

Therapeutic Engagement with People Who Have Sexually Abused

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Welcome!

GRATITUDE



INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

And the responsivity principle

ASK YOURSELF

- What's the best session you've done in the past year?
- What made it so effective?
- What gets in the way of your doing that all the time?



EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS

RESPONSIVITY principle

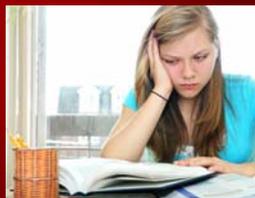
- ❖ effective programs are those which are responsive to client characteristics
 - cognitive abilities
 - maturity
 - motivation
 - mode of intervention
 - scheduling concerns
 - neurological impact of trauma



RELATIONSHIP PROBLEMS



LEARNING DIFFICULTIES



HYPERACTIVITY



COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES



PARADOXICAL COMMUNICATION

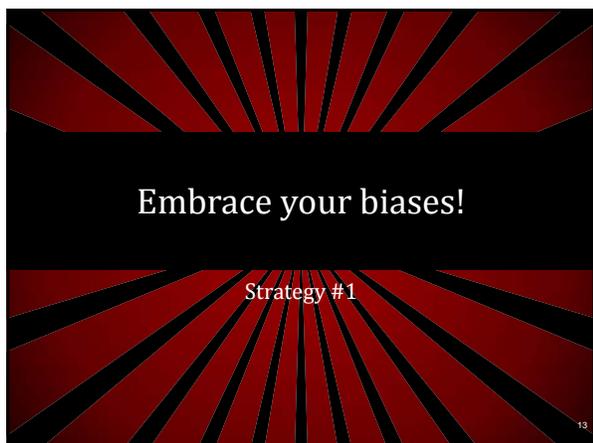
- ❖ You need to be more motivated to change.
- ❖ Treatment holds the promise of a “good life”.
- ❖ It is our job to point out your thinking errors; however, it is not acceptable for you to observe when we are using thinking errors.
- ❖ We expect you to demonstrate meaningful and consistent behavioral change within a highly controlled environment.
- ❖ You need to participate fully in treatment regimens that we professionals cannot agree on ourselves.

COGNITIVE RIGIDITY



AMBIGUENCE

- ❖ I want to work with you, and I don't want to sacrifice myself
- ❖ I want to change, and I want to be respected
- ❖ I want to be in treatment, and I don't want to be in a one-down position
- ❖ I want to look at myself, and I don't want to feel less of a man
- ❖ etc. etc. etc. etc. etc.



Embrace your biases!

Strategy #1

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SELF-ASSESSMENT BIAS

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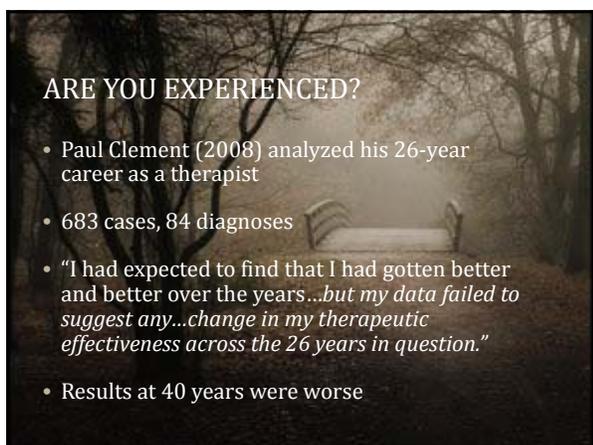
Walfish et al., 2012

- No differences in how clinicians rated their overall skill level and effectiveness levels between disciplines.
- On average, clinicians rated themselves at the 80th percentile
- Less than 4% considered themselves average
- No one rated themselves below average
- Only 8% rated themselves lower than the 75th percentile
- 25% rated their performance at the 90th% or higher compared to their peers



DIRTY LITTLE SECRETS

- ... from outcome studies
 - More difference between the best and the worst therapists **within** any treatment method, than there is **between** treatment methods
 - Some therapists are better than others
 - Hiatt & Hargrave (1995) asked therapists to estimate their effectiveness in a treatment study
 - The LEAST effective therapists rated themselves as being among the most helpful



ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?

