

Richard Koffler
LCSW-R, CASAC-G

Mr. Koffler was the keynote speaker at several events including the annual meeting of the Fordham University School of Social Work Field Advisors. He presented his clinical work with older adults at the Queens Consortium on Substance Abuse and Alcoholism.

Mr. Koffler spoke at the New York City Second Annual Criminal Justice Conference, as well the Fordham University School of Social Work Graduate studies conference.

He has appeared on Recovery Dialogue, a cable television show focused on addiction. He was also featured in a documentary, produced by the New York University School of Broadcasting and Journalism about chemical dependency in older adults.

Mr. Koffler testified before the New York State Senate regarding the need for The Geriatric Chemical Dependency Act, to fund services for the elderly. In 2008 Mr. Koffler was recognized, by the Queensboro Council for Social Welfare, as an Outstanding Social Worker.

Richard Koffler is a senior member of the Chemical Dependency Treatment program within New York City, in which he provides direct patient care, supervises addiction counselors, and coordinates care within patient-centered multidisciplinary treatment teams.

He also provides direct patient care in his own practice. In addition, he has several years of experience as a course instructor with the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) Addiction Counselor Training program.

His work with the older adult population has been featured on national television and on New York 1 televised news, and also in newspapers including New York Newsday, New York Daily News. Mr. Koffler has also spoken at various community events, over the years, about addictive behavior within the older adult community.

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It's Never Too Late



CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY AND THE OLDER ADULT

WHY ITS NEVER TOO LATE



Designed to provide insight and information about the treatment needs of older adults.

*A Specialized
Two Hour Course*

**BY PARTICIPATING
IN THIS COURSE
THE ATTENDEES
WILL LEARN:**

**About the
Older Adult and
Chemical Dependency**

- Review the history of this population and it's changes
- Discuss the misrepresentations of the older adult and substance abuse
- Identify the population over 55 today including baby boomers.
- Examine treatment approaches unique to this age group
- Review problems unique to this population

► **Assessment and Treatment Issues**

- Describe the special needs for recovery to this group
- Describe the different physiological, social and psychological issues created by chemical dependency within the older adult population
- Develop an understanding of the specialized treatment strategies specific to the population
- Identify and establish methods to intervene with this specialized population
- Identify specialized therapeutic techniques for this group of chemically dependency adults

**Geriatric
Assessment Forms
The Basis For Providing
Services To Older Adults...**

*...including determinations of clinical
necessity and appropriateness, and
also of eligibility for services.*

- Course participants will become familiar with comprehensive geriatric assessment techniques that social workers and other health professionals can use effectively, in any community or institutional setting.
- Included are an overview of the elements of a comprehensive assessment; on a review of the latest research; an exploration of and current policy and related issues; and a discussion of legal, ethical, and cultural considerations and their implications for practice.
- Highly practical resources, including a variety of assessment instruments, are suggested throughout the course.

**Alcoholism And The Misuse Of
Prescription Drugs Are Becoming
A Life-Threatening Epidemic
In Older People**

- It is estimated that 70% of all hospitalized older persons and up to 50% of nursing home residents have alcohol-related problems. Among older people there is reason for concern about mixing alcohol and drugs.
- Of people over 65, 83% take some prescription. Over half of all prescriptions for older persons contain some sedative. Combining prescriptions with alcohol can be deadly at any age, and especially so among the older age groups.
- The symptoms may be difficult to recognize. For example, shaky hands and forgetfulness could be normal symptoms of aging-or a sign of alcohol or prescription abuse.
- Within the elderly population, symptoms of alcoholism are often misdiagnosed as stereotypical signs of aging such as dementia, depression, disorientation, forgetfulness, or confusion.