Correctional Behavioral Health Training and Certification Program

Adult Correctional Officers • Juvenile Justice Professionals
Allied Behavioral Health Staff • Community Corrections Officers

This program ensures a candidate’s knowledge of national expected practices and guidelines, legal and ethical principles and relevant security regulations.

It also validates the role of correctional professionals associated with the provision of behavioral health services for mentally ill inmates or offenders in correctional settings.

“The program is a benchmark that targets specialized training needs for staff interacting with correctional behavioral health populations today. It promotes public safety and safer prisons by increasing the level of professionalism for our correctional officers as it builds knowledge, skills and abilities to manage our growing behavioral health populations.”
—Tony Parker, Commissioner
Tennessee Department of Correction

“The CBHC training offered valuable perspectives for custody and health services staff working as a multidisciplinary service team.”
—Terri L. Catlett, Deputy Director – Health Services
North Carolina Department of Public Safety

“The American Correctional Association’s Correctional Behavioral Health Certification helps us reach the goal of successfully training our officers to be better at managing this difficult population.”
—Daron Hall, Sheriff
Davidson’s County Sheriff’s Office

For more information, email healthcare@aca.org
Module 1 — GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION
   a. Access to care
   b. Responsible health care authority
   c. Confidentiality
   d. Grievance mechanism

Module 2 — PERSONNEL AND MANAGEMENT
   a. Mental health staffing
   b. Managing the mentally ill from a corrections administrator’s perspective

Module 3 — INMATE CARE AND TREATMENT
   a. Basics of mental illness
   b. Basic services and levels of care
   c. Basic medications
   d. Multicultural treatment issues
   e. The multidisciplinary services team
   f. Individualized services/treatment plans
   g. Emergency services

Module 4 — SPECIAL NEEDS AND SERVICES
   a. Suicide and self-injury prevention
   b. Inpatient and residential care
   c. Substance abuse and co-occurring mental disorders
   d. Crisis intervention and deescalation
   e. Trauma-informed care
   f. Managing disruptive inmates
   g. Use of force with mentally ill offenders
   h. Disciplinary process with the mentally ill
   i. Inmates in restrictive housing
   j. Mental health needs of female offenders
   k. Reentry prerelease planning

Module 5 — MEDICAL-LEGAL ISSUES
   a. Informed consent and right to refuse
   b. Involuntary treatment, restraint and seclusion
   c. Landmark cases

Module 6 — JUVENILES
   a. Developmental issues
   b. Mental health needs
   c. Trauma-informed care

Module 7 — COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
   a. Probation and parole issues with mentally ill offenders
   b. Court diversion programs for mentally ill offenders

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. Correctional Behavioral Health Certification- Correctional Officer (CBHC-CO)
   • Adult Correctional Officers OR Juvenile Justice professionals
   • Equivalent of one year experience in providing care for inmates/offenders in a specialized unit
     OR general population for inmates with behavioral health issues
   • Minimum 40 hours of behavioral health related training

B. Correctional Behavioral Health Certification- Community Corrections Officer (CBHC-CC)
   • Community corrections officers
   • One year experience coordinating with community-based behavioral/mental health providers in supervision of offenders with behavioral health issues
   • Minimum 40 hours of behavioral health related training

C. Correctional Behavioral Health Certification-Behavioral Specialty (CBHC-BS)
   • Allied Behavioral Health staff (Nursing, medical support staff)
   • Equivalent of two years’ accumulated experience providing structured activities, psychoeducational programs, etc.
   • At least one year of service in a specialized unit OR general population for inmates with behavioral health issues
   • Minimum 40 hours of behavioral health related training

The Train the Trainer program is available for all CBHC certifications including CBHC-CO, CBHC-BS, CBHC-CC, and CBHC-CO JUV.
For more information, please contact ACA’s Office of Correctional Health.
healthcare@aca.org • 1-800-ACA-JOIN