# Mental Health Complexities of an Ever-Changing Elderly Population

The value of understanding the complexities experienced by an aging population is immeasurable for those actively seeking to be a positive catalyst for change in the lives of those we work with. This education will explore the various complexities of aging including common mental health disorders, dementia and the impact the Covid-19 Pandemic has had. We will also explore Survivors Guilt and its influence on the general population and front-line staff. This will include common therapeutic modalities, methods of effective communication and maintaining a trauma informed care approach within all of our interactions and efforts. Further, we will look at effective communication, assessment and various therapeutic modalities found to be effective when working with aged clients.

**Learning Objectives:**

1) Differentiate between the common forms of dementia.
2) Identify and differentiate between mood disorders, anxiety disorders, psychotic disorders and personality disorders.
3) Summarize appropriate assessment, integration of assessment tools and utilization of common therapeutic modalities.
4) Identify and utilize both verbal and nonverbal interventions as well as common therapeutic modalities utilized in managing behavioral health disorders and psychosocial disturbances.
5) Differentiate between social isolation and loneliness and the impact this has on an elderly persons global being. This will include aspects of trauma as it relates to the Covid-19 pandemic.
6) Review various interventions to mediate the impact of isolation and loneliness when working with elderly clients.



Michael Goldsmith is a clinical social worker by trade and is currently the Director of Behavioral Health Services-Great Lakes Region with Behavioral Care Solutions and the Clinical Director for the Michigan Veterans Home Mental Health Program. Michael is also recognized as a Certified Complex Trauma Professional by the International Association of Trauma Professionals. He began his human services career in 2002 when he served as a Public Safety Officer in Northern Michigan. Michael later obtained his Master's Degree in Social Work from Grand Valley State University and has since worked in various mental health roles including a medical social worker, Clinical Crisis and Trauma Management, Social Work Director, Regional Coordinator and as an educator for various institutions throughout Michigan. Michael has been a guest lecturer and educator for the Health Care Association of Michigan, NADONA, Leading Age, WHCA/WiCAL, the Ohio Health Care Association and the Lake Superior Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization.

**Date: Friday, November 5, 2021**
**Time: 8:45 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**
**Location: GVSU Bicycle Factory - BIK 230**
**Presented By: Michael Goldsmith**
**Cost: $99**

**CE Credit Offered: 6.0**

**Register at www.gvsu.edu/swce**

Recommended for LBSW and LMSW intermediate skill level; for additional program information, please go to our web site: www.gvsu.edu/swce

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