

WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE MENTAL HEALTH & JUSTICE

Reproductive rights and justice for women, believed to have been won in 1973 with *Roe v Wade*, has a much longer history that remains unsettled up until today. Marginalized populations and those with few economic resources continue to have disparities in access to competent health services in all areas especially reproductive health. Sexuality and gender issues are regulated by politicians and religious leaders rather than health care practitioners, often based on myths and misinformation. Women continue to die unnecessarily in childbirth even in industrialized countries. Research on prevention and termination of unwanted pregnancies demonstrate the safety of surgical and medical abortion yet the laws continue to restrict women's choice. The new reproductive technologies allow women to become a mother who otherwise might have remained infertile. Mental health clinicians need to have accurate information and know how to assess women's competency in making these decisions. A recent research study showed that over half of psychologists and graduate students surveyed did not have accurate information necessary to counsel clients about reproductive health and abortion. Many had similar stigma about abortion and failed to address the issue with their clients leaving it to specialty clinics, many of which give false and politically motivated information. This workshop will attempt to close the gap and provide the information needed to counsel around reproductive health, justice, contraception, abortion, and assisted reproductive technologies. Participants will learn how to assess and build client's competency in decision-making as well as assess their emotional stability. This webinar will provide the requisite knowledge, assessment and counseling skills needed to assist clients who face these sometimes life-changing decisions.

Target Audience

Psychologists Social Workers Counselors
Therapists Psychiatrists Nurses

Course Level: Intermediate

Learning Objectives

At the end of this seminar, participants will be able to:

1. Identify 4 common STDs that are curable
2. Name the important legal cases in reproductive health
3. Identify 3 areas of mental health concerns in women's reproductive health.
4. Define 5 terms used in working with women who experience infertility.
5. Identify the concerns of women from marginalized groups and their lack of access to competent reproductive health care.

Outline

Begin 1 PM ET
What is Reproductive Health
WHO Definition
What is Reproductive Justice
Health Equity and Justice
Women's Rights to Health Access Around the World
Sexuality and Gender Issues
Gender Affirmation
Health Concerns of Reproductive System
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs)
Break 2:30-2:45 PM ET
Pregnancy and Childbirth
Health of Mother
Health and Development of Fetus
Teratogens
Clinical Issues Around Infertility
IVF
Embryo Distribution after Divorce or Death
Preventing and Terminating Unwanted Pregnancies
Contraception
Abortion
Procedures
Legal Issues
Psychological Issues and Research
Assessing Competency and Decision-Making Skills
Model Counseling Program
End 4:15 PM ET

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Continuing Education Credit

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The Presenter

Lenore Walker received her doctorate at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey in 1972 and immediately went on the psychiatry faculty at the then CMDNJ Rutgers Medical School where she began her research about the psychological effects of domestic violence on women and children. In 1978 Walker received an ROI research grant from NIMH to study what she named "Battered Woman Syndrome". She continued that research on the faculty of Nova Southeastern University Center for Psychological Studies where she is the Coordinator of the Clinical Forensic Psychology Concentration in the doctoral program and Director of the Masters in Forensic Psychology program. During the almost forty years, Walker has engaged in clinical and forensic practice and policy issues around the world in the area of gender violence, published twenty books and authored numerous chapters and articles, and is working on the fourth edition of *The Battered Woman Syndrome*. She is known internationally for her keynote speeches and workshops to professionals as well as expert witness testimony in high publicity legal cases.

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This seminar has been reviewed and approved by Keith Hannan, Ph.D., Laura Davie, LICSW, Tina Jenkins, Psy.D., and Loreen Yearick, MSN, RN. This approval expires on March 1, 2028.

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