

Healthcare Professionals Certificate Training Program (HPCT)

Report to the Community

A Message from Dr. Witherspoon Nash

Greetings,

In 2023, we were thrilled to announce that Lipscomb University's Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program (CMHC) was awarded a \$1.65 million grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The goal of the program is to improve mental health services in Middle Tennessee by training the behavioral health and healthcare workforce to address unmet needs. This grant has funded Lipscomb's Healthcare Professionals Certificate Training (HPCT) program and will provide full tuition for a total of 50 students to complete a graduate Certificate in Substance Use Disorder Treatment.



Since that time, we have hired an instructor and two consultants with specialized experience in co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. A work group was developed to customize Lipscomb's addiction specialization curriculum to meet the needs of area professionals who were to participate in the HPCT program. After completing Lipscomb's program approval process, we began to recruit our first cohort of 10 students. Courses commenced in January 2024, and a ceremony was held in December to celebrate the first cohort's completion of the certificate program.

In January 2025, our second cohort of students began their educational journey through the certificate program. We look forward to continuing to partner with local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and community mental health centers while securing new partnerships to recruit future participants. This grant has awarded our program significant opportunities to be of service to our communities. Our participants truly have a heart for service.

Blessings,

Deandrea M. Witherspoon Nash, PhD.

Participant Testimonials - "I felt that I had no tools for substance use prior to this program and had already been actively searching for more continuing education with this population. This program allowed me to gain more tools and perspectives from my peers and the outside speakers to better treat this population moving forward. I feel more confident in treating them now."

"The program gave me an opportunity to connect with other therapists that had more knowledge regarding substance use. I loved having supervision again given that I don't often have that opportunity to connect that way with other therapists and learn from them since I've been licensed."

Meet our Faculty

The HPCT program has been blessed with outstanding professionals who have taken leadership roles to cater the curriculum to our participant population and share their expertise in the classroom. Below you will learn more about the program principal investigator Dr. DeAndrea Witherspoon Nash and meet program instructor Dr. Brooke Foxworthy and consultants Dr. David Marcovitz and Ms. Tammy Stone.

Dr. Witherspoon Nash joined Lipscomb University full-time in Spring 2018 after serving the CMHC program as an adjunct faculty member. She earned her M.S. in Counseling Psychology from Tennessee State University and her Ph.D. in Clinical Counseling from Trevecca Nazarene University. She is licensed as a professional counselor-mental health service provider and is a nationally certified counselor. She was the former clinical director of two outpatient treatment centers, the program coordinator of Child and Youth Outpatient Treatment at a local community mental health center, and served as a school-based counselor. In addition to being the principal investigator of this grant program, Dr. Witherspoon Nash is the director of Lipscomb's Clinical Mental Health Counseling Department and a facilitator for the 1st Drug Offender Program sponsored by Metro Nashville Public Schools. Dr. Witherspoon Nash has specialty experience in the areas of substance use disorder treatment and adolescent therapy. She teaches the addiction specialization course series, Introduction to Counseling Skills, Career Counseling, Practicum, and Internship I and II.

Dr. Brooke Foxworthy serves as the instructor for the program. She earned her M.S. in Counseling Psychology and her Ph.D. in Clinical Counseling from Trevecca Nazarene University. She is licensed as a professional counselor-mental health service provider in the state of Tennessee. She has served as an adjunct faculty member at Lipscomb University in the Clinical Mental Health Department since 2015, and has been a therapist in private practice since 2011. Additionally, she has several years experience as primary counselor for an Intensive Outpatient Program at a local substance use disorder treatment center. She has specialty experience in the areas of trauma, mood disorders and substance use disorder.



Participant Testimonials

"Brooke Foxworthy did an excellent job teaching the class."

"The professor is wonderful. A vast wealth of knowledge was obtained in this course."

"Dr. Foxworthy is very knowledgeable and brings in great guest speakers to enhance the program."

I most appreciated... "getting to know peers that I will be able to contact moving forward, the supportive environment, the resources provided, and having a supportive professor who allowed questions, comments, concerns to be voiced. Dr. Foxworthy was one of the best professors I have ever had in my educational experience."

Meet our Consultants



Dr. David Marcovitz serves as a consultant and guest lecturer for the HPCT program. He is a board-certified general and addiction psychiatrist at Vanderbilt University Medical Center and the director of the Division of Addiction Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences. He helped launch the Vanderbilt University Hospital Addiction Consult Service and transitional outpatient Bridge Clinic at VUMC. He also serves as the Principal Investigator for the SOR-funded Middle TN Opioid Addiction Treatment Hub at Vanderbilt. While completing his addiction psychiatry fellowship at Partners Healthcare / Harvard Medical School, he also worked as a staff psychiatrist receiving additional mentored training in collaborative care in the IMPACT Model at Partners Healthcare in Boston, Massachusetts. He is also an experienced educator, delivering formal and informal didactics on various addiction-related topics to medical students, residents, fellows and colleagues. He has served as the senior trainer for Tennessee supporting the federally-funded Opioid Response Network to help build addiction treatment capacity across Tennessee. Dr. Marcovitz' teaching at the regional and

national level has focused on models of collaborative care with internal medicine and other specialties and disciplines within addiction treatment in both the inpatient and outpatient setting. He has also presented at national meetings on novel teaching methods and outcome measures in addiction psychiatry. He has published on addiction education methods as well as research at the intersection of treatment of opioid addiction and community mutual help. He is currently the principal investigator of a randomized trial of the Vanderbilt Bridge Clinic and its impact on patient outcomes including hospital utilization and remission from SUD.

