



VA - Social Skills Training (VA-SST) for Serious Mental Illness

Master Trainer Program

In addition to the national Social Skills Training workshops, we will be training at least one Master Trainer in each of the 21 Veteran's Integrated Service Networks (VISN). In turn, these Master Trainers will serve as expert SST trainers and consultants for their particular VISN. Overall, Master Trainers are being trained to augment the VA-SST program. They will serve as the VISN expert in SST, providing training, consultation, and serving as a liaison among clinicians within their VISNs and VA-SST staff.

Potential Master Trainers should be clinicians who excel in SST delivery, champion SST's overall cause, and most importantly have ample time, energy, and support to serve in this role.

While the VA-SST program has laid out some concrete expectations, some were purposely left flexible. In order to maximize success, each Master Trainer has the ability to tailor their training and consultation models to best fit their situation. The end goal is to ensure that trainees reach demonstration of fidelity to the SST model.

Expectations for Master Trainers:

- Attend 3-day workshop in Baltimore (Workshop = 3 days)
- Attend weekly 1.5 hour teleconference calls with one of our SST Consultants for 6-months post-workshop (Total Time ~36 hours)
- Attend periodic 30-minute teleconference calls with other Master Trainers and SST staff for 6-months post-workshop (Total Time ~6 hours)
- Within 3 months of attending workshop, perform 1 SST training for local staff. Preferably, staff will be from a PRRC or RRTP setting (Training can be 1-2 days)
- Provide some form of consultation model lasting approximately 6-months for these trainees (Total Time Commitment = to be determined by Master Trainer as long as trainees reach demonstration of fidelity to SST model)

Any goals, expectations, and time commitments (i.e. the number and scope of additional trainings) beyond those listed above should be worked out amongst the Master Trainer plus VISN and local facility leadership. Ultimately, it will be up to the Master Trainer plus VISN and local leadership to determine long-term expectations and therefore any future time commitments are to be determined.

If you are interested in the Master Trainer program, please contact Matthew Wiley, MPH, VA-SST Program Coordinator at Matthew.Wiley@va.gov.