

Field Safety and Assessment Skills for the Human Service Provider

Program Description

Participants in this workshop will be provided with information related to maintaining personal safety in the many dimensions of practice. Particular attention will be placed upon assessment skills and techniques that may be used when interacting with clients or in review of case loads. Multiple practice environments will be discussed with significant emphasis on the safety skills that may be utilized within each environment. Each participant will begin the development of a personal/agency safety plan.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this workshop, participants will:

1. Articulate multiple risk factors that might lead to violent or hostile behavior;
2. Identify the components and the significance of a Personal Safety Plan (PSP);
3. Describe the pattern of escalation that is associated with violent behavior;
4. Explain multiple safety strategies that may be utilized when practicing within the multiple dimensions of human service practice;
5. Begin development of personal and agency safety plans.

Target Audience

Social workers, and human service professionals.

Contact Hours

3.0 to 4.0 hours

Program Agenda

Available upon request

Faculty

Matthew Sullivan, JD, MSW, served the Town of Chapel Hill in a number of roles over a 32-year career. His last appointment was as Fire Chief, where he was responsible for Town and Departmental leadership and oversight. As a member of the Town's executive staff he participated in the development and implementation of the Town's strategic vision. Other positions that Matt held during his career include Emergency Management Coordinator, Interim Director of Planning and Sustainability, Staff Legal Advisor, Interim Police Attorney, Police Crisis Counselor, Narcotics Investigator, Departmental Hostage Negotiator., Community Police Officer, Crime Prevention Officer and DARE Officer.

Matt received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1989 and a Master of Social Work Degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1997. He received a Degree in Law from North Carolina Central University in 2006 and is a member of the North Carolina State and Judicial District 15-B Bars.

From 1995 to 1999, Matt was appointed Coordinator of Substance Abuse Programs at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In this capacity, he had the

responsibility of administering the day to day operations of the campus alcohol and other drug treatment and prevention efforts. Much emphasis was also placed on environmental interventions directed to altering campus social norms surrounding dangerous student drinking and life skill development in student athletes.

Matt is an adjunct faculty member to the University of North Carolina School of Social Work. He is a certified North Carolina Criminal Justice Instructor and is certified in Critical Incident Stress Management. He previously served as Chair of the Judicial District 15-B Criminal Justice Community Partnership Adult Services Advisory Committee and on the UNC-CH General Alumni Association Board of Directors. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for the NC Governor's Institute (on Substance Abuse) and for the South Orange Rescue Squad. Matt is a recipient of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the 2019 Chapel Hill Chamber Town and Gown Award, The Chapel Hill Police Department's Herman Stone Award for Community Service and a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the UNC-School of Social Work. In 1994 he was named Chapel Hill Police Officer of the Year.