continuing education credit for this course, you must achieve a passing score of 80% on the final exam.

Course Author Biography

Kori Ryan, Psy.D. is an assistant professor of behavioral sciences at Fitchburg State University. Dr. Ryan has been involved in the areas of research, program development, teaching and training, and clinical assessment and intervention in the intersecting systems of criminal justice and mental health. In addition to her academic career, Dr. Ryan has provided evidence-based interventions and conducted clinical and forensic evaluations with diverse populations presenting with major mental illnesses and criminal behaviors, including court-mandated adolescents and adults. Dr. Ryan has provided clinical and forensic services in a variety of settings, including educational, psychiatric, and correctional. Additionally, Dr. Ryan has program development experience in the broader areas of violence, abuse, and trauma. Dr. Ryan's research and clinical interests include improving multi and interdisciplinary teaching and training across disciplines, the intersection between the criminal justice system and human services, clinical and forensic assessment, and clinical and forensic ethics.