- Paul Clement (2008) analyzed his 26-year career as a therapist
- 683 cases, 84 diagnoses
- "I had expected to find that I had gotten better and better over the years...but my data failed to suggest any...change in my therapeutic effectiveness across the 26 years in question."
- Results at 40 years were worse

PROFICIENCY VERSUS EXCELLENCE

- Proficiency in most fields can be obtained within 6 months
- The same goes for therapy
 - Most people are at their most effective 1 year after licensing/registration
 - Confidence improves throughout career
 - Competence does not
 - Particularly important consideration in risk assessment

ALLEGIANCE BIAS

- Professionals' allegiance to their models and techniques can be as important as the models and techniques they use.
- Placebo effects
- Example: good lives model versus relapse prevention

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ADVERSARIAL BIAS



- Boccaccini, Murrie, et al.
 - Scores on measures such as the PCL-R and Static-99r can vary in response to who is paying for the evaluation.
- "You gotta dance with the one that brung ya"

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OTHER CLASSIC BIASES

- Confirmation Bias
- Fundamental Attribution Error



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TAKING THIS A STEP FURTHER...

- Consider your biases regarding sex crimes and sex offenders in general.



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THIS MAY NOT BE TRUE...

- But consider the statement:
- *All judgment is a form of violence*
- Or at least it gets in our way of understanding our clients
- Clients who don't feel understood or respected are less likely to engage meaningfully

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TAKE-HOME SKILL

- Accept and embrace the fact that you have these biases.
- Then let them go...
- And get on to the work of connecting with your client
- You can always return to these biases later!

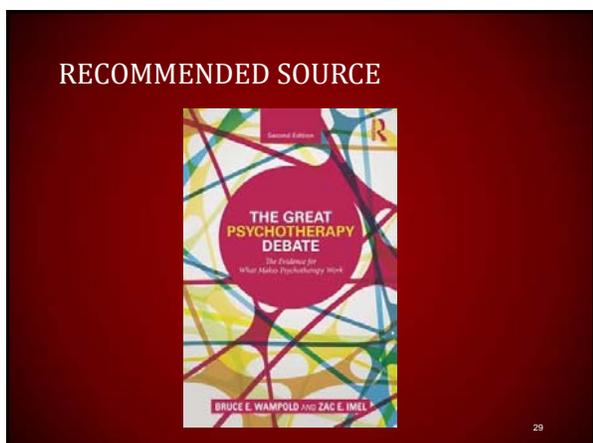
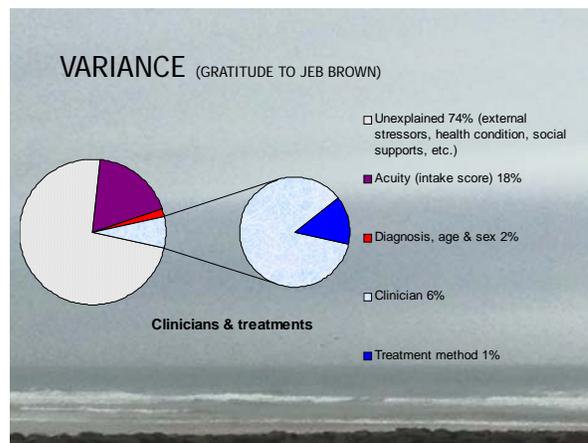
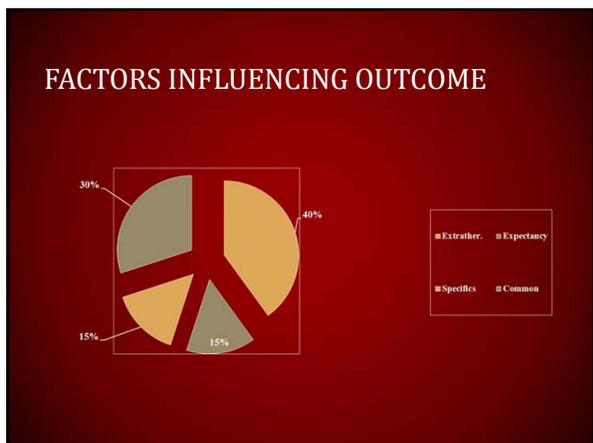
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GET GROUNDED IN THE THERAPEUTIC FACTORS OF TREATMENT

Strategy #2

THERAPEUTIC FACTORS

- AKA "Common Factors"
- Factors common to all bona fide therapies



IMPLICATIONS FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Study your population deeply
- Study each client deeply
- Expertise at engaging with clients involves moving from the micro to the macro as well as vice versa
- Use models and techniques in the service of developing yourself professionally.

USE APPROACH GOALS

Strategy #3

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GOALS



- Avoidance goals:
 - Associated with negative affect, psychological distress, impairment in psychological functioning, impairment of self-regulatory capacity in situations of stress
 - Require considerable cognitive resources to attain and maintain
- Approach goals:
 - Motivate individual to achieve desired states/outcomes
 - More easily attained than avoidance goals
 - Associated with positive affect, reduced cognitive load, less deterioration in self-regulatory ability, lower levels of psychological distress

- ### APPROACH/AVOIDANCE (FROM PRESCOTT/WILSON)
- I don't want any more victims.
 - I don't want to smoke anymore.
 - I don't want any more trouble with the law.
 - I don't want any more violence towards my partner.
 - I don't want to use drugs or alcohol to excess any more.
 - I don't want to gamble any more.
 - I have been ordered to stay away from the victim of my crime.
 - I don't want to be on probation.
 - I don't want to look stupid.
 - I want people to be able to trust me.
 - I want to be clean and sober.
 - I want to get my health back.
 - I want a respectful relationship with my partner.
 - I want to save money.
 - I want to complete all my obligations to the court.
 - I want to be good at my job or good in school.
 - I want to be able to keep myself calm.
 - I want activities in my life that I'm good at (like hobbies).

