AAODA Domains

Domain 1: Clinical Evaluation

- Establish rapport by demonstrating effective verbal and non-verbal communication.
- Discuss with the client the rationale, purpose, and procedures associated with the screening and assessment process to facilitate client understanding and cooperation.
- Assess client’s current situation, including signs and symptoms of intoxication and withdrawal, by evaluating observed behavior and other available information to determine client’s immediate needs.
- Administer the appropriate screening and assessment instruments specific to the client’s age, developmental level, culture, and gender.
- Using interview techniques, gather and document relevant bio-psychosocial information from the client and/or concerned others.
- Screen for physical, medical, and co-occurring disorders that might require referral for additional assessment.
- Formulate both initial and principle diagnosis(es) based on the signs and symptoms of impairment, withdrawal, and co-occurring disorders by interpreting observable behavior, laboratory data, and results of interview and assessment to determine the most appropriate level of care.
- Develop a comprehensive written summary based on the results of a bio-psychosocial assessment performed by an advanced counselor and/or multidisciplinary team.

Domain 2: Treatment Planning

- Explain and discuss with the client and concerned others the result of a comprehensive bio-psychosocial diagnostic assessment performed by an advanced counselor and/or a multidisciplinary team.
- Formulate and prioritize mutually agreed upon problems, immediate and long-term goals, measurable objectives, and treatment methods and resources based upon assessment findings.
- Collaborate with the client in reviewing and modifying the treatment plan.
- Apply pharmacological knowledge by incorporating substance specific or co-occurring disorder data.

Domain 3: Referral

- Recognize conditions that are outside the counselor’s expertise that indicate the need for additional services.
- Identify referral needs differentiating between client self-referral and direct counselor referral.
- Match client needs with community resources considering client’s abilities, gender, sexual orientation, developmental level, culture, ethnicity, age, and health status.
- Facilitate the client’s participation with community resources by explaining the rationale for referral.
- Determine the effectiveness and outcome of referrals by ongoing evaluation.

Domain 4: Service Coordination

- Establish and maintain community contacts by developing ongoing relationships with community leaders and other service providers.
- Match community resources with client needs in order to improve the effectiveness of treatment by considering cultural and lifestyle characteristics of clients.
- Advocate for the client’s best interests by negotiating with appropriate systems.
- Ensure quality service coordination by evaluation the effectiveness of service coordination through collaboration with the client, treatment team members, and community resources.
- Consult with the client, family, professionals, and community resources, eliciting alternative views, in order to ensure the best continuum of care.

**Domain 5: Counseling**

- Educate the client regarding the structure, expectations, and limitations of the counseling process.
- Develop a therapeutic relationship with clients, families, and concerned others in order to facilitate self-exploration, disclosure, behavior change, and problem solving.
- Utilize individual and group counseling strategies and modalities to match the interventions with the client’s level of readiness.
- Continually evaluate the client’s level of risk regarding personal safety and potential relapse in order to anticipate and respond to crises.
- Enhance treatment effectiveness by applying appropriate counseling strategies in order to facilitate progress towards completion of treatment objectives.
- Adapt counseling strategies to match the client’s needs including abilities, gender, sexual orientation, developmental level, culture, ethnicity, age, and health status.
- Apply pharmacological knowledge to the implementation of selected counseling strategies by incorporating substance specific and bio-psychosocial information.
- Monitor the client’s progress by evaluation the effectiveness of counseling strategies; including crisis events, to determine the need to modify treatment.
- Develop an effective continuum of care plan; problem solving with the client in order to strengthen ongoing recovery.
- Assist families and concerned others in understanding substance use and/or co-occurring disorders and utilizing strategies that sustain recovery and maintain healthy relationships.
- Document relevant aspects of treatment.

**Domain 6: Client, Family, and Community Education**

- Provide culturally relevant formal and informal education that raises awareness and knowledge of substance use, prevention, and recovery; including self-help, peer, and other support resources available to the community.
- Provide education on issues of cultural identity, ethnic background, age, sexual orientation, and gender in prevention, treatment, and recovery.
- Provide education on health and high-risk behaviors associated with substance use; including transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases.
- Provide education on life skills such as, stress management, relaxation, communication, assertiveness, and refusal skills, relevant to substance use and substance use disorders.
- Provide education on the biological, medical, and physical aspects of substance use to develop an understanding of the effects of chemical substances on the body.
- Provide education on the emotional, cognitive, and behavioral aspects of substance use in order to develop an understanding of the psychological aspects of substance use and substance use disorders.
- Provide education on the sociological and environmental effect of substance use to develop an understanding of the impact of substance use on the affected family systems.
- Provide education on the continuum of care and resources available to develop an understanding of prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery.
Inform clients, concerned others, professionals, and the community about the biopsychosocial effects of psychoactive substances in accordance with current pharmacological literature in order to raise awareness, increase knowledge, and effect behavior change.

Education clients, concerned others, professionals, and the community about the impact of co-occurring disorders on both individual and the community.

**Domain 7: Documentation**

- Protect client’s right to privacy and confidentiality according to best practices in preparation and handling of records, especially regarding the communication of client information with third parties.
- Obtain informed written consent to release information from the client and/or legal guardian, according to best practices and administrative rules.
- Prepare accurate and concise screening, intake, assessment, and discharge documents.
- Document treatment and continuing care plans that are consistent with best practices and applicable administrative rules.
- Document client’s progress in relation to treatment goals and objectives.
- Document all relevant aspects of service coordination activities.
- Document process, progress, and outcome measurements.

**Domain 8: Professional and Ethical Responsibilities**

- Adhere to established professional codes of ethics and standards of practice in order to promote the best interests of the client and the profession.
- Adhere to jurisdictionally-specific rules and regulations regarding best practices in substance use disorder treatment in order to protect and promote client rights.
- Recognize counselor and patient differences by gaining knowledge about personality, cultures, lifestyles, gender, sexual orientation, special needs, and other factors that influence patient behavior.
- Recognize personal biases, feelings, concerns, and other issues in order to minimize interference from these variables in the counseling process.
- Continue professional development through self-evaluation, clinical supervision, consultation and educational opportunities.
- Identify and evaluate patient issues that are outside of the counselor’s scope of practice and refer to appropriate professionals.
- Advocate for populations affected by substance use and substance use disorders by initiating and maintaining effective relations with professionals, government entities, and communities.
- Engage in and apply current counseling and psychoactive substance use research literature to improve patient care and enhance counselor’s professional development.
- Assess personal life choices and circumstances with the willingness to change behavior and seek assistance as appropriate by maintaining an awareness of present interests and problems.
- Protect the integrity of the profession and the best interests of patients by identifying, reporting, and advocating for the impaired professional.
- Protect the integrity of the profession and best interests of patients by identifying and reporting unethical practices.
Domain 9: Research Design, Analysis and Utilization

- Apply research findings to program development and clinical practice by integrating new information into existing programs.
- Develop procedures and measures to monitor program efficacy.
- Use program data and outcome measures to incorporate changes into the program design.

Domain 10: Clinical Supervision

- Create a safe environment that supports self-exploration and that is conducive to the counselor’s professional development.
- Establish a supervisory relationship with clinical staff and/or interns by conducting periodic, face-to-face supervisory sessions.
- Adapt supervisory strategies to match the counselor’s needs; including abilities, gender, sexual orientation, development level, culture, ethnicity, age and health status.
- Assess the individual strengths and weaknesses of the counselor by reviewing education, experience and counseling activities.

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