

PDH Academy

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A Social Worker Approach: Working with EMS Providers

Course Abstract

Working with emergency medical service (EMS) providers to create wellness can be a complex and delicate role. This course explores the EMS profession, the culture, and the challenge of creating a balance between work-life and home-life. Social workers, because of their Person-in-Environment focus, have a unique perspective on assisting EMS providers to work through difficult situations, and to develop a work life balance. This intermediate level course provides social workers with awareness of the roles within emergency medical services, and the impact that stress and critical incidents have on providers and their home life. Interventions are discussed to assist providers with pre-and post-incident interventions.



"This program is Approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval # 886745725-2121) for 2 continuing education contact hours."

Learning Objectives

1. Participants will learn about the roles within emergency medical services.
2. Participants will increase their awareness about the impact that stress and critical incidents have on providers.
3. Participants will gain awareness about the impact of this profession on family life.
4. Participants will increase awareness of early intervention methods to assist providers with stress and processing trauma.
5. Participants will acquire knowledge of how to relate to EMS providers and their family systems.

Timed Agenda/Outline

1.	Introduction to the Profession	2 min
2.	Exploration of Job Culture	3 min
3.	Impact on EMS Providers	35 min
4.	Bringing the Work Home: Stressors on Family Life	45 min
5.	Road to Recovery	30 min
6.	Summary	5 min
Total Time		120 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

Sheila Gillespie Roth is a professor in the Department of Social Work at Carlow University. Dr. Roth received her bachelors and master's degrees in social work from the University of Pittsburgh, and her doctorate in Administration and Policy Studies from the University of Pittsburgh School of Education. Roth teaches courses such as Case Management, Families, Social Work with Groups, Theories and Methods of Practice, Crisis Intervention, and Death and Dying. Dr. Roth's research interests lie in several areas of practice. She has conducted research on work family fit in public safety; ethical dilemmas in end of life care settings; trauma informed care in residential settings; and more recently she has participated in research projects exploring vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue in crisis workers. Dr. Roth is actively involved with several regional public safety services.