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**Sexuality Practitioner Program Description**

**What is the Sexuality Practitioner Program?** This is a professional development program designed to prepare the student to serve individuals with complex needs related to sexuality. The scope of this training prepares the student to complete various sexuality assessments and abuse prevention & safety training and work with team members to address and support these complex needs. All students receive consultation with Shawn McGill and Sharon Potter, both of whom will be mentoring you through the training.

**Why is this training being offered**?

* People with disabilities are incarcerated at an alarming rate. Of those incarcerated in Pennsylvania, 56% have a non-psychiatric disability.
* People with disabilities are sexually assaulted nearly three times the rate of people without disabilities. More than 90% of people with developmental disabilities will experience sexual abuse at some point in their lives.
* It has been nearly two decades since the Safer Options Train-the-Trainer was developed and held in Pennsylvania. One pivotal person behind this was Sharon Potter. She also served as the Sexuality Consultant for the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP). Safer Options provided crucial information related to the treatment, supervision, and support for individuals with ID/DD and problematic or offending sexual behaviors. Since this program, we have learned a great deal more about sex offender screening and treatment. More importantly, we have recognized and learned to educate and support before offending (or victimization) problems arise. It’s critical to address issues on the front end before they become a crisis or issue of becoming a victim or a perpetrator.
* Those in our service system are faced with many complexities and challenges. Aspects related to sexuality are simply one challenge, but the pool of providers to address these issues is still very limited. This may be due to our comfort level, access to the information, or various other factors. Regardless, we want to provide a real opportunity for successful and lasting change and want to build capacity within the service system.
* Our podcast “Two Old Sexperts” began production in September 2022. We have over 1200 regular listeners in 19 countries. The feedback we have received, either in writing or through conversation, has been very positive. While this started as a fun collaboration, the short ride-in has shown us a lot more time and attention needs to be given to these areas of concern, and we want to be a support and a possible part of the solution. To access podcast episodes, please click [here.](https://www.spreaker.com/show/introduction-to-two-old-sexperts)
* In response to the podcast, Shawn completed a small book entitled “Neurodiversity, Sexuality, and Gender Identity.” The book is now available, free of charge, to those who may need all of it or just parts of it. However, this is still not enough. For more information on the book, please click [here.](https://www.flipsnack.com/dsmithmarina/neurodiversity-tradepdf-x.html)

**Who is eligible to attend the program**? Program applicants must have at least a bachelor’s degree with two years of documented experience working with people who are on the autism spectrum or who have an intellectual or developmental disability. Each candidate will be carefully considered for the program, but not all may be accepted. Applicants will receive notification of acceptance and cohort registration availability.

**What is the cost of the program**? The cost of the program is $3,000.

**How long does it take to complete the program?** The training course lasts approximately 20 weeks (about 4 ½ months). Depending on the student, additional assignments may be required to demonstrate competency for completion.

**What weekly time commitment is needed to complete the program?** Students should devote 3-10 hours per week to the program. However, this is based on assignments due as well as the seminar schedule.

**What happens if I do not complete the assignments or attend the classes**? Attending classes and completing assignments are required. If an extension is needed, it can be requested. However, if an extension is required beyond the listed graduation date on the cohort syllabus, a $200/month fee will be added for continued commitment to mentorship and assignment review.

**Is the training program online or in person?** Seminars and assignments are all online. Working with individuals supported in the ID/DD service system is a part of the program. Most of these sessions are required to be in person. The student is required to attend all virtual seminars. These are generally held four times per month.

**How many people are in my training class?** Each cohort consists of 4-10 practitioners. We anticipate this training will be provided globally, therefore cohorts will be grouped by time zones. New cohorts begin when a cohort has reached the current minimum enrollment.

**What can I do after I finish the Sexuality Practitioner Program?** Upon successful completion, students will become Registered Sexuality Practitioners. Graduates will be fully prepared to work in various clinical settings, treating, supporting, or serving those with complex needs involving aspects of sexuality. In addition, graduates will be listed as referral resources to address these complex needs globally.

**What does becoming a Sexuality Practitioner allow me to do?** This course is not designed to teach you to train others to become Sexuality Practitioners. It is designed to teach you to use the information in the scope of your clinical work. This includes those you serve and the staff, family, and others involved in their treatment and support. After completing this program, the student should be able to complete and train on all assessment tools ***excep***t for the Armidilo-S. Additional training and mentoring is required in this area.