Tammy Stone LPC-MHSP, QCS, LADACII QCS, also serves as a consultant and guest lecturer for the HPCT program and is the co-owner of Stone Counseling and Consulting LLC. She worked at Cumberland Heights (CH) as an associate clinical officer for over 30 years doing program development and supervision. During that time, she developed an externship for employees who work at CH to get their LADAC certification and be part of the development of the partnership with Lipscomb University. Last September she opened her own practice working with individuals seeking a path for recovery from substance abuse and trauma. Her consulting work consists of helping facilities that seek licensure for substance abuse do so in a trauma-informed, client-centered manner that further prioritizes the needs of their staff. Her credentials and knowledge allow her to provide supervision in the avenues of LPC, LADAC, and CPRS. Ms. Stone is a graduate of Volunteer State University, Middle Tennessee State University and Trevecca University.



Participant Testimonial - The consultants were a... "Wonderful addition and offered immense knowledge that has enhanced my work with clients."

Addictions Conference

In August, the HPCT Program sponsored the Lipscomb University Co-Occurring Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Conference entitled Navigating Substance Use Disorder: A Comprehensive Exploration of Opioid Use Disorder, Co-Occurring Disorders and Trauma

The program consultants, served as the presenters in the 3-hour free virtual conference. Sessions included:

Opioid Use Disorder and Co-Occurring Disorders presented by Dave Marcovitz, MD. At the end of the session, participants were able to:

- Describe national trends in prevalence of opioid use disorder
- Discuss the chronic disease approach to opioid use disorder and its corollaries
- Describe epidemiology of co-occurring disorders
- Understand basic diagnostic approaches to co-occurring disorders

Utilizing Concepts of Seeking Safety & Post Traumatic Stress Index in Tandem to Enhance Healing presented by Tammy Stone, LPC-MHSP, QCS, LADAC-II, QCS. At the end of the session, participants were able to:

- Identify the 8 manifestations of trauma as outlined by the PTSI
- Learn which Seeking Safety Treatment topics are recommended to treat each PTSI Manifestation
- Learn how using the two methodologies together will bring their clients relief from trauma or substance use disorders or both

PowerPoints from both of the presentations are available on the HPCT webpage at <https://lipscomb.edu/academics/programs/healthcare-professionals-certificate-training-program>.

Conference Attendee Testimonials

"Very powerful and on point"

"I enjoyed this presentation and have gained insight and learned about new methods of treatment."

"These trainings are informative and feel engaging to understand."

"These kinds of trainings greatly enhance my knowledge base."

"I appreciate the experts that Lipscomb highlights for further clinical education."

"I learned a lot and am grateful for the tools given today."

"Thank you so very much for this conference! It was very helpful, insightful, and resourceful."

"Thank you for your efforts to spread the much-needed awareness on the topics chosen."

"Overall, an excellent conference."

Our Curriculum

Dr. Foxworthy, Dr. Marcovitz and Ms. Stone collaborated to customize the Lipscomb addictions specialization curriculum to the specific needs of the HPCT program participants. The five courses of the year-long program are outlined below.

Foundations of Substance Use Disorders Treatment - This first course covers the history of America's views on substance abuse and treatment, the science and neuroscience of addiction, and models of treatment with attention to ethics and diversity issues.

Assessment, Diagnosis & Treatment Planning for Substance Use Disorders - This second course addresses the knowledge and skills needed to assess clients for substance use and to develop treatment plans. Students learn the diagnostic process specific to substance use disorders and learn about appropriate assessment interviews/inventories. Students have the opportunity to conduct mock screenings, assessments, and determine appropriate levels of care.

Prevention, Intervention & Counseling for Substance Use Disorders - This third course addresses prevention and intervention theories and models. Various interventions are discussed including counseling theories, experiential interventions, individual, group, and family systems models of treatment, and spiritual practices. Attention is given to diversity considerations, advocacy roles, research, and evaluation.

Group Supervision I & II - Participants will also enroll in Group Supervision concurrently with the second and third program courses. In these courses they will be supervised by the certificate program instructor and program consultants and receive feedback to further develop their clinical skills.

Program Participants

Ten area professionals were the inaugural cohort for the HPCT program and graduated in December of 2024.

Employer

Centerstone
Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Mercy Community Healthcare
The Refuge Center for Counseling

Education

All participants possess a Master's Degree from one of the the following fields:
Physician Assistant Studies
Counseling
Social Work

Occupation

Program participants were employed in a variety of roles including:
Physician Assistant
Therapist
School-Based Therapist
Clinic Manager
Team Lead
Director



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