



## **2024 Eric Gilbertson Advocacy Institute for Behavioral Health (EGAI)**

### **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**, in person or via Zoom.
- Complete surveys, evaluations, homework assignments, and service-learning project activities.
- Utilize skills attained through The Advocacy Institute and keep Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation informed about advocacy activities after graduation.

### **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
- State and Federal Legislative Process and Tools for Advocacy
- Organizing for Change
- Creating YOUR advocacy agenda

### **Course Description**

For 17 years, the Eric Gilbertson Advocacy Institute (The Advocacy Institute) has been providing advocacy training in Arizona. EGAI is designed for people with behavioral health diagnoses, their family members, board members and staff at child welfare, behavioral health, and managed care organizations, and anyone wanting to ensure access to quality behavioral health services in Arizona. The training provides a comprehensive overview of the Arizona behavioral health system and assists you in becoming an effective advocate for those receiving behavioral health services. EGAI incorporates 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 moves towards integration of physical and mental 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 allow participants to meet and talk with leaders and advocates in the Arizona behavioral health system. Additionally, you will connect 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.



## **Application Instructions**

**Before beginning the application**, please consider the time commitment required to participate in this program. All the sessions will be held on Saturdays between 8:30 am to 4:00 pm at Recovery Empowerment Network (REN), 212 E Osborn Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85012. If you live outside a reasonable driving distance from the venue, you may be able to attend via Zoom. To obtain the greatest benefit from the course, it is important you **plan now to attend all sessions**.

- Session 1: September 7, 2024**
- Session 2: September 21, 2024**
- Session 3: October 5, 2024**
- Session 4: October 19, 2024**
- Session 5: November 2, 2024**
- Session 6: November 16, 2024**

### **A complete application consists of the following:**

1. 2024 Eric Gilbertson Advocacy Institute Application
2. Reference Letter
3. Course Fee:
  - a. Early Bird Applicants are required to submit their \$100 course fee by **July 22, 2024**.
  - b. Regular applicants are required to submit their \$150 course fee by **August 9, 2024**.

**Course Fee Information:** The course fee is refundable if the applicant is not accepted into the program or if the student cancels their enrollment **before** the first scheduled class. The fee can be paid by debit or 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 not accepted.

**Early Bird Application & \$100 Course Fee Deadline**  
**Monday, July 22, 2024**

**Regular Application & \$150 Course Fee Deadline**  
**Friday, August 9, 2024**

Email the completed application to Karla Meija Rivera at [karlamr@azabc.org](mailto:karlamr@azabc.org), Subject: EGAI, or mail it to: ABC – EG Advocacy Institute, 501 E. Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85012.

Final selection for The Advocacy Institute should be completed by **August 23, 2024**, and all applicants will be notified regardless of acceptance at that time.

ABC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, gender identity, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability, genetic information or military status of participants.



**2024 ERIC GILBERTSON ADVOCACY INSTITUTE APPLICATION**  
 (PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)

*\* Required*

**Name\***

**Street Address\***

**Apt. #**

**City\***

**County\***

**Zip Code\***

**Phone\***

**E-Mail\***

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? (Use additional sheets if necessary.)\*

Please list any of your recent volunteer activities.\*

How did you learn about The Advocacy Institute?\*

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.\*

Assertive Community Treatment teams  
 Adults with SMI diagnoses  
 Children with Serious Emotional Disturbance diagnoses  
 Crisis Services  
 Housing Services

Justice Involved Members  
 LGBTQIA+ Issues  
 Hospital Services  
 Mental Health Parity  
 Needs of Foster Children  
 Non-BH Services for Adults

Non-BH Services for Children  
 Residential Services  
 Services for Substance Use Disorders  
 Services for Veterans  
 Services in Jails or Prison  
 Other:



Please provide any additional information you think The Advocacy Institute should know regarding your application. (Use additional sheets if necessary.)\*

Please check any special dietary requirements\*:

- Vegetarian   
  Gluten Free   
  Dairy Free   
  Other

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

### Demographic Information

*(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.)*

What is your gender?

- |             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Female      | Non-Binary or Third Gender |
| Male        | Other (Please Specify)     |
| Transgender | I Prefer Not Say           |

What is your age?

- |       |                     |
|-------|---------------------|
| 18-30 | 51-60               |
| 31-40 | 61 and above        |
| 41-50 | I Prefer Not to Say |

What is your race/ethnicity? (check all that apply)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White/Caucasian           | <input type="checkbox"/> Native American           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Black or African American | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian or Pacific Islander |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic or Latino        | <input type="checkbox"/> I Prefer Not to Say       |

Are you a parent, guardian, and/or family member of an individual with a behavioral health diagnosis? Yes  
No

Are you an adult who is currently receiving or has received behavioral health services? Yes  
No

Will you need special seating or any other special accommodation (wheelchair space, interpreter services, etc.) to participate in the Advocacy Institute? If yes, please specify: Yes  
No



Are you applying as a board member, community advocate, or organization staff?\*

Yes  
No

**If so, please answer the questions below:**

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

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

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*).**