

THE BAKER ACT: AN UPDATE FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Presenter: Carol J. Bakwin, Psy.D.

Friday, January 9, 2015 ♦ 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

The Florida Mental Health Act, referred to as the Baker Act, is the Bill of rights for mental health patients. It provides guidelines for mental health practitioners regarding involuntary and voluntary hospitalization. This presentation will review the requirements for involuntary hospitalization under the Baker Act, how to assess the need for involuntary hospitalization, treatment alternatives within a less restrictive environment, and related Florida Statutes that may be more appropriate for the needs of the patient.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the Florida Mental Health Act FS 394
- List the requirements of involuntary psychiatric hospitalization or commitment under the Baker Act
- Determine the level of risk using lethality assessments when evaluating suicide plans, intent, and ability to carry out the plan(s)
- Describe alternatives to involuntary hospitalization
- Discuss related Florida laws that may be more appropriate

ABOUT THE PRESENTER

Carol J. Bakwin, Psy.D. is the clinical coordinator at Henderson Behavioral Health Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) where she serves as the direct supervisor for the screening/admissions department, crisis clinicians, doctoral interns at CSU from the NSU South Florida Consortium Internship Program and masters-level interns from the NSU Mental Health Counseling Program. She is also responsible for conducting the Baker Act evaluations of individuals transferred to the CSU (a 23 bed receiving facility) under the Florida Mental Health Act for involuntary hospitalization. Dr. Bakwin specializes in crisis intervention and debriefing, short-term therapy, Baker Act evaluations, and psychological evaluation for the courts, Social Security, and suitability evaluations for medical procedures. She is a Critical Incident Consultant and serves on both the South Florida National Disaster Medical System Team (DMAT-FL5) and the State Emergency Response Team (SMRT-FL7). She is responsible for debriefing team members who are trauma surgeons and emergency department physicians, emergency and critical care nurses, firefighter/paramedics, and support personnel. In the corporate area, she is a consultant with managers, and debriefs employees following the death of coworkers, robberies, and downsizings. Within the community, Dr. Bakwin has served as the chairperson of the Social Services Advisory Board of the City of Tamarac, Florida and is a speaker on stress management for the Broward County/Southeast Florida Mental Health Association.

PROGRAM AGENDA

- 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Registration and refreshments
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Overview of Florida Mental Health Act FS 394 and requirements for psychiatric hospitalization under Baker Act
- 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Use of lethality assessments and alternatives to hospitalization and appropriate Florida laws
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Case vignettes: Would you involuntarily hospitalize this person?

PROGRAM LOCATION

Nova Southeastern University
Center for Psychological Studies
Maltz Psychology Building, Room 2057
3301 College Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314-7796

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All mental health professionals will receive three (3) continuing education credits for the workshop. Full attendance is required. No partial credit will be awarded. Check your licensing state's rules and regulations for more information regarding your continuing education requirements.

Nova Southeastern University is committed to making its programs accessible to all prospective attendees. Let us know if you have specific requirements due to a disability.

ABOUT THE SPONSOR

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The Center for Psychological Studies Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The Center for Psychological Studies Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. The Center for Psychological Studies Psychology Services Center Predoctoral Internship Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the American Psychological Association. Questions related to the programs' accredited status should be directed to the Commission on Accreditation: Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation, American Psychological Association, 750 1st Street, NE, Washington, D.C., 20002-4242, Phone: (202) 336-5979, Email: apaaccred@apa.org, Web: www.apa.org/ed/accreditation. Additionally, the Center for Psychological Studies sponsors the South Florida Consortium Internship Program, which is a member in good standing of the Association of Psychology Postdoctoral and Internship Centers (APPIC). The center's master's degree program in school counseling and specialist and doctoral programs in school psychology are approved by the Florida Department of Education. In addition, the specialist program in school psychology holds the designation of National Recognition by the National Association of School Psychologists (NASP). The Center for Psychological Studies offers two programs, (1) the M.S. in School Counseling and (2) the Psy.S. in School Psychology, for practitioners in P-12 schools that have been accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The accreditation for these programs is awarded to the university through the Fischler School of Education as follows: The Fischler School of Education at Nova Southeastern University is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), www.ncate.org. This accreditation covers initial teacher preparation programs and advanced educator preparation programs at all university locations and online. However, the accreditation does not include individual education courses that the institution offers to P-12 educators for professional development, relicensure, or other purposes.

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