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Certified Training Associate Carol Ackley



Carol Ackley, LADC, retired executive director of River Ridge Treatment Center (2000-2015), developed and implemented gender responsive, trauma-informed, co-occurring treatment services in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area. She created and supervised outpatient and residential substance abuse treatment for adults and educational services for adolescents and adults.

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 25 years as a licensed alcohol and drug counselor in the state of Minnesota. She has developed many training programs on women's issues and substance abuse, addictive disorders, co-occurring disorders, trauma-informed services, the impact of addiction on family systems, and adolescent vulnerability to substance abuse. Her lecture, "Brain Chemistry of Addiction," has been used widely to educate people in business, behavioral health and social services, academia, corrections, and the judiciary, as well as clients and their families. She has been a reviewer for the Treatment Improvement Protocols (TIP) series for the National Institute of Health, has played a leadership role in a Minnesota-wide consortium of providers of behavioral health services for women and their families, and has done consulting work with National Institute of Corrections.

Ms. Ackley has been associated with Dr. Stephanie Covington since 1997 and has assisted her in the development of gender-responsive, trauma-informed programming for women and girls. She is currently training and consulting around the country.