



WORKING WITH Older Adults

Developing Skills of Practitioners

A competency and skills training program for practitioners working with older adults has been developed by the Institute of Geriatric Social Work at Boston University (IGSW) and the New England Research Institutes (NERI).

Program Content

The program consists of a Facilitator Guide and six videos organized into modules that address significant topic areas in geriatric care.

- Working with Older Adults
- Working with Informal Caregivers and Families
- Legal and Ethical Practice
- Geriatric Assessment
- Culturally Appropriate Practice
- End of Life Care

Blended Learning Approaches

Costs, time constraints, availability of training, and adult learner needs have created a shift from standard face-to-face training to more efficient modes of delivery. Blended learning uses interactive learning approaches and delivery that are responsive to individual learners' needs and goals as well as time and cost constraints.

Using the Training Program

The Working with Older Adults program can be easily incorporated into blended learning models that target specific competencies or skills. For most of the topic areas, practitioners learn competencies by comparing the practitioner's behaviors in two vignettes that demonstrate strong and weak practice skills in the same scenario. The Facilitator Guide provides structured detail about each scenario, direct links between the competencies and demonstrated skills, questions for discussion and integration, and links to resources to enhance practice with assessment and intervention tools.

The Program can be used in its entirety, or individual modules can be used to target specific skills and competencies. Each module provides approximately one hour of training. Training content can be delivered in face-to-face sessions but also can be used in blended learning approaches in classroom or practice settings.

Created by



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