

## Master Course Syllabus

### BEH 1040 – Child, Adult, & Family Advocacy

#### Purpose of Document

This document contains important information about this course's objectives. It may be helpful for you to retain a copy for your records, along with the class specific syllabus. This document will be especially helpful if you decide to later change your course of study.

Pikes Peak State College and the Colorado Department of Higher Education have determined that graduates should have a broad range of learning skills as well as discipline related skills. Both types of skills are detailed below.

#### Course Description

Focuses on the critical role of advocating for the mental health and well-being of children, families, and adults within the behavioral health field. This course explores the intersection of advocacy, behavioral health, and social justice, emphasizing the importance of effective advocacy strategies in promoting access to mental health services, reducing stigma, and addressing systemic barriers.

Credit Hours: 1.5

Contact Hours: 22.5 (Lecture)

#### Required Course Learning Outcomes

1. Define advocacy in the context of behavioral health and its significance for children, families, and adults.
2. Analyze the historical and contemporary factors influencing mental health disparities and access to behavioral health services.
3. Develop a plan to implement effective advocacy strategies to address behavioral health disparities and promote mental health equity.
4. Demonstrate the ability to navigate the mental health system, including access to care, insurance, and community resources.
5. Apply ethical principles and legal considerations in behavioral health advocacy, including client confidentiality and informed consent.
6. Recommend the destigmatization of mental health issues and the promotion of mental health awareness within communities.
7. Demonstrate effective communication and collaboration with stakeholders, including children, families, behavioral health professionals, and policymakers.

## Required Topical Outline

- I. Behavioral health advocacy
  - A. Historical context
  - B. Ethical considerations
- II. Behavioral health disparities and access
  - A. Services
  - B. Barriers
  - C. Social determinants
- III. Behavioral health policy and legislation
  - A. Historical
  - B. Current
  - C. Regulations
    1. Federal
    2. State
  - D. Role of advocacy
- IV. Advocacy strategies and approaches
  - A. Coalitions
  - B. Partnerships
  - C. Media
  - D. Raising awareness
- V. Navigating the behavioral health system
  - A. Mental health care access
  - B. Community-based resource access
  - C. Insurance systems
- VI. Ethics and legal considerations
  - A. Dilemmas
  - B. Decision-making
  - C. Confidentiality
  - D. Informed consent
  - E. Obligations

F. Responsibilities

VII. Destigmatizing mental health issues

A. Stigma reduction

B. Mental health awareness

C. Education

D. Advocacy

1. Inclusive care

2. Culturally competent care

VIII. Stakeholder engagement and collaboration

A. Policymakers

B. Government agencies

C. Building partnerships

D. Sustaining partnerships