

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DYNAMICS OF ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

Course Description:

Abusive relationships, whether between intimate partners, families, or caregiver/care recipient relationships create safety concerns and may pose difficulties with service planning and interventions. In some cases, abusive behaviors are obvious and can be validated with evidence. In others, it can be very difficult to identify and verify. In this thought provoking and engaging training, participants will focus on power and control as the underlying dynamics of abusive relationships. During the training, participants will learn various tactics abusers use, explore many reasons and situations where someone may feel they cannot or will not leave an abusive relationship and work through an experiential exercise to help develop empathy and awareness of various outcomes and resources when working with people who are being abused. Participants will complete numerous activities to apply content to field work, while keeping abuse dynamics in mind. This training has been designed using Trauma-Informed Practice.

Training Purpose:

The purpose of this training is to enable Adult Protective Services (APS) professionals to understand the dynamics of abusive relationships in order to enhance victim safety.

Learning Objective:

- Define abusive relationships in older adults and adults with disabilities as it applies to APS
- Identify the underlying dynamics of abusive relationships
- Clarify APS' role and how abusive relationship dynamics might inform case interventions
- Identify why some adults may choose to continue the relationship with the abuser

Target Audience: This training is intended for new APS professionals or those that could benefit from a refresher on the dynamics of abusive relationships. Class size should be no more than 30 if training in-person and no more than 25 if training virtually.

Course Requirements:

- Participants should be aware that some content in the training may be activating and appropriate resources should be available.
- If training virtually, participants will need access to a computer with video conferencing capability and be able to connect to the virtual platform being used to deliver this training. A headset or earbuds with microphone and a video camera are highly encouraged. Participant Manual is a fillable PDF if using Adobe Acrobat. Participants are encouraged to either print a hard copy or ensure access to Adobe Acrobat to allow for highlighting, typing in comments and filling out worksheets.