

Housing Specialist Training on Co-Occurring Disorders and Motivational Interviewing

DATE & TIME: September 29, 2026

9:00AM – 4:00PM

*Sign-in begins 15 minutes prior to the training time. All participants must arrive during the sign-in period.
Late arrivals will not be admitted.*

PLACE: Web Broadcast – Microsoft Teams

REGISTRATION: <https://eventshub.dmh.lacounty.gov/Events/Trainings/Detail/13968>

DESCRIPTION: This training is to introduce participants to evidence-based strategies to identify substance use and mental health disorders and develop behavioral intervention strategies for those with co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders. Key topics discussed will include an overview of the evolving field of co-occurring disorders, identification and treatment of co-occurring disorders across the lifespan, the impact of alcohol and other drugs on the brain, as well as common mental health disorders that frequently co-occur with substance use. Furthermore, a brief overview of the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) screening tool will be discussed to assist in assessing the severity of substance use and identify the appropriate level of treatment. The MI tools will assist individuals to engage in change talk and commitment to behavioral changes based on goals they have identified. Ample time will be devoted to role play, group discussion and activities to enable training participants to gain skills necessary to elicit change talk from individuals with low levels of readiness for change.

TARGET AUDIENCE: DMH Employees and Contracted Staff Providing Housing-related Supportive Services.

OBJECTIVES: As a result of attending this training, participants should be able to:

1. Describe the prevalence of co-occurring substance use and mental health disorders in the U.S.
2. Explain at least two ways that alcohol and other drugs impact the user's brain.
3. Identify three early prevention evidence-based methods for identifying and treating co-occurring disorders across the lifespan.
4. List at least two mental health disorders across the lifespan.
5. Define at least three (3) key principles of motivational interviewing.
6. Describe and demonstrate the effective delivery of at least three MI micro-skills used to help individuals increase motivation for substance use related changes.

CONDUCTED BY: Matthew Rensi, Ph.D., LPCC
Matt Rensi Counseling

COORDINATED BY: Kimber Salvaggio – Mental Health Training Coordinator
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DEADLINE: When capacity is reached.

**CONTINUING
EDUCATION:** **None**

COST: **None**