

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE PSCSW AWARDS FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE**

(Please title your paper!)

### **I. Introduction to agency**

- A. Description of the agency and focus of service.
- B. Community context, socio-economic and socio-cultural description of the population served.

### **II. Case presentation**

- A. Presenting problem/precipitating event that triggers client's contact with the agency.
- B. Bio-psycho-social assessment of the client.
  - 1. Biological: age, sex, physical appearance, physical health, level of intellectual functioning, cognitive deficits. If the client is a child, include developmental history. Other disorders that may have biological effects such as eating disorders and substance abuse.
  - 2. Psychological: mood/affect, level of psychological functioning, evidence of psychopathology (DSM IV Axis 1 and Axis 2 disorders), family history of mental illness, substance abuse.
  - 3. Social Functioning: client's familial and social relationships, sexual identity, ethno-cultural identity, economic situation.
- C. Clinician's initial assessment of client and client's problems. DSM IV **assessment**, including the 5 Axes.

### **III. Review of the literature**

- A. Carefully documented theories relevant to case study.
- B. Clinical approaches and techniques utilized by presenter.
- C. A rationale for treatment approach chosen for this client based on clinician's assessment and the literature review.

### **IV. Process of treatment**

- A. Treatment goals and expectations of progress (including limitations pertaining to the function of the agency, the treatment time frame, client's motivation, etc.).
- B. Description of the clinical relationship, including examples of the working alliance from clinical sessions, resistance to the treatment, clinician's use of self, transference and counter-transference.
- C. Discussion of the initial, middle, and termination phases of treatment including description of intra-psycho, inter-personal growth and changes in client's external circumstances.

### **V. Use of Supervision**

- A. Description of case presentation, questions, and guidance during the supervision process.
- B. Discussion of self awareness and self growth within the supervision process.
- C. Relationship with the supervisor including, if applicable, any challenges within the supervision process and how those were handled or negotiated.

### **VI. Conclusion**

- A. Evaluation of clinical work. What might you have done differently; what went well, what might your goals/expectations be if you could continue to work with this client?

**\*Judges will take into account the written quality of the paper including style, grammar, organization, focus and flow with an emphasis on readability and reader's engagement.**