**What if I want to become certified to train others to complete Risk Screenings using the Armidilo-S?** Those who completed the Sexuality Practitioner Program are eligible to become certified in this area. This requires a $1500 fee and registration. Additional assignments and mentoring sessions will be required to complete this program.

**What are the benefits of this to organizations?**

* Reduce staff turnover and improve job satisfaction.
* Build clinical capacity within your organization.
* Reduce challenging behaviors.
* Decrease the risk of victimization for those you support.
* Improve real learning opportunities and access to information for those you support.
* Safely reduce levels of supervision and intensity of service over time.
* Reduce internal incidents, Adult Protective Services (APS), and criminal investigations.
* Decrease costs.
* Gain recognition as genuinely paving the way for meaningful change.

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**Sexuality Practitioner Curriculum**

Course Platform (Instructure – Canva): <https://www.instructure.com/k12/solutions/learning-management>

**Sexuality – Let’s Get Real**

* One course, 2-3 hours, examines how society and media contradict how we respond to sexuality and why it is essential to look at our history regarding how it impacts those we support.
* One quiz
* One group assignment (What messages did you learn about sex as a child? How did you learn the truth? How has this training changed how you support individuals or direct care staff?).
  + ***Expected completion: 2-3 weeks***.

**LGBTQIA**

* One course, 2-3 hours, learning differences between sexuality and gender identity and support we can provide.
* One course, 2-3 hours, supporting a person who is transgender or nonbinary.
* Required reading: “Raising the Transgender Child” by Dr. Michele Angello & Ali Bowman.
* One quiz
  + ***Expected completion: 2-3 weeks***.

**Trauma**

* One course, 2-3 hours, on the Impact of Trauma.
* One quiz
* One course, 2-3 hours on Positive Approaches.
* One quiz
* Case study: create documentation/records and ask them to review and list how they would set up prevention, intervention, and crisis strategies for this person.
  + ***Expected completion: 3-4 weeks***.

**Abuse Prevention & Safety**

* One course, 2-3 hours, on why and how we must teach about abuse prevention and safety.
* One course; 2 -3 hours in length (use of training I received through David Hingsburger).
* One quiz
* Two Video assignments (demonstrating the use of information).
  + ***Expected completion: 4-6 weeks.***

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**Sexuality Practitioner Curriculum** (continued)

**Sexual Consent Screenings**

* One course, 1-2 hours in length, on the importance of why we use sexual consent screenings.
* One course: 2-3 hours using the YAI Sexual Consent Tool (David Hingsburger) and the VISCAT. Verbal informed sexual consent assessment tool.
* One quiz
* 2 Video assignments (demonstrating interviews for screenings).
* Two completed reports
  + ***Expected completion: 6-8 weeks.***

**Risk screenings** (problematic sexual behaviors)

* One course, 1-2 hours in length, on understanding & approaching sexual behaviors.
* One quiz
* One course, 2-3 hours, on elements of community supervision, common mistakes in risk management, risk factor types, and instruments used. These instruments include:
  + Armidilo-S
  + Rapid Risk Assessment for Sex Offender Recidivism (RRASOR).
  + STATIC-99 (actuarial risk prediction instrument).
  + Sex Offender Treatment & Intervention and Progress Scale (SOTIPS).
  + Treatment Progress Indicators.
    - Four assignments on scoring instruments and reporting on progress indicators.
    - 2 Video assignments (interview team using Armidilo-S).
    - 2 completed Armidilo-S scoring instruments.
    - 2 completed Preliminary or Revised Risk Screening Reports.
    - 2 completed Risk Management Plans.
* ***Juveniles/adolescent Assessment***:
  + Estimate of Risk of Adolescent Sexual Offense Recidivism (ERASOR).
    - 1 class; 1-2 hours on instrument and method.
    - One scoring assignment with a report.
  + ***Expected completion: 10-12 weeks.***

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**Sexuality Practitioner Curriculum** (Supplemental Course)

**Risk Screening Reviewer and Trainer (optional certification**):

* Those who completed the Sexuality Practitioner Program are eligible to become certified in this area. This requires a $1500 fee and registration. Additional assignments and mentoring sessions required include:
  + Submission of four Preliminary or Revised Risk Screening Reports. Another practitioner initially completes these reports. The student’s role is to provide feedback on the content.
  + Submission of four Risk Management Plans. Another practitioner initially completes these reports as well. Again, the student’s role is to provide feedback on the content.
  + Eight completed 1-hour mentoring sessions with the assigned mentor.
    - ***Expected completion: 8-12 months.***