

Impact of Substance Use is designed to provide child welfare professionals with a comprehensive understanding of the critical issue of substance use and abuse within families and its profound impact on children. Participants will gain the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively address and mitigate the adverse effects of substance use and abuse in the context of child welfare services. And ultimately ensuring the safety and well-being of children in these circumstances.

Proposed Objectives

1. **Understanding the Dynamics of Substance Use and Abuse in Families:** Define substance use and abuse, including the various substances involved (alcohol, drugs, prescription medications, etc.). Explore the prevalence of substance use and abuse in families and its connection to child welfare cases. Examine the underlying causes and risk factors associated with substance use within families.
2. **Assessing the Impact on Children:** Recognize the physical, emotional, and developmental consequences of parental substance use and abuse on children. Identify signs and symptoms that indicate a child may be living in a home affected by substance abuse. Understand the potential for neglect, abuse, and unsafe environments associated with parental substance use.
3. **Legal and Ethical Considerations:** Explore the relevant federal and state laws and regulations governing child welfare cases involving substance use. Discuss ethical dilemmas and considerations when working with families affected by substance abuse.
4. **Screening and Assessment:** Learn best practices for conducting substance abuse assessments for parents and caregivers. Identify tools and techniques for assessing the safety and well-being of children in substance-affected homes.
5. **Intervention and Case Planning:** Develop skills in creating individualized case plans that address the needs of children and families impacted by substance use. Understand the importance of collaboration with treatment providers, healthcare professionals, and other agencies.
6. **Reunification and Permanency Planning:** Discuss strategies for reunifying families safely when substance abuse is a factor. Explore alternative permanency options when reunification is not feasible or safe.
7. **Resources and Support:** Provide information on available resources, support networks, and treatment options for families dealing with substance abuse issues. Share community-based resources and referral services.