

# PROJECT PROPOSAL

## MCST 614

**Date:** October 17, 2023

**Student name(s):** Ashley Stafford

**Client/Organization name:**

DC Department of Behavioral Health Assessment Treatment and Referral Center

**Client phone number:** (202)673-3449

**Client email address:** adina.madden@dc.gov

Background and description of knowledge gap to be addressed:

The persistence of cannabis legalization across the U.S. has caused an increase in cannabis use both medicinally and recreationally. Unfortunately, there has also been an increase in cannabis use disorder diagnoses. Substance use disorder service providers are being tasked with assessing, diagnosing and making treatment referrals and recommendations for clients with cannabis use disorder. It is imperative that staff at these agencies are knowledgeable in this subject matter to ensure the client has the greatest chance to achieve recovery status.

The goal is to provide comprehensive cannabis use disorder education to clinicians at the DC Department of Behavioral Health Assessment and Referral Center. This education equips the clinician with knowledge to effectively engage persons who may have cannabis use disorder.

Possible points of discussion include, but are not limited to:

- identifying risk factors
- assessment/screening tools
- utilizing diagnostic criteria from the DSM-5
- treatment options
- differentiating cannabis use disorder from cannabis intoxication and other cannabis disorders

Because opioid use disorder is a prevalent diagnosis seen in the Assessment and Referral Center, incorporating cannabis and opioid drug interactions as well as the science behind concomitant use and increased risk for overdose are also topics to be considered.

Cannabis is a medicine and just like any other agent, there is proper use of the medication but the potential for abuse also exists. It is important as a clinician to not allow stigma to cloud one's judgment when differentiating a client who uses cannabis versus one who qualifies for a clinical diagnosis of cannabis use disorder. Effectively diagnosing and treating cannabis use disorder can enable clients to achieve their personal treatment goals, whether it be to adhere to a healthy cannabis utilization regimen or abstinence.

Proposed timeline and plan for completing the project:

- **October 17** - Submit project proposal
- **November 1** - Distribution of staff survey for audience analysis research
- **November 8** - Survey completion and data analysis
- **November 14** - Submit learner analysis and rationale document

- **November 29** - Client input meeting to discuss design plan preference/details, clarify any additional knowledge gaps to be filled
- **December 12** - Submit design plan

By signing this proposal, you are indicating your agreement with the above stated project description and timeline. Additionally, you agree that the student(s) named in this agreement will jointly own the copyright for all work produced as a result of this project. The work will be licensed under the following Creative Commons license, which allows others to share the work produced by the students as long as the work is attributed to the student(s) and not altered in any way or used commercially. The client named in this agreement may use the work under the terms of the license but will not jointly own the copyright of the work.



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**Student name and signature:**

Ashley Stafford

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**Date:** October 17, 2023

**Client name and signature:**

Adina Madden

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**Date:** October 17, 2023

**Course manager name and signature:**

**Date:**