Aiming Higher Than Compliance
Michael Chaple
Wednesday, November 8th, 9:45am-11:00am

Michael Chaple is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Psychiatry at the New York State Psychiatric Institute's (NYSPI) Division on Substance Use Disorders at Columbia University Irving Medical Center. Throughout his now 25-year career, Mike has dedicated his professional efforts to the implementation of best practices for the rehabilitation of individuals who are in the custody of the criminal legal system. His work primarily includes the provision of training and technical support to correctional stakeholders that represent jails, prisons, probation and parole departments, law enforcement, as well as problem solving courts. He brings specific expertise regarding the integration of behavioral health services within justice settings. Overall, his work seeks to advance organizations who are wanting to promote equitable and meaningful change. Mike received his PhD in Criminal Justice from Rutgers University in Newark NJ.

Session Description:
Problem-solving courts are designed to treat serious problems believed to be underlying criminal conduct. More specifically, drug courts were designed to integrate both alcohol and substance use treatment with legal system case processing. To date, drug courts are the most successful and widely accepted example of integration between justice and treatment. However, although both systems may recognize that their objectives of public safety and client recovery are mutually reinforcing—and to a significant extent interdependent—they often will have difficulty coordinating the use of their respective tools of social control and clinical intervention. Structural and cultural differences hinder communication and produce friction, especially when events such as relapse to substance use occur as this can and often will elicit potentially discordant responses from the two systems. This presentation will examine potential strategies for mediating cultural differences between justice and treatment, emphasizing the complementary nature of the goals and methods of the two systems, as a way to maximize output and impact of this very promising model.