

Working with Older Adults with Serious Mental Illness: Opportunities and Challenges

Program Description

This program will review the experience of aging for people living with serious mental illness, their health and social needs, evidence-based strategies for meeting those needs, and associated opportunities and challenges. *Skill level: Intermediate*

Program Objectives

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

- Describe common experiences for older adults living with schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and major depression.
- Outline relevant treatment and community support approaches.
- Explain how integrated care and recovery and community inclusion principles can be incorporated into services for older adults living with serious mental illness.

Target Audience

The target audience for this program includes psychiatrists, clinical social workers, psychologists, nurses, counselors, primary care providers, peer support specialists and other mental health workers.

Contact Hours

2.0 hours

Program Agenda

Available upon request

Faculty

Bebe Smith, MSW, LCSW is a consultant and clinical social worker in private practice. She is a former director of continuing professional development and coordinator of the NC Evidence Based Practices Center at Southern Regional AHEC. She worked for 21 years at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the Department of Psychiatry and the School of Social Work. She has taught mental health professionals from multiple disciplines in clinical and academic settings. Her clinical work has focused on providing evidence-based treatment and services to persons who live with schizophrenia and other severe mental illnesses. She helped develop OASIS, the first early psychosis program in North Carolina, at UNC in 2005, and was a founder of the UNC Center for Excellence in Community Mental Health in 2008. She also led a pilot of Critical Time Intervention (CTI) from 2012-2015. CTI was adopted for statewide expansion in 2014. She is a trainer in Family Psychoeducation and Critical Time Intervention. She was the NASW-NC Social Worker of the Year in 2012 and won the Bryan Public Service Award from the Carolina Center for Public Service in 2015.