

BACKGROUND

In response to the growing number of nursing facility residents with complex behavioral health needs and the limited number of facility staff trained to support these conditions, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) established the Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health in Nursing Facilities (COE-NF). This three-year national initiative provided behavioral health training, technical assistance consultations, and resources to nursing facilities to enhance the quality of care for residents with serious mental illness (SMI), substance use disorders (SUD), and co-occurring disorders (COD).

Subject Matter Experts (SME) 2022-2025

OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES

The COE-NF leveraged an extensive network of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) to support nursing facilities in improving processes, ensuring compliance, and maintaining high-quality standards. This was achieved through:

- ▶ Delivering tailored trainings developed and led by a diverse and experienced directory of SMEs.
- ▶ Hosting monthly office hours facilitated by SMEs to provide direct support and guidance.
- ▶ Publishing a monthly newsletter featuring original articles authored by SMEs on a wide range of relevant topics.
- ▶ Establishing a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) composed of SMEs in substance use, mental health, family member, lived experience, and nursing home administration that provided guidance and recommendations.

RESULTS



A total of **337 tailored virtual training events** were delivered by SMEs, including **211 at the national level** and **126 at the regional level**.



A total of **40 SMEs** offered support and guidance in resource development, training, and consultations.



Scan the QR code to access resources and recorded training from the COE-NF.

www.nursinghomebehavioralhealth.org