

Executive Summary

Working with and Through Psychosis: Considerations for APS

This course provides APS professionals with foundational knowledge and tools needed to work effectively with individuals actively experiencing serious mental health symptoms, such as psychosis. In this course, participants will learn general information about psychosis, including the symptoms and behaviors one may observe when an individual is actively experiencing symptoms and when these symptoms may require an immediate crisis response. Participants will identify techniques for adapting an interview to better engage the individual and practice documenting those interactions, using language that is objective and free of bias.

Goal

The purpose of this training is to enable APS professionals to increase engagement with individuals actively experiencing symptoms of psychosis and accurately document the interactions in an objective, unbiased manner.

Virtual Training

The following virtual instructional strategies are used throughout the course: short lectures (lecturettes); experiential activities including a case scenario, audio, and transcript; interactive activities/exercises including breakout rooms, chat box discussions, large group discussions, self-reflection, and poll options. PowerPoint slides are used to stimulate discussion.

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.

Course Requirements

There are no course requirements, but it is recommended that participants have some experience with interviewing clients. It is also recommended that

participants have taken the Mental Health in APS instructor-led training and/or eLearning course.

Intended Audience

This course is intended for all levels of APS professionals investigating allegations of maltreatment. APS Supervisors are encouraged to attend as well.

Learning Objectives

After completing this course, participants will be able to:

- Define psychosis and specify mental disorders that may have psychotic features.
- Recognize misconceptions of psychosis that may lead to biases when working with people experiencing psychosis.
- Identify behaviors and symptoms of psychosis that may indicate a crisis situation, requiring immediate intervention.
- Discuss appropriate communication methods when working with a person actively experiencing symptoms of psychosis.
- Document mental health observations in an accurate, objective, and unbiased manner.