

Interventions for Developmentally Delayed Adults with Sexual Offending Behaviors: Creating Pathways for Healthy Sexual Thinking and Behaviors

Alan Stillman, LCSW

Track: Sex Offender

Level: Introductory/Intermediate

Room: TBD

CE: CPA/BBS/BRN (1.5)

Narrative

Developmentally Delayed Adults (DDA) with severe behavior issues and co-occurring disorders are being transitioned from institutions to community homes. Many of the severe behaviors include sexual inappropriateness and sexual offending resulting in legal system referrals and determinations. However, the very idea of moving toward the topic of Healthy Sexuality, DDA is fraught with obstacles; court decisions, inconsistent or non-existent sexual offending treatment designed for DDA, preconceived ideas about sexuality and DDA and their ability to change and a reluctance from the various systems (Treatment and Legal) to move toward defining options for 'Sexual Health for DDA. This workshop will challenge some of the existing thinking and stereotypes, provide new program designs that have specific interventions for interdisciplinary teams of professionals to utilize in addressing sexual thinking and behaviors. The forensic related issues of Risk Assessments, court options for sentencing, professional testimony, working relationships among the court and treatment and consumer stakeholders will be reviewed and suggestions made for improving communication and understanding. A discussion with workshop attendees will address the topic of how defining the differences among sexually legal behaviors, offending/illegal sexual behaviors and healthy and unhealthy sexual behaviors. DDA consumers with long histories of institutionalization also experience a totally different 'Normal Sexual Experience' from non-Institutionalized individuals; this will be explored for the impact it has on DDA development and thinking. The presentation will augment discussions with handouts and will highlight the current research (very limited) and growing base of reference material in articles, etc. The presentation will challenge thinking about DDAs and what we can do to change our expectations which will challenge consumers in changing their expectations. This can lead to changes in the manner and content of questions ask consumers and support Person Centered Planning (PCP) at new levels. The topic of 'Criminal Thinking' and how it impacts DDAs in different ways will be reviewed. We have reached the time for discussions among the treatment and legal systems regarding severe behavior issues, especially sexual behaviors, and ways to intervene for positive, healthy, legal, safe outcomes for the consumer and community.

Bio

Alan Stillman, LCSW

Alan has been involved in the Forensic (Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Developmental Disabilities and Dual Diagnosed Clients) field for over 50 years. He has extensive experience in program development, management, direct treatment, supervision, training, and consultation. He is an LCSW (licensed therapist), a Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider (California Sex Offender Management Board), a Certified Criminal Justice Specialist, and Master Social Worker for Addictions Counseling (National Association of Forensic Counselors) and holds certifications in Criminal Justice. He has provided trainings for local, state and national

conferences. He has provided trainings for local agencies like the San Diego Regional Center (Developmental Disabilities) in identifying and developing programming for sexual related behaviors and presented at the California Public Defenders Association and CA District Attorneys Association. He is also an approved provider for treatment for CA Regional Centers. During his time in the Philadelphia area, Alan developed outpatient programs for Developmentally Delayed clients, including individual, group and family modalities with the use of specially designed workbooks. Alan continues to provide direct treatment and training for staff of DD programs with special attention to forensic areas.

Alan was the Executive Director of CACONREP for 8.5 years—this is a state-wide program responsible for the supervision and treatment of Court ordered Sexually Violent Predators returned to their communities throughout California. Alan is considered an expert witness regarding sexual offending and community placement.

Alan is now the Executive Director of a new state-wide program called ‘Intensive Individualized Transitional Services’ (IITS) whose mission is to support the transition of Developmentally Delayed clients at Porterville Developmental Center in CA to their respective communities. This consumer population is currently in a secure section of PDC and they struggle with severe behavior problems and co-occurring disorders (mental Health, Substance Abuse, Physical limitations, etc.) further complicated with forensic (Court) involvement. IITS assess’ consumers who are ready for community transition and will provide any needed services not available in their community. This is a unique and highly mobile program providing services where the consumer is located.

Learning Objectives

1. Explain how preconceived thinking by professional can impact understanding of DDAs in the system.
2. Discuss how “Normal” sexual experiences for DDAs, is different from “Normal” for others.
3. Create a plan for interventions to decrease inappropriate sexual behaviors and replace them with what.
4. Compare a court’s reaction to a DDA charged with a sexual offense to a non-DDA individual charged with same offense.
5. Discuss why some believe change in sexual thinking/behaviors for DDAs is possible.
6. List the key elements in developing a team approach for working with DDAs among the criminal justice and treatment staffs.
7. Critique the skills needed in professionals working with DDAs

Discuss if ‘Sexual Healthy Options’ is a sound basis for working/educating with DDAs