

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Friday November 8 | 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

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Addressing Sibling Sexual Abuse

Let's Talk About It - A Joint Therapy Approach to Addressing Sibling Sexual Abuse

Linda Valenta, MSW

SAIFF – Support, Assessment & Intervention For Families

For decades our approach to addressing sibling sexual abuse has focused on an individual approach to treatment, with the child who has abused and the sibling victim being involved in separate treatment processes. Attempts at reconciliation generally occurred late in treatment (if at all) and often focused on the preparation and delivery of an apology letter and recommencement of social contact.

Clinical observation suggests that such an approach may contribute to further disengagement in the sibling relationship, increased distress for the victim, the sibling who abused and the family unit, and inhibit communication about the abuse.

This presentation will explore an alternative framework for intervening in sibling sexual abuse which focuses on promoting accountability, communication, and reparation through joint therapy intervention involving both the sibling who has abused and the sibling victim. By introducing therapeutic contact early in the treatment process and continuing this throughout treatment, the goal is to minimize the impact of the sexual abuse and promote healthy and safe sibling relationships.

Three stages of therapeutic contact will be explored: (1) Naming the problem (acknowledgements) (2) Learning about the problem (clarification) and (3) Being healthy and safe (consolidation)

Case examples and client material will be used to illustrate how siblings can communicate and explore their thoughts and feelings about the abuse, identify family and sibling relationship dynamics that are problematic and healthy, and discuss issues of safety.

Learning Goals:

At the conclusion of the presentation participants will be able to:

- Describe a rationale for addressing sexual abuse within the sibling relationship
- Assess readiness for the commencement of conjoint sibling intervention

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- Facilitate discussion of the sexual abuse, family dynamics and safety between siblings.

Linda Valenta is a Social Worker (Masters in Couple and Family Therapy) has worked for two and half decades with children and families to help stop problematic and abusive sexual behaviour, help children create relationships that are supportive, safe and abuse-free, and minimize the harm to children and families that results from these behaviours. As one of the longest standing professionals in the field in Australia, Linda has worked in a variety of settings including community and residential juvenile justice systems, community based (non secure) residential treatment, and currently as the Principal of SAIFF – Support, Assessment & Intervention For Families, a community based, private assessment and treatment service. SAIFF provides contracted assessment, treatment and consultative services to Government and Non-Government Agencies across Australia, and provides consultation and training on sexual abuse prevention and intervention to Agencies and professionals from within the Child Protection, Education, Sexual Assault, Juvenile Justice, Out of Home Care and Mental Health Sectors.

Clarifying the Clarification Process

Amanda L. Pryor, MSW, LCSW, CSAYC
IN-AJSOP

The paper will address best practices of clarification and reunification with youth and families who experience problematic sexual behaviors. The paper will help participants understand the clinical need for safety planning interventions with adolescents and sexual behaviors in addition to planning for clarification and reunification.

Amanda Pryor, MSW, LCSW, CSAYC is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with over fifteen years of experience. She is a graduate of Indiana University School of Social Work and obtained an undergraduate degree from Indiana State University Social Work Program. Her experiences include risk assessments, outpatient, and residential treatment. Her specialty is working with adolescent sexually maladaptive behavior. She is the Director and is credentialed with IN-AJSOP, Indiana's Initiative to Advance the Treatment of Sexually Maladaptive Youth. She provides training for clinicians in the process of obtaining credentialing through IN-AJSOP. Currently, as the director of IN-AJSOP she provides credentialing services for professionals in field of sexual maladaptive behaviors.

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Learning Goals:

- Participants