**CERTIFIED TREATMENT SPECIALIST TRAINING FAQ’S:**

**What is the history of the program?**

The Certified Treatment Specialist (CTS) training was developed in response to the Indiana Protection Advocacy Services (IPAS) Settlement. The ACLU wanted to ensure that staff working with individuals with mental illness had specialized training to reduce use of force, use of segregation-like conditions, and so everyone in the units understand the necessity of prioritizing mental health treatment. Staff must receive the CTS training before they can work in the Mental Health Unit more than 30 calendar days in a year. IDOC agreed that we would like to develop specialized training for these staff members and worked to create the training prior to the implementation of IPAS.

**Who facilitates the training?**

Facility Instructors will facilitate the initial training; Inservice will facilitated by site SD&T staff along with staff assigned to the Mental Health Unit (for special topics).

**Who is the ideal candidate?**

The ideal candidate is a staff member who has a thorough understanding of safety and security, but who also understands the importance of providing treatment to individuals who need it. Empathy, patience, and integrity are key values we would like to see in staff selected to work in a mental health unit. Prior experience working with or interacting with individuals with mental illness may additionally be a valuable skill but is not a requirement.

**How are candidates/participants selected?**

Facility leadership will choose the staff who are placed in the mental health units, any staff who will be working in a mental health unit longer than 30 calendar days in a year must go through the training. It is a good idea to have backup staff trained as well.

**How much outside time is required in addition to the in-person classroom sessions?**

3 eLearning programs in the Initial training and 1 extra eLearning in Inservice.

**How is success measured for this training?**

Success is measured through completion of the training and annual Inservice recertification. Staff working in mental health units may have performance measures or expectations specific to their work in a Mental Health Unit.

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