

**GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
CONTINUING EDUCATION**

TOPIC

Women & Addiction: An Overview of Gender-Specific Considerations in Substance Use Disorder

Women have historically been overlooked or underrepresented as subjects in research and findings are often generalized to men and women. However, this is beginning to change and the results are yielding noticeable differences for women when it comes to addiction formation and progression as well as the specific interventions women benefit from in substance abuse treatment. The field of substance use disorder treatment is realizing that women have physiological, hormonal, and socio-environmental differences that impact their vulnerability to addiction and relapse. — These distinct differences are complicated by higher comorbidity with mental and behavioral health disorders, leading to challenges in treatment and recovery that need specific interventions. Looking at what makes women different from men is critical in developing substance use disorder treatment that meets the specific needs of women.

Recommended for LBSW and LMSW beginner/intermediate skill level; for additional information, please visit our website:
www.gvsu.edu/swce

OBJECTIVES

- 1) Enhance knowledge of how women differ in their physiology and how this impacts the way substances are experienced and processed.
- 2) Increase understanding of the significance of how women differ in the occurrence, development, and progression of addiction and how this impacts treatment.
- 3) Identify multidimensional recommendations for women in SUD treatment and ways to incorporate specific trauma informed treatment into therapeutic settings.

DATE:

Friday, December 3, 2021
8:45am—12:00pm

LOCATION:

GVSU Bicycle Factory—BIK 230

PRESENTED BY:



Michaela (Kella) Svoboda, LMSW, CAADC, CCS is a licensed social worker serving women with substance use and co-occurring disorders. She has over 11 years of experience providing individual and group therapy as well as supervision to staff and student interns. She is currently a therapist and the program supervisor at Harbor House, a 3.5 women’s residential substance treatment program that is part of the Ottagan Addictions Recovery (OAR). Kella obtained her bachelor’s degree in psychology from Hope College and master’s degree in Social Work from the University of Michigan. Kella’s professional interests include women’s health, trauma informed treatment approaches and supervision.

CE CREDIT: 3.0

COST: \$49

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