Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System Training Course

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Criminology	**Duration**	10 Days
Base Fee	$3,000 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

In today’s justice landscape, the intersection of mental health and criminal justice has emerged as one of the most urgent and complex issues. Training Course on Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System is designed to provide justice professionals with essential knowledge, practical tools, and innovative strategies to better understand, identify, and respond to individuals with mental health challenges within the justice system. It is imperative that law enforcement officers, correctional staff, legal professionals, and mental health practitioners gain an informed perspective to facilitate more compassionate and evidence-based interventions.

This training explores trending mental health concerns such as trauma-informed care, dual diagnosis, de-escalation techniques, mental health courts, and rehabilitative alternatives to incarceration. With an emphasis on real-world case studies and hands-on learning, this program offers a robust curriculum aligned with global best practices, public safety priorities, and the ethical treatment of justice-involved individuals with mental illness.

Programme Curriculum

Mental Health in the Criminal Justice System Training Course

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Course Objectives

1. Define key concepts in mental illness and criminal justice intersections.
2. Examine trauma-informed care in correctional and policing settings.
3. Identify signs and symptoms of major mental health disorders.
4. Explore co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders (dual diagnosis).
5. Analyze effective de-escalation techniques in law enforcement.
6. Understand the role and impact of mental health courts.
7. Improve communication strategies with individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.
8. Apply legal standards related to competency, insanity, and civil commitment.
9. Evaluate culturally competent approaches in mental health interventions.
10. Design effective reentry planning for mentally ill offenders.
11. Integrate community-based treatment and diversion programs.
12. Promote officer wellness and mental health resilience.
13. Assess evidence-based practices and policies for systemic reform.

Target Audiences

1. Law Enforcement Officers
2. Correctional Officers
3. Probation and Parole Officers
4. Criminal Court Judges
5. Public Defenders and Prosecutors
6. Mental Health Counselors
7. Policy Makers and Criminal Justice Reformers
8. Social Workers and Case Managers

Course Duration: 10 days

Course Modules

Module 1: Introduction to Mental Illness in the Justice System

- Overview of mental health conditions
- Prevalence in incarcerated populations
- Common misconceptions and stigma
- Intersection with public safety

- Legal implications of mental illness
- **Case Study:** A mentally ill inmate's journey through the criminal process

Module 2: Trauma-Informed Care in Criminal Justice

- Core principles of trauma-informed care
- Recognizing trauma in justice-involved individuals
- Creating safe environments
- Avoiding re-traumatization
- Benefits for staff and clients
- **Case Study:** Implementing trauma-informed practices in a county jail

Module 3: Dual Diagnosis: Mental Health & Substance Abuse

- Understanding co-occurring disorders
- Screening and assessment tools
- Treatment approaches for dual diagnosis
- Integrated care models
- Criminal behaviors and substance influence
- **Case Study:** Recidivism reduction through dual diagnosis programs

Module 4: Crisis Intervention and De-escalation Techniques

- Recognizing signs of psychiatric crisis
- Verbal and non-verbal de-escalation
- Building rapport in high-stress situations
- Avoiding use of force
- Importance of empathy and patience
- **Case Study:** Law enforcement response to a suicidal individual

Module 5: Legal Frameworks and Mental Health

- Competency evaluations
- The insanity defense
- Civil commitment criteria
- Confidentiality and legal obligations
- Rights of mentally ill defendants
- **Case Study:** Competency restoration and due process challenges

Module 6: Mental Health Courts and Diversion Programs

- Structure and purpose of mental health courts
- Eligibility and screening
- Role of treatment providers
- Benefits over incarceration
- Measuring success
- **Case Study:** A participant's rehabilitation through mental health court

Module 7: Correctional Mental Health Services

- Mental health screening at intake
- Medication management in prisons
- Suicide prevention protocols
- Staff training and support
- Facility design for mental health needs
- **Case Study:** Addressing mental health crises in solitary confinement

Module 8: Reentry Planning and Community Reintegration

- Challenges post-incarceration
- Community mental health linkage
- Housing and employment support
- Peer mentorship models
- Role of parole officers
- **Case Study:** A reentry plan for a high-risk, mentally ill offender

Module 9: Police and Mental Health Collaboration Models

- CIT (Crisis Intervention Teams)
- Co-responder models
- Mobile crisis units
- Cross-training initiatives
- Strengthening police-community trust
- **Case Study:** A citywide CIT initiative and its impact

Module 10: Cultural Competence and Equity

- Mental health disparities
- Bias and systemic injustice
- Language barriers
- Culturally sensitive interventions
- Inclusion of community leaders
- **Case Study:** Culturally adaptive services for immigrant detainees

Module 11: Juvenile Justice and Mental Health

- Common disorders in youth
- School-to-prison pipeline
- Early intervention strategies
- Diversion programs for minors
- Family involvement
- **Case Study:** Youth court handling of a juvenile with PTSD

Module 12: Officer Wellness and Mental Health

- Vicarious trauma and burnout

- Suicide risk in officers
- Peer support programs
- Resilience training
- Access to mental health resources
- **Case Study:** Wellness program reducing officer turnover

Module 13: Ethics and Human Rights in Mental Health

- Ethical dilemmas in forced treatment
- Human rights frameworks
- Accountability and oversight
- Balancing safety with dignity
- Advocacy and reform
- **Case Study:** A litigation case around ethical violations

Module 14: Policy Development and Implementation

- Evidence-based policy design
- Stakeholder engagement
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Funding and resources
- Legislative advocacy
- **Case Study:** Implementation of statewide jail diversion legislation

Module 15: Future Trends and Innovations

- Artificial intelligence and mental health
- Telepsychiatry in corrections
- Predictive analytics
- Virtual reality training
- Public-private partnerships
- **Case Study:** Innovative pilot using VR for mental health training

Training Methodology

- Interactive lectures and multimedia presentations
- Group discussions and peer-learning forums
- Real-life case studies and problem-solving exercises
- Role-playing and simulation activities
- Expert guest speakers and Q&A panels
- Downloadable toolkits and resource manuals

Register as a group from 3 participants for a Discount

Send us an email: info@fineskilltrainingcenter.org or call *+254769199797*

Certification

Upon successful completion of this training, participants will be issued with a globally- recognized certificate.

Tailor-Made Course

We also offer tailor-made courses based on your needs.

Key Notes

a. The participant must be conversant with English.

b. Upon completion of training the participant will be issued with an Authorized Training Certificate

c. Course duration is flexible and the contents can be modified to fit any number of days.

d. The course fee includes facilitation training materials, 2 coffee breaks, buffet lunch and A Certificate upon successful completion of Training.

e. One-year post-training support Consultation and Coaching provided after the course.

f. Payment should be done at least a week before commence of the training, to Fineskill Training Center account, as indicated in the invoice so as to enable us prepare better for you.

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Online	$2,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$9,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000
23 Nov 2026	04 Dec 2026	Physical	$12,000

Ready to enroll or request a customized program? Book online or contact us:

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