

C-9(i) P. Postdoctoral Residency Level 3 – Specialty Competencies
Serious Mental Illness Psychology
(Commission on Accreditation, September 2021)

Programs that are accredited in a substantive specialty practice area, as identified in IR C-5 P, are required to provide advanced preparation for practice in the competencies and associated elements associated with the specialty practice area. Specialty competencies must be operationalized in terms of multiple elements and must, at a minimum, reflect the bulleted content for each required specialty competency.

I. Professional Values

Postdoctoral residents are expected to:

- demonstrate up-to-date knowledge of professional practice guidelines and research materials related to the practice of the Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance specialty.
- demonstrate an emerging professional identity consistent with the Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance specialty.

II. Assessment

Postdoctoral residents are expected to:

- demonstrate knowledge of current diagnostic systems related to Serious Mental Illness as well as knowledge of strengths based and functional capability assessments, subjective perceptions of recovery and quality of life, and ability to conduct assessments using these specialized measures.
- demonstrate the ability to apply the knowledge of functional and dysfunctional behaviors including context to the assessment and/or diagnostic process as particularly applicable to the Serious Mental Illness population.
- demonstrate the ability to utilize standardized assessments in ways that may require modification in light of the fact that these assessments were not developed or normed using persons with Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance.
- interpret assessment results, following current research and professional standards and guidelines, to inform case conceptualization, classification, and recommendations (including positive and negative symptoms, strengths, and an individual's ability to make use of resources), while guarding against decision-making biases, distinguishing the aspects of assessment that are subjective from those that are objective.
- demonstrate the ability to recognize and screen for potential cognitive deficits that are core areas of dysfunction for people with Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance including processing speed, verbal memory, and attention.
- demonstrate knowledge of and ability to assess psychosis, thought disorder, and other conditions associated with Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance.
- demonstrate knowledge of medication side effects especially those specific to psychotropic medications and ability to assess for medication adherence and barriers to adherence.
- demonstrate the ability to assess for capacity to give informed consent.

III. Intervention

Postdoctoral residents are expected to:

- demonstrate the ability to implement interventions informed by the current Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance scientific literature, assessment findings, diversity characteristics, and contextual variables.
- demonstrate the ability to implement social skill training and illness management skills.
- demonstrate the ability to implement evidence-based interventions for first and subsequent episodes of psychosis.
- demonstrate the ability to modify and adapt treatment protocols to the specific needs of the Serious Mental Illness population, develop tailored clinical and recovery-oriented interventions that meet the client's identified goals, and develop action steps for goal achievement.
- demonstrate the ability to implement evidence-based interventions and psychoeducation to family members or care partners of persons with Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance.
- demonstrate the ability to assist clients identify their values as they develop individualized goals using shared decision making and person-centered planning approaches.
- demonstrate the ability to develop tailored clinical and recovery-oriented interventions that meet the client's identified goals and develop action steps for goal achievement.

IV. Supervision/Teaching

Postdoctoral residents are expected to:

- demonstrate the ability to assist supervisees and team members in the management of difficult behaviors that may be exhibited by persons with Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance.
- demonstrate knowledge of supervision models and practices related to Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance.
- supervise and teach others by accurately, effectively, and appropriately presenting information related to Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance.

V. Consultation and Interprofessional Skills

Postdoctoral residents are expected to:

- apply specialized knowledge and expertise concerning Serious Mental Illness when consulting with other professionals.
- demonstrate the ability to educate and consult with families or care partners about the individual's illness and the role of others in treatment.
- demonstrate the ability to apply specialized knowledge and expertise concerning Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance symptomatology and diagnosis to problems that arise in professional settings.

- demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of psychosocial functioning and recovery and ability to describe this to team members, other colleagues, and members of the public.

VI. Advocacy

Postdoctoral residents are expected to:

- demonstrate the ability to work with staff in specialized facilities to help them recognize and respond appropriately to symptoms and to create opportunities for people with Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance to meet and interact with others with and without Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance.
- demonstrate knowledge of community resources and ability to work with those resources for the benefit of people with Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance.
- demonstrate knowledge of laws that affect individuals with Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance negatively and may lead to human rights violations.

VII. Management/Administration

Postdoctoral residents are expected to:

- demonstrate the ability to evaluate the effectiveness of programs for persons with Serious Mental Illness in achieving benefits for that population.
- demonstrate the ability to design and implement clinical programs that address the specific needs of the Serious Mental Illness population.
- demonstrate knowledge of methods of bringing about organizational change and the ability to make use of those methods.
- demonstrate knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act and its amendments and application to individuals with Serious Mental Illness/Severe Emotional Disturbance.
- demonstrate knowledge of legal and accreditation requirements applicable to facilities that treat, house, or otherwise provide services for individuals with Serious Mental Illness.