

Carol Ackley

Carol Ackley is the executive director of River Ridge Treatment Center. During her nine years in this position, Ms. Ackley has created, implemented, and supervised outpatient substance abuse treatment for adults, residential services for women, and educational services for adolescents and adults in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. She also is the founder and director of A.C.T., a nonprofit consulting and training organization.

Ms. Ackley was educated at the University of Wisconsin and the College of St. Catherine. She has worked in the substance abuse field for over twenty years as a licensed alcohol and drug counselor in the state of Minnesota. She has developed numerous seminars and workshops on women's issues and substance abuse, addictive disorders, co-occurring disorders, trauma-informed services, the impact of addiction on family systems, and the vulnerability of the adolescent brain to substance abuse. She is a national speaker on multiple issues relating to substance abuse, and her lecture on "Brain Chemistry of Addiction" has been used widely to educate business, behavioral health and social services, academic, corrections, and judicial personnel (as well as clients and their families) about addictive disease, treatment, and prevention. In addition, she has served as a reviewer for the Treatment Improvement Protocols (TIP) series for the National Institute of Health and has provided a leadership role in MNFRESH, a state-wide consortium of providers of behavioral health services for women and their families.

Ms. Ackley has been closely associated with Dr. Stephanie Covington and the Center for Gender and Justice since 1997, and has assisted Dr. Covington in the development of gender-responsive programming for women and girls. She has provided training and consulting on all of Dr. Covington's curricula, including *Helping Women Recover*, *Beyond Trauma*, *Voices*, and *A Women's Way through The Twelve Steps*.