

## **Addiction Severity Index (ASI) Standardized Two Day Workshop**

The Addiction Severity Index (ASI) is a standardized, semi-structured, multi-focused screening and assessment instrument used to establish the nature and severity of possible Medical, Employment, Drug, Alcohol, Legal, Family, Social, and/or Psychiatric Problems a person may present with. The information collected using the ASI has clinical, program evaluation and research utility.

While many interviewers are skilled at asking the questions in the ASI, they are not as skilled or knowledgeable regarding the clinical significance and interpretation of the answers to those questions. Completion of the workshop will provide participants with the knowledge, skills and support materials required to administer and use the ASI more effectively in their clinical settings, and to better understand the relationship and functionality of data collected with the ASI to making substance use disorder diagnosis or diagnostic impressions using the DSM-5, level of care recommendations using the ASAM Criteria, assessing criminogenic risk, screening for trauma and treatment planning.

### **Goal**

To develop and/or enhance the knowledge and skills required to correctly administer the Addiction Severity Index (ASI), and utilize the data collected for making substance use disorder diagnosis, diagnostic impressions, level of care recommendations; assessing criminogenic risk, screening for trauma and treatment planning.

### **Objectives**

#### **Participants will be able to;**

- Identify and explain the purpose and clinical significance of the Addiction Severity Index.
- Identify and explain the purpose and clinical significance of each of the seven sections of the ASI.
- Demonstrate how to introduce the ASI interview and each of the seven sections to the client.
- Identify and explain the purpose and clinical significance of the items in each section of the ASI.
- Demonstrate how to phrase each question in the most efficient way while remaining flexible enough to adapt the instrument to make it more gender, cultural and population sensitive.
- Identify the recommended probes and additional questions to augment the items in the ASI, and the information provided by the client.

- Identify and explain the coding conventions to correctly code client's responses to each item in the section.
  
- Identify the common errors made when interviewing and / or coding client's responses.
- Identify the recommended items and other information used to verify self-report through the use of cross checking.
- Demonstrate how to utilize the interviewer severity rating procedure.
- Understand and explain the relationship and functionality of the ASI to;
  1. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) criteria for substance abuse and dependence.
  2. ASAM's six dimensions of assessment.
  3. Assessing criminogenic risk
  4. Screening for Trauma
  5. Treatment planning

### **Professional and/or Career Relevancy**

Learning how to administer and use the ASI correctly is a very marketable skill that should be included on all participants' resumes. The ASI is currently in use in approximately 35 states, countless more counties, cities and regions. The interviewing skills emphasized and learned during this workshop can be applied to many other instruments currently used in the Substance Abuse Treatment field. Whether one is actively administering the ASI, or is the recipient of the clinical information collected, this course will increase your understanding of the ASI, as well as clinical significance of the data collected with it.

### **Organizational Outcomes**

Treatment organizations, and agencies who have skilled, and competent ASI interviewers on their staff are better equipped to meet the many requirements and mandates being put into place in the behavioral health care field regarding screening, assessment and patient placement.

Employing skilled and competent ASI interviewers who consistently administer the ASI correctly, and understand the clinical significance of the data collected with it, can lead to:

- A positive transference toward the interviewer, organization and treatment.
- More comprehensive and accurate assessments
- More informed patient placement decisions
- More informed treatment planning
- Increased treatment initiation, engagement and retention rates
- Improved treatment outcomes.

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