

## **Dealing with Mental Illness Module Outline**

- I. Categories of Mental Illness (Competencies 7.6, 7.8, 11.1, 11.5)
  - a) DSM IV Diagnostic Categories
  - b) Common evaluation tools
  - c) Making referrals
  - d) Suicide prevention, assessment, and strategies
  
- II. Treatment Options for Mental Illness (Competencies 11.3, 11.4)
  - a) Assessing physical or environmental factors that mimic mental illness
  - b) Medications
    - i) Medication categories
    - ii) How medications work on the brain
    - iii) Common side effects of psychoactive medicines
    - iv) Medicines effects of different categories of mental illness
    - v) Dealing with deterrents to clients taking their medicine
  - c) Intensive treatment options
  
- III. Strategies for Dealing with Families with Mental Illness (Competencies 3.6, 7.6, 11.1, 11.2)
  - a) Red Flags
  - b) Effects of living with a mentally ill family member
  - c) Interaction techniques with the mentally ill
  - d) Assessing family strengths and limitations when there is mental illness involved.
  - e) Assessing the risks and advantages to the child of staying in the care of a mentally ill parent.
  - f) Legal issues
  
- IV. Resource Development, Networking and Wraparound (Competencies 7.5, 11.3)
  - a) Typical components of the treatment team when mental illness is involved
  - b) Resources each component brings to the table and how they view their roles and responsibilities
  - c) Successful collaboration = successful service plans