



Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation  
presents the  
**2023 Eric Gilbertson Advocacy Institute for Behavioral Health (EGAI)  
APPLICATION**

For over 16 years, the Eric Gilbertson Advocacy Institute (EGAI) has been providing advocacy training in Arizona. EGAI (aka The Advocacy Institute) is designed for people with behavioral health diagnoses, family members (biological or foster families), board members of and staff at child welfare, behavioral health, and managed care organizations, and anyone concerned about ensuring access to quality behavioral health services in Arizona. The goal of the training is to provide a comprehensive overview of the Arizona behavioral health system and to assist you in becoming an effective advocate for those receiving behavioral health services. New this year is a group service-learning project designed to identify a current public policy issue and create an advocacy action plan to solve that problem.

The Advocacy Institute provides information, training, and resources to participants on behavioral health issues as the system continues to move towards integration of physical and behavioral health. We want to empower you at the individual, provider, and system level to be a voice about what works and what needs improvement. The Advocacy Institute will provide participants with opportunities to meet and talk with leaders and advocates in the Arizona behavioral health system. Additionally, you will have an opportunity to meet and unite with others who have a similar interest in creating a powerful voice on important issues. You will learn how various state agencies are responsible for the delivery of integrated behavioral health services and how the public policy process works at the state and national levels to impact behavioral health policy.

**Topics Covered**

*(Subject to change)*

History of Behavioral Health System in AZ  
State Agencies That Deliver Services to Individuals:  
The Role of AHCCCS, Departments of Child Safety, Economic Security, Education, Housing,  
the Courts & Corrections  
Community Resources  
State & Federal Public Policy Advocacy  
Legislative Process and Tools for Advocacy  
Organizing for Change



Dear Applicant,

Attached is The Advocacy Institute's 2023 application form.

When completing the application, please consider the time commitment required to participate in this program. To obtain the greatest benefit from the course, it is important that you attend all sessions.

If you are accepted into the program, a **\$100 course fee will be due prior to the first session.** The fee is refundable only if the accepted student cancels their enrollment **before** the first scheduled class.

**The Advocacy Institute will:**

- Provide a continental breakfast, lunch, snacks, and beverages (coffee, water, soda) for each session.
- Provide all training materials electronically (hard copies available by prior arrangement for an additional fee)
- Provide access to guest speakers and community resources.

**Students will commit to:**

- Attend all six sessions.
- Complete all homework assignments and service-learning project activities.
- Keep Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation informed about advocacy activities after graduation.
- Utilize skills attained through The Advocacy Institute.

Training is held at Recovery Empowerment Network (REN), 212 E Osborn Rd, Phoenix 85012.

The Board of Directors of the Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation will review applications. Final selection for The Advocacy Institute should be completed by September 1, 2023 and accepted participants will be notified at that time.

Please remember to complete and return the **full** application (with one letter of reference) by the application deadline of **August 18, 2023**. If selected for participation, you will be able to pay the course fee by check, money order, or credit card at [www.azabc.org/eg\\_institute](http://www.azabc.org/eg_institute) (cash no longer accepted). All payment is due **prior** to our first class on September 9, 2023, unless other arrangements have been made.

Thank you!



## **Eric Gilbertson Advocacy Institute for Behavioral Health**

### **SESSIONS TO BE HELD AT:**

Recovery Empowerment Network (REN)  
212 E Osborn Rd  
Phoenix, AZ 85012

**(Please do NOT send applications to this location.)**

### **2023 DATES: Plan now to attend ALL dates!**

Session 1: September 9, 2023, 9:00 am to 4 pm  
Session 2: September 23, 2023, 9:00 am to 4 pm  
Session 3: October 7, 2023, 9:00 am to 4 pm  
Session 4: October 21, 2023, 9:00 am to 4 pm  
Session 5: November 4, 2023, 9:00 am to 4 pm  
Session 6: November 18, 2023, 9:00 am to 4 pm

### **APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

**August 18, 2023**

Email the completed application and character reference letter to Jodi Herfurth at [jodih@azabc.org](mailto:jodih@azabc.org), Subject: EGAI, or by physical mail to:

**ABC – EG Advocacy Institute  
501 E. Thomas Road  
Phoenix, AZ 85012**

Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation will notify all applicants regardless of acceptance by **September 1, 2023**.

If selected for course participation, course fee can be paid by credit card at [www.azabc.org/eg\\_institute](http://www.azabc.org/eg_institute). If paying by check or money order, please make payable to **ABC**. Cash payments are no longer accepted.

Questions? Contact Jodi Herfurth at 602-712-9200, ext. 208 or [JodiH@azabc.org](mailto:JodiH@azabc.org), subject line “ABC – EG Advocacy Institute”



**APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION**  
**ALL APPLICANTS MUST COMPLETE ITEMS 1-11**  
 (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

1. **Name:**
  
2. **Street Address:** **Apt. #**
  
3. **City:** **County:** **ZIP:**
  
4. **Phone:** **Alternative Phone:**
  
5. **E-Mail:**
  
6. Please tell us why you think you should be chosen for The Advocacy Institute. What do you hope to learn? How would you use the information you learn?
  
7. Please list any volunteer activities, past and present.
  
8. How did you learn about The Advocacy Institute?
  
9. Part of The Advocacy Institute will include a group service-learning project to create an advocacy action plan. Please check any areas of interest to you for this group project.
 

ACT teams	LGBTQIA+ Issues	Services for SUD
Adults with SMI diagnoses	Hospital Services	Services for Veterans
Children with SED diagnoses	Needs of Foster Children	Services in Jails or Prison
Crisis Services	Non-BH Services for Adults	Other: Please Specify
Housing Services	Non-BH Services for Children	
Justice Involved Members	Residential Services	
  
10. Please provide any additional information you think The Advocacy Institute should know regarding your application. (Use additional sheets if necessary.)



11. Please check any special dietary requirements:

Vegetarian      Gluten Free      Dairy Free      Other (specify)

*Please note: The Advocacy Institute will do its best to accommodate special dietary needs but cannot guarantee meeting all special needs.*

**OPTIONAL**

*(The Advocacy Institute keeps this information strictly confidential and uses the information only in aggregate to document the population served by the Institute advocacy program for funders of the Institute. Individuals are never identified.)*

12. Are you a parent, guardian, and/or family member of an individual with a behavioral health diagnosis?	Yes No
13. Are you an adult who is currently receiving or has received behavioral health services?	Yes No
14. Will you need special seating or any other special accommodation (wheelchair space, interpreter services, etc.)? If yes, please specify:	Yes No

**QUESTION 15-17 TO BE COMPLETED IF YOU ARE APPLYING AS A BOARD MEMBER, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE, OR ORGANIZATION STAFF**

15. Which organization/group/board are you associated with? Please list all that apply.

16. How long have you been working with this agency/group/board? What is your role?

17. What motivates your involvement in the Institute? How will you use what you learn in your work with that organization?

**Please remember to include your letter of reference (*from a non-family member*).**