Intergenerational Transmission of Child Maltreatment: Nonoffending Caregivers

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Job Interview

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HB3xM93rXbY
References


Non-Offending Caregivers

- Mothers, Fathers, Step-parents, Grandparents, Aunts/Uncles, Foster Parents, Adoptive Parents, Siblings
- All socioeconomic status (rich and poor)
- All races, ethnicities, religions
- All levels of education and work ethic
Just Like You and Me
Review presentation handouts from previous speakers on May 5, 2014

- Historical Context

- Incidence versus Prevalence

- Relation to Other Forms of Maltreatment
Review presentation handouts from previous speakers on May 5, 2014

- Impaired Biopsychosocial Functioning
- Children More Likely Abused
- Factors that Lessen Traumatic Effects
Factors that Lessen Traumatic Effects

- Mother’s ability to support her child following disclosure
- Evaluations or treatment intervention as soon after the disclosure as possible
- CAC’s and MDT’s
Review presentation handouts from previous speakers on May 5, 2014

- Intergenerational Recidivism
- Impaired Biopsychosocial Functioning
Myths about Non-Offending Mothers

- Mothers’ Culpability
- Lack Support and Don’t Believe Child
- Poor Parenting Attitudes and Practices
Just Imagine

(you received a phone call that your child has disclosed abuse)
Common Reactions of Caregivers

- Denial
- Ambivalence
- Violence
- Self-Blame
- Shock
- Numbness
- Repulsion
- Anger
- Resentment
- Grief
- Helplessness
- Depression
- Guilt
- Loss
- Finances
- Shelter
Parental Reaction to Abuse Disclosure

- Belief in Child’s Report
- Emotional Support to Child
- Action Toward Perpetrator
- Use of Professional Services

Everson et al., 1989
NOC fall into a Continuum

As presented by Dr. Anna Salter with permission
How Do We
As Professionals
Perceive & Respond
to Children’s
Trauma?
Some trauma is more easily acknowledged:

- Natural Disasters
- Death of a Loved One
- Life Threatening Illness
Other trauma may not be as easily recognized:

- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect
- Witnessing Domestic Violence
STOP
C O L L A B O R A T E
& LISTEN
Manage Our Frustration

- Don’t Blame or Judge
- Crisis Mode – Stabilize Situation
- Normalize Feelings/Responses
- Respond in a Supportive Manner
- Acknowledge Possible Divided Loyalties

NCAC, 2002
Nonoffending Caregiver and Youth Experiences With Child Sexual Abuse Investigations

Jones et al. (2010). Journal of Interpersonal Violence
How Do Clients 
(Non-Offending Caregivers 
& Youth) 
Experience Us?

Jones & colleagues (2010)
Interdisciplinary cooperation

- Degree to which agencies/investigators communicated or worked with each other

- Multidisciplinary Teams improve overall communication so professionals aren’t working at cross purposes

- MDT/CACs improve client experiences
How Child Welfare SW & LE Collaborate to Investigate Child Abuse
Research Findings of Viola W. Lindsay, PhD, MSW

Coordination

Cooperation

Collaboration
Coordination

About achieving efficiency in procedures such as sharing information about rules under which each agency operates

Does not lend itself to communicating the reciprocal consequences of those procedures (Denise, 1999)
Cooperation

An interaction that is intended to contribute, directly or indirectly, to the effectiveness of each other’s work (Strimling, 2006)

Interactions across organizational boundaries are usually informal and lack rigid structure

Each agency functions separately and without consideration for the other’s goals; interactions are based on an as needed basis
People getting together in a room to talk to each other often misconceptualized as collaboration (Mizrahi, 1999)

Coordination & Cooperation as a continuum leading to Collaboration

Degree to which communication is formalized, frequent, and a willingness to exchange and share information for the purpose of meeting mutual goals (Horwath & Morrison, 2007)
Challenges in collaborating

- Inconsistent engagement practices
- Different standards
- Different languages
- Different investigative approaches
- Lack of understanding each others’ roles and responsibilities
- Different Timeframes
Different Standards

Standard of evidence

- Preponderance of evidence - social workers
- Clear and convincing evidence – law enforcement

From the perspective of law enforcement, there was no need to be involved with the family if there was no evidence a crime had occurred.

Social workers responsible for assessing children’s current circumstances as well as risk factors.
Different Languages

Sexual abuse/incest vs sexual assault; Physical abuse vs physical assault

Well-being
- Physical safety vs physical, emotional, social, educational safety

Perpetrator vs subject

CPS viewed sexual abuse as a family dysfunction requiring intervention strategies to restore the family unit and improve family functioning

Law enforcement Lessons learned from sexual abuse and physical abuse; physical assault or sexual assault detecting, preventing, and punishment of
long-term vs time

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How Do We (Professionals) View Each Other?
Theoretical Implications

Collaboration requires boundary spanning.

