

VA-SST

Guidelines for Trainee Completion

In order to complete the VA-SST program, a trainee must comply with the following:

- 1) Attend a 2-day VA-SST workshop in Baltimore or Los Angeles
- 2) *Actively participate* in the 6-month consultation period, as defined by:
 - a. Starting up and continuing an SST group with Veterans with SMI after attending the workshop
 - b. Participating in the majority ($\geq 75\%$) of weekly consultation teleconferences held during the 6-month consultation period
 - c. Consistently sending tapes of SST sessions to their designated VA-SST consultant for review

In 2010, VA Central Office created an Evidence Based Psychotherapy Clinician Database, in which all trainees of the various EBP training initiatives are registered. Based upon this development, the VA-SST program wanted to clearly define each stage of consultation as they applied to our program. Additionally, we wanted to use consistent language in all program documentation and correspondence with trainees. As such, below are the definitions we have developed:

- **Not yet started consultation**

A trainee will be designated as “Not yet started consultation” after s/he has completed a 2-day workshop but has not yet begun participation in consultation.

- **Currently in consultation**

A trainee will be designated as being “Currently in consultation” after s/he has completed a 2-day workshop and is participating in consultation calls. Ordinarily, this status will continue until the end of the 6-month consultation period or when the person drops out of consultation.

- **Completed consultation and achieved fully satisfactory clinical performance**

A trainee will be designated as having “Completed consultation and achieved fully satisfactory clinical performance” when they have:

- 1) Completed all training activities (2-day workshop), and
- 2) Completed all consultation activities (start an SST group, $\geq 75\%$ attendance on weekly calls, consistently sent tapes to consultant), and
- 3) Been deemed competent to independently administer Social Skills Groups by his/her VA-SST consultant. Competence will be determined by the clinical judgment of the VA-SST Consultant plus the trainee must meet 80% of the criterion on the Social Skills Training Observation Checklist on three group tapes and consultants should consider that a clinician conducts individual goal setting sessions adequately.

As such, these trainees will receive a VA-SST completion certificate PLUS written recognition that states that s/he “Successfully completed the VA-SST training program. Not only did [Trainee Name] successfully complete all components of the training program, but also met performance criteria to independently administer Social Skills Training groups. S/he will be added to the VA Central Office EBP Database with the designation of completed consultation and achieved fully satisfactory clinical performance.”

- **Completed consultation but did not achieve fully satisfactory clinical performance**

A trainee will be designated as “Completed consultation but did not achieve fully satisfactory clinical performance” if they:

- 1) Completed all training activities (2-day workshop), and
- 2) Completed all consultation activities (start an SST group, $\geq 75\%$ attendance on weekly calls, consistently sent tapes to consultant), BUT
- 3) Were not deemed competent to independently administer Social Skills Groups by his/her VA-SST consultant. This will be determined by the clinical judgment of the VA-SST Consultant and/or if the trainee was

unsuccessful in meeting 80% of the criterion on the Social Skills Training Observation Checklist on three group tapes.

As such, these trainees will receive a VA-SST completion certificate only.

- **Dropped out/Did not finish consultation**

A trainee will be designated as “Dropped out/Did not finish consultation” after having:

- 1) Completed all training activities (2-day workshop), but
- 2) Failing to complete all consultation activities (did not start an SST group, less than 75% attendance on weekly calls, inconsistently sent tapes to consultant)

As such, these trainees will not receive any certificate or memo but rather will be notified of their drop out status by the Program Coordinator. At that time, these trainees will be asked to return all consultation equipment (audio recorder, etc.) and to complete a quick Exit Interview survey to help us ascertain specific barriers to completing consultation activities.