DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH (DBH)
CAC CLINICAL TRAINING PROGRAM
DBH APPROVED TRAINER PROGRAM
CORE COMPETENCIES

PHARMACOLOGY I

- **DATE:** September 1, 2010
- **TITLE OF COURSE:** **PHARMACOLOGY I**
- **DESCRIPTION:** Pharm I: CAC Level I Required Training: 2 days: 14 hours
- **CLASS SIZE LIMITS:** Maximum: 30 students Minimum: 6

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1. OVERVIEW OF TRAINING:

a. Training in pharmacology is a cornerstone of addiction counseling and a major part of what differentiates the professional field of addiction counseling from other mental health disciplines. This class will provide a solid base of knowledge about the drugs of abuse including what is happening in human physiology and behaviors.

b. All required classes seek to enhance the ability of the counselor to offer treatment services in a manner that respects gender, race and ethnicity, sexual orientation, cultural, familial, systemic and socioeconomic diversity.

2. REQUIREMENTS OF APPROVED TRAINERS:

a. Applicant must be credentialed and in good standing as a CAC III or LAC in Colorado.

b. Must have at least two years experience providing training/education to adult learners.

c. Must use DBH-approved core competencies in the development of the curriculum for each required class.

d. Must submit an original application, meet all application requirements, and be approved by the Division of Behavioral Health. The application will include a statement of specific experience relating to the training class.

e. Must submit a prepared PowerPoint presentation on a CD or flash drive.

f. Must administer an examination as a measurement of learning with a minimum passing score of 70%, results to be reported on the DBH Course Report form and submitted within two weeks of class delivery. The examination will be in a multiple choice, true/false, or fill-in-the-blank format, or some combination of these.

g. Must use course reports, evaluation instruments, and certificate formats as posted on the DBH website.

h. It is preferred that applicants have a background in medicine, biology, physical sciences, or public health. However, the applicant may appeal these requirements by demonstrating expertise in the areas mentioned above.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASS DELIVERY:

a. There will be an emphasis on experiential learning in conjunction with academic material using dyads, triads and groups and other experiential methods to reinforce the tools presented.
b. Student participation is expected in group discussions and presentations of case studies.
c. Presentation of material will include use of a PowerPoint and may include other resources as determined by the trainer.
d. The trainer is responsible for passing or failing students. If a student fails the skills demonstration but passes the written exam, the student will be required to retake the class. If the student passes the skills demonstration but fails the written exam, trainer discretion may be used in offering a retest one time only.

4. REQUIRED COURSE CONTENT FOR PHARMACOLOGY I:

a. Definitions of key terminology including classifications of addicting chemicals (stimulant, depressant, hallucinogenic, cannabis, designer drugs, etc.), and abuse vs addiction.
b. Methods of introducing substances into the body and the differences in impact based on method of introduction.
c. Basic information highlighting key neurotransmitters and the reward pathways in the brain affected by the use of drugs and alcohol.
d. Drug actions and genetic implications
e. Overview of physiological systems impacted by drugs to include behaviors, physiological impairments, long term effects and life threatening concerns
f. Definitions of the various classifications of drugs including drug actions on the body.
    a. Depressants
    b. Narcotics
    c. Stimulants
    d. Hallucinogens
    e. Cannabis
    f. Inhalants
    g. Steroids
    h. Prescription drugs of abuse and the growing societal problems and implications
    i. Other drugs including over-the-counter (OTC), psychotropic medications, homeopathic medications, vitamin and herbal supplements, nutritional supplements, energy drinks, etc.
g. Types of withdrawal and process of detoxification.
h. Overview of drug testing including urinalysis, patches, hair and blood analysis, and others

5. DEMONSTRATION OF COMPETENCIES FOR PHARMACOLOGY I:

Upon completion of this training class, as measured by skill demonstration and examination, the participant will be able to describe:

a. Name at least three classifications of addicting chemicals and describe the ways in which they are introduced into the body
b. Describe how the method of delivery of drugs of abuse into the body impacts the effects felt by the user

c. Define the half-life of a drug and ways in which psychoactive chemicals affect neurotransmission in the brain

d. Describe how the functions of the human body are affected by the use of mind-altering chemicals and the behaviors that can lead to long term and life threatening concerns

e. Be able to name the symptoms of intoxication and withdrawal for each drug classification

f. Understand the impact of poly-substance use

6. SUGGESTED REFERENCES:

a. Hanson, G. R.; Venturelli, P. J. and Fleckenstein, A. E. (2006 or most recent edition). ***Drugs and Society.*** Jones and Bartlett Pub. *

b. Inaba, D. S. and Cohen, W. E. (2000 or most recent edition). ***Uppers, Downers, All Arounders.*** CNS Productions, Inc. *

** PowerPoint slides are available for each text.*

c. NIDA has PowerPoint presentations that include neuro-imaging meant to be reproduced for teaching purposes. Teaching packets 3, 4, and 5 at www.nida.com.

d. ***Psychopharmacology.*** R. H. Ettinger (2010), Pearson Books.

Videos:

- ***Animated Neuroscience: The Action of Nicotine, Cocaine and Marijuana in the Brain***. Films for the Humanities & Sciences: http://ffh.films.com.
- ***Constant Craving, The Science of Addiction.*** Films for the Humanities & Sciences: http://ffh.films.com.
- ***Designer Drugs***. CNS Productions, Inc.: http://www.cnsproductions.com.
- ***Herbal Remedies.*** Films for the Humanities & Sciences: http://ffh.films.com.
- ***Hallucinogens and Human Physiology.*** CNS Productions, Inc.: http://www.cnsproductions.com.
- ***Marijuana: Neurochemistry and Physiology***. CNS Productions, Inc.: http://www.cnsproductions.com.
- ***PCP and Ketamine***. CNS Productions, Inc.: http://www.cnsproductions.com.
- http://www.cnsproductions.com/Videos/Addiction_Education_Videos/Drug_Education_Videos_DVD/22.html***Prescription And OTC Drugs: Misuse and Abuse DVD***. CNS Productions, Inc.: http://www.cnsproductions.com.
- ***Psychoactive Club Drugs and Inhalants***. CNS Productions, Inc.: http://www.cnsproductions.com.
- ***Stimulants***. CNS Productions, Inc.: http://www.cnsproductions.com.