

Seeing the Forest and the Trees: John T. Edwards' Legacy of Family Intervention and Treatment

Program Description

“I lead because I follow” was the deceptively powerful distillation of theory and practice that drew generations of clinicians to learn from the “Southern Gentleman” of family therapy, John T. Edwards, PhD. Moving the addictions treatment field toward a fuller integration of family systems during his prolific career, John was especially beloved for his ability to render complex dynamics accessible to a wide range of human service professionals.

This training will employ practical skill-building, discussion, small group exercise, and archival video footage, to advance the body of work of this innovative pioneer in the art of engaging families. Participants are encouraged to use this training as an opportunity for ongoing immersion in family systems theory, advancing the utilization of family systems in human service, and supporting the mission of the John T. Edwards Foundation (www.johntedwardsfoundation.org).

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

- Describe a structural/strategic model of family systems therapy.
- Implement innovative strategies for engaging families in treatment.
- Outline the skills needed for joining with the family’s strengths in facilitating change.
- List strategies that recognize the power structure within families.

Target Audience

Social workers, psychologists, family therapists, school counselors, educators, criminal justice professionals, and other human service professionals who could benefit from this program.

Contact Hours

6.0 contact hours

Program Agenda

9:00 AM	Introductions
9:15 AM	Needs Assessment, Family Work
9:45 AM	Defining Family, Family Dynamics
10:30 AM	Break
10:45 AM	Positive Reframing
11:15 AM	Family Mapping
11:45 AM	Circle Method, Draw-a-Dream
12:00 NOON	Lunch
1:00 PM	Initial Interview
2:00 PM	Segmenting, Colleague Teamwork

2:30 PM	Break
2:45 PM	New Talk
3:00 PM	Family Sculpture
3:45 PM	Alter Ego, Guardrail
4:15 PM	Family Systems Thinking
4:30 PM	Adjourn

Faculty

Tab Ballis, LCSW, LCAS, CCS, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Licensed Clinical Addictions Specialist, and Certified Clinical Supervisor, in private practice at Insight Wellness Services, in Wilmington, NC www.insightwellnessservices.com. Tab is an adjunct faculty member at the University of North Carolina Wilmington School of Social Work and served as a Board member for the National Association of Social Workers, North Carolina Chapter. Studying structural/strategic family systems therapy with nationally known expert, John T. Edwards, PhD, Tab assisted Dr. Edwards with training and development of professional education materials and serves as the Media Director for the John T. Edwards Foundation www.johntedwardsfoundation.org.