

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Wednesday November 6 | 8:30 AM – 12:00 PM

A-12

Hopeless Cases: Principles and Strategies for Working with Intractable Cases

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When a client gets “stuck” in treatment and none of the conventional treatment approaches seem to help, what can a treatment provider do? “Hopeless cases” are defined as those individuals who have been exposed to all appropriate, generally effective treatments for a sufficient duration without benefit. Shifting the treatment paradigm is easier said than done. This symposium will discuss elements in the structure of the treatment process and guiding principles for shifting the treatment paradigm. Case examples will illustrate how these principles can be used to develop innovative approaches to treatment refractory individuals.

Learning Goals:

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to provide a definition of “Hopeless cases” in clinical work.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to describe the difference between the traditionalist and systems view.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to describe how treatment systems become stuck, creating “hopeless cases”.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to describe the significance of the logic type within the treatment system.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to describe the role of meta-communication in shifting the treatment paradigm.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to describe the importance of using objective measures to assess change.

Michael F. Caldwell, PsyD is a Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, and a Senior Staff Psychologist and co-developer of the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center. He serves as Past President of the Wisconsin Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. Dr. Caldwell has conducted research into risk assessment methods and the effectiveness of treatment interventions. He worked as a psychotherapist for 35 years, specializing in treatment refractory patients. He is a Co-Investigator with the MIND Research Network, and has served as a consultant to the MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Juvenile Justice, and the National Academy of Sciences Sackler International Scientific Forum on Neuroscience and the Law, Sandra Day O’Connor School

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of Law at Arizona State University, the Boyd School of Law at the University of Nevada – Las Vegas, the Mitchell Hamlin School of Law in St. Paul, among many others.