- ### FROM MY CASELOAD
- Mr. X will demonstrate to others that he has changed
 - Mr. X will become the person he wants to be
 - Mr. X will improve his relationships with others
 - Mr. X will work to prevent further allegations
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PREPARE MORE THAN YOU THINK YOU SHOULD

Strategy #4

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- ### SPECIFIC STEPS
1. Get into the mindset that you are creating new mindsets
 2. 10,000 foot rule
 3. Relax your body
 4. Lower your shoulders
 5. Slow your breathing
 6. Reject all distractions
 7. Spend 1st 20% of every interaction engaging
 8. It's hard to argue with a relaxed person
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PRACTICE SPECIFIC MOTIVATIONAL TECHNIQUES

Strategy #5

2013 PRACTITIONER'S DEFINITION

- Motivational interviewing is a person-centered counseling style for addressing the common problem of ambivalence about change.



2013 TECHNICAL DEFINITION

- Motivational interviewing is a collaborative, goal-oriented style of communication with particular attention to the language of change. It is designed to strengthen personal motivation for and commitment to a specific goal by eliciting and exploring the person's own reasons for change within an atmosphere of acceptance and compassion.

THE SPIRIT OF MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING

- Partnership
- Acceptance
- Compassion
- Evocation



FOUR PROCESSES

- Engaging
- Focusing
- Evoking
- Planning



THESE PROCESSES ARE...

- Somewhat linear
 - E.g., engagement comes first
- And also recursive
 - Engaging happens throughout MI
 - Focusing is not a one-time event;
 - Real treatment involves re-focusing
 - "testing the water" on planning helps

TALK



There is no such thing as “resistance”

There is discord and sustain talk

“I’m not gonna; you can’t make me”

CHANGE TALK

- Desire “I want to...”
- Ability “I can...”
- Reason “There are good reasons to...”
- Need “I need to”

RESPONDING TO CHANGE TALK

- *When you hear change talk, don’t just stand there!*
- Elaborate (tell me more)
- Affirm
- Reflect
- Summarize

GETTING MOVING: OARS

- Open questions
- Affirmations
- Reflections
- Summaries

REFLECTIVE LISTENING

- Simple Reflection
 - Exact words
 - Closely related words
- Complex Reflection
 - Continuing the paragraph
 - Reflecting emotion

USE ROUTINE OUTCOME MONITORING

Strategy #6

Outcome Rating Scale (ORS)

Looking back over the last week, including today, help us understand how you have been feeling by rating how well you have been doing in the following areas of your life, where marks to the left represent low levels and marks to the right indicate high levels. *If you are filling out this form for another person, please fill out according to how you think he or she is doing.*

Individually
(Personal well-being)

|-----|

Interpersonally
(Family, close relationships)

|-----|

Socially
(Work, school, friendships)

|-----|

Overall
(General sense of well-being)

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SESSION RATING SCALE (SRS V3.0)

PLEASE RATE TODAY'S SESSION BY PLACING A MARK ON THE LINE NEAREST TO THE DESCRIPTIONS THAT BEST FITS YOUR EXPERIENCE.

I did not feel heard, understood, and respected.	Relationship	I felt heard, understood, and respected.
-----		-----
We did not work on or talk about what I wanted to work on or talk about.	Goals and Topics	We worked on and talked about what I wanted to work on and talk about.
-----		-----
The therapist's approach is not a good fit for me.	Approach or Method	The therapist's approach is a good fit for me.
-----		-----
There was something missing in the session today.	Overall	Overall, today's session was right for me.
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SKILLS

- ❖ How could I make this problem worse?
- ❖ How does the behavior make sense?
- ❖ What are all the ways he/she feels two ways about his/her life?
- ❖ What are the positive goals for change?



TAKE-AWAY MESSAGES

- ❖ Creating new mindsets
- ❖ Go slow and listen long
- ❖ Spend 20% of session engaging
- ❖ Look for client confirmation
- ❖ Listen for ambivalence
- ❖ Dance with discord
- ❖ Respect the unexpected
- ❖ Be multi-modal and use your space
 - YOU are the most influential presence

