ADHD (Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder)

Course Abstract
This course is for social workers to understand what ADHD is, how to diagnose it, the biopsychosocial influences, and evidence-based treatment. A critical perspective on ADHD concludes the course.

"This program is Approved by the National Association of Social Workers (Approval # 886745725-5421) for 2 continuing education contact hours."

Learning Objectives
1. The student will understand the role of social workers in screening, assessing, referrals, and intervention for ADHD, becoming familiar with the DSM 5 criteria and key features in children, adolescents, and adults.
2. The student will understand the relevance of the common mental health disorder ADHD for social workers and its influence, as part of a bio-psycho-framework, on other social problems to which social work is committed.
3. The student will understand the epidemiological nature of ADHD.
4. The student will become familiar with a biopsychosocial framework for understanding the causation for ADHD and factors associated with recovery.
5. The student will be knowledgeable about the medications used for treatment and their advantages and disadvantages.
6. The student will be knowledgeable about the use of parent management training for youth with ADHD.
7. The student will understand some of the controversies attached to the medical diagnosis of ADHD and its treatment by medication.

Timed Agenda/Outline
I. What is ADHD? 15 min
   A. DSM Criteria (5 min)
   B. Impairment (5 min)
   C. Relevance for Social Work (5 min)
II. Prevalence 20 min
   A. U.S. (5 min)
   B. Ethnic groups within the U.S. (5 min)
   C. Gender (5 min)
   D. Course of ADHD (5 min)
III. Co-morbidity 5 min
IV. Assessment 20 min
   A. Diagnostic process (5 min)
   B. Role in diagnosis (5 min)
   C. Assessment tools (5 min)
   D. Parents’ come to terms with the diagnosis (5 min)
V. Causes of ADHD 20 min
   A. Genetics (5 min)
   B. Other Biological Risks (5 min)
   C. Family Influence (5 min)
   D. Neighborhood and Socioeconomic Influences (5 min)

VI. Recovery and Adjustment 10 min

VII. Impact on Parents 10 min

VIII. Treatment 25 min
   A. Psychosocial Interventions (5 min)
      o Behavioral Parent Training (BPT)
   B. School Interventions (5 min)
   C. Medication (10 min)
      o For Adolescents
      o Parents’ Decision to Medicate their Children
      o Drug Holidays
      o Combining and Sequencing of Medication versus Parent Behavioral Therapy
      o Concerns Related to Medication Prescription for Children
      o Medication for Adults
   D. Exercise (5 min)

IX. Controversies 10 min
   A. with the diagnosis
   B. with medication

Total Minutes 135 minutes

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
Jacqueline Corcoran, Ph.D. is a Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work (since 2000). She teaches clinical assessment and practice, as well as research. She has written 14 textbooks, 56 articles, and 38 book chapters and is a psychotherapist in private practice.