

The Continuity of Care Group (CCG) is a collection of community partners who were initially established to create guidelines to specifically qualify providers in the treatment of youth with problematic sexual behaviors as well as the treatment of survivors of child sexual abuse. *The mission of the CCG is to provide education, advocacy, and interdisciplinary collaboration to promote safety, stability, and well-being for youth and families impacted by sexual abuse while utilizing best practices in treatment and support services.* To that end, we have created a list of training topics that we offer in the hopes to provide education and support to service providers from all disciplines to best meet the needs of youth with problematic sexual behaviors, child survivors of sexual abuse and their families.

Continuity of Care Group (CCG) – Training Topics

The following workshops are intended to meet the needs of providers working with families impacted by sexual abuse, sexual abuse survivors and youth with problematic sexual behaviors, such as direct care counselors, bachelors level service providers and clinicians that are new to providing services to this population, and can be specially tailored to meet the needs of the training audience:

1. ***Using a Trauma Informed Approach***; Presented by Linzi Rae Matta, LICSW, VOCA Clinician, & Rick Ford, LICSW, Clinical Director, Comprehensive Community Action Program; This training is an overview of strategies to employ while working with survivors of trauma in either a clinical or case management role. Not only do we discuss how to best approach our work with this population, but how to also take care of ourselves in the process. Learning objectives include appropriately addressing the needs of trauma survivors in a clinical or case management role by employing trauma informed care to service provision; understanding how to triage the dynamic needs of trauma survivors, ensuring a “safety-first” approach; and addressing self-care when working closely with trauma survivors so as to avoid burn out, secondary trauma, and/or compassion fatigue.
2. ***Aspects of Child Sexual Abuse: Reporting, Response, Recovery***; Presented by JoAnne Waite, LMFT, Clinical Director, Day One; This training explores the signs and general characteristics of child sexual abuse; focuses on the nature of the impact of the abuse and concrete ways to manage disclosures and respond in a trauma informed manner to child sexual abuse. Learning objectives include learning the signs of sexual abuse; developing a sense of the nature of the impact of sexual abuse and trauma; and concrete methods to manage disclosures and respond to youth in a trauma informed manner.
3. ***Involving Families Affected by Sexual Abuse***; Presented by Melissa Santoro, LICSW, Director of the Outpatient Department, St. Mary’s Home for Children. This workshop focuses on how sexual abuse affects families and ways service providers can provide support and education to assist these families with their needs. Learning objectives include increasing knowledge relating to the importance of family involvement and participation in order to support a child in therapy; concrete ways to provide support and education to caretakers; and impacts of sexual abuse on the family.

4. ***Community Supervision for Youth who have Sexually Abusive Behaviors***; Presented by Chris Hebert, LMHC, Juvenile Probation, DCYF. This workshop focuses on supervision of youth who display sexually abusive behavior. Topics include factors that contribute to problematic sexual behaviors; what normal development looks like within this population; the legal ramifications a juvenile may experience in the Juvenile Justice System; and the levels of supervision and conditions of probation. We also focus on the ways treatment providers and the Juvenile Justice System can work together to increase the chance of success. Learning objectives include understanding factors that drive sexually inappropriate behavior; learning about why risk assessments are used with this population; and learning how to supervise the youth in a community setting effectively and work within a team approach to better serve the youth and contribute to public safety.

5. ***An Introduction to Youth Exhibiting Problematic Sexual Behaviors***; Presented by Rick Ford, LICSW, Clinical Director, CCAP and Adrienne McGowan, LMHC, Clinician, CPC of America. Participants receive an introductory/intermediate training on Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors. Participants are provided a Trauma-Informed approach to treating YPSB addressing developmental stages, common myths/facts about YPSB, common characteristics of YPSB and core assessment and treatment interventions when working with YPSB. Learning objectives include learning the common elements of trauma-informed approach while working with YPSB; learning the common myths/facts about YPSB; and learning the standard evaluation and treatment approaches with YPSB.

6. ***Supporting LGBTQ+ Youth***; Presented by Adam Cable, LICSW, Clinical Outpatient Supervisor, St. Mary's Home for Children. LGBTQ+ youth are at increased risk of sexual abuse and other forms of abuse and discrimination. This training explains some of the common terminology and concepts used in the LGBTQ+ community as well as basic, concrete tips to improve cultural awareness with this population and increase knowledge of service providers. Learning objectives include learning/practicing basic terminology and concepts of the spectra of gender and sexuality; understanding the ways in which LGBTQ+ youth are discriminated against and how this impacts those youth, particularly when they have been impacted by sexual abuse; and learning about more effective, inclusive, and non-oppressive ways of working with LGBTQ+ clients and their families, including local and online resources.