

# HCQU Dual Diagnosis Curriculum offered by Northwest Health Connections

The Pennsylvania Dual Diagnosis Direct Support Curriculum is a joint initiative of the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Office of Developmental Programs.

The ultimate goal of this training curriculum is to provide information that can aid in the understanding of the struggles and the triumphs of those you support or will support. This curriculum was designed to demonstrate the complexity of Dual Diagnosis and the factors that need to be considered to best support those with whom you come into contact. The Pennsylvania Dual Diagnosis Direct Support Curriculum was also designed to demonstrate that all people in this world, regardless of their challenges, are much more alike than they are different.



The scope of the Pennsylvania Dual Diagnosis Direct Support Curriculum is intended to provide educational trainings to mental health and intellectual disability provider systems, families, and individuals. The curriculum contains 21 core trainings identified as necessary to provide the basic information that a Direct Supporter would need to support a person who has a dual diagnosis. Benchmark competencies outlined in the National Association for Dual Diagnosis (NADD) Direct Support Professional Certification Program are covered in curriculum modules, as it is hoped that Direct Supporters will work toward their certification through NADD. Attendance at all 21 core trainings is not mandatory unless you wish to be certified in Dual Diagnosis.

Trainings “Dual Diagnosis in the U.S.: Past, Present and Future”, “Naming It: Mental Health Challenges and People with an Intellectual Disability”, and “Common Chronic Health Conditions” are now ready to be presented. Please contact Lynn Carnahan, Training Coordinator, (814-728-9400 or [lcarnahan@northwesthc.org](mailto:lcarnahan@northwesthc.org)) if you are interested in scheduling these trainings.