All organizations have boundaries that specify how internal and external roles and functions are related but also separated from one another (Fiol, 1989).

- Boundary spanning positions link two or more systems whose goals and expectations are likely to be at least partially conflicting (Steadman, 1992).
- Boundary spanners perform a balancing act between inclusion and separation, dependence, and autonomy (Williams, 2002).

Child abuse—a crime (law enforcement) as well as a family dysfunction (social work intervention).
Can Lawyers and Social Workers Speak the Same Language?

Ideally, the goal is to increase the social and justice outcomes for the diverse populations we serve by integrating the knowledge, values, and skills of social work, policy practice, and the law/judicial system through collaboration.
How to Support Non-Offending Caregivers

- Treat them with Respect
- Communicate Effectively
- Validate their Reality
- Advocate for them
- Empower them
- Educate them about the process
Support Con’t

- Cultural Considerations
- Help them know their options
- Help them Identify Support Systems
- Tell ways to safeguard their child’s future
- Work Collaboratively with Them & Other Professionals
The Cathedral Within
Transforming Your Life by Giving Something Back
By
Bill Shore
(2001)
Interdisciplinary Collaboration is IMPORTANT:

- **Before** by training together and utilizing MDT

- From the **beginning** of the investigation [forensic interviewing] – to the **middle** [treatment services] – to the **end** – [testifying in court] – essentially **TROUGHOUT** the entire case!

- How clients experience trauma depends on how well we work together.

- View Caregivers and Children as part of TEAM
APSAC is committed to:

- Connecting professionals across disciplines to promote best response.
- Providing professional education that promotes an effective, culturally sensitive, and interdisciplinary approach to identification, intervention, treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect.
- Ensuring that American’s public policy concerning child maltreatment is well informed and constructive.
- Promoting research and guidelines to inform best practice.
Interviewing Victims and Suspected Victims Who Are Reluctant to Talk

Michael E. Ludlow, PhD, and Melissa M. Lynne, JD, PhD

In the past, we have had the opportunity to speak at conferences and workshops about the importance of interviewing victims and suspected victims of abuse. We have found that it is crucial to be prepared and to have a clear understanding of the legal implications of the interviews. It is also important to be aware of the role of the interviewer in the process.

The first step in interviewing a victim is to obtain an informed consent. This is a legal document that outlines the rights and obligations of the interviewer and the victim. It is important to ensure that the victim understands the nature of the interview and the potential consequences of their participation.

Once the consent is obtained, the interviewer should begin the interview by asking open-ended questions about the victim's experience. This will allow the victim to describe their experience in detail and provide as much information as possible. It is important to be attentive and to listen carefully to what the victim is saying.

After the initial questions, the interviewer should move on to more specific questions about the abuse. This will help to establish a timeline and provide a clear understanding of the events that occurred. It is important to be sensitive and to avoid asking questions that might cause the victim discomfort or pain.

Finally, the interviewer should conclude the interview by summarizing the information that was obtained and discussing the next steps in the process. This will help to ensure that the victim feels supported and that they understand their options.

In conclusion, interviewing victims and suspected victims of abuse is a complex and challenging process. It is important to be prepared and to have a clear understanding of the legal and ethical implications of the interviews. By following these guidelines, the interviewer can help to provide the victim with the support they need.

Lesson #1: The Importance of the Interviewer

The interviewer is a crucial component of the interview process. It is important to be knowledgeable and experienced in dealing with abuse victims. The interviewer should be aware of the legal and ethical implications of the interviews and should be able to provide clear and accurate information.

Lesson #2: The Importance of the Victim

The victim is the central figure in the interview process. It is important to be sensitive and to provide the victim with the support they need. The victim should feel comfortable and safe during the interview.

Lesson #3: The Importance of the Legal Implications

The legal implications of the interviews are significant. It is important to be aware of the legal obligations of the interviewer and to ensure that the victim's rights are protected.

Lesson #4: The Importance of the Documentation

The documentation of the interview is important. It is important to be thorough and to provide a clear and accurate record of the events that occurred.

Lesson #5: The Importance of the Follow-up

The follow-up is important. It is important to provide the victim with the support they need and to ensure that they are comfortable and safe.

Lesson #6: The Importance of the Interviewer's Role

The interviewer's role is crucial. It is important to be knowledgeable and experienced in dealing with abuse victims. The interviewer should be aware of the legal and ethical implications of the interviews and should be able to provide clear and accurate information.
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"Fostering professional excellence in the field of child maltreatment by providing interdisciplinary education"
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