

I. Have a basic understanding of each of the following: Domestic Violence (DV), mental health and substance use

II. Understand the relationships among DV, mental health, & substance use

- a. Recognize the potential consequences of childhood trauma on women and their partners
- b. Understand the multiple effects of DV on women (e.g. mental and physical health, financial status, parenting, substance use and other social determinants of health)
- c. Understand the ways substances may be used by women who experience or have experienced DV

III. Recognize that different professional bodies draw upon their own historical beliefs, frameworks, and practices to understand and provide care

- a. Be familiar with the languages used in each of these frameworks
- b. Acknowledge the strengths and limitations of these frameworks including how they inform treatment or care

IV. Know what is required to keep her (and her children) safe and healthy: immediately, short-term, long-term

Assess for:

- a. Risk for future DV victimization including femicide, or suicidality
- b. Risk for perpetration of DV, including homicide/femicide, and suicide
- c. Substance use and withdrawal
- d. Co-occurring issues of DV, mental health and substance use
- e. Involvement with legal system
- f. Child protection risks

Manage:

- g. Crises
- h. Interventions including working with her to determine and set priorities
- i. Referrals

Complete:

- j. Safety plan(s) as appropriate
- k. Complete child protection report as required

V. Identify and know how to access local community, regional and provincial resources for women who experience DV, mental health and substance use problems

- a. Know how to effectively work together
- b. Understand different roles, responsibilities and frameworks used by practitioners she may encounter when accessing other services
- c. Work to improve networks of care for those who experience co-occurring problems

VI. Understand the ways in which DV, mental health and/or substance use may affect relationships including those with intimate partners, parent/child dynamics, family & community and therapeutic/counselling relationship

VII. Demonstrate appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication skills

VIII. Recognize the pros, cons and potential unintended consequences of disclosure (of DV, mental health and substance use), documentation, and treatment for women

IX. Understand how other social determinants (e.g. race, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation, citizenship status, age, geographic location, etc.) may interact with DV, mental health and substance use

X. Engage in reflective practice

- a. Acknowledge your own values, attitudes, beliefs and experiences
- b. Understand vicarious trauma/compassion fatigue/secondary trauma and practitioner burnout, be mindful of how these impact your practice and practice healthy self-care
- c. Commit to continuous learning in all three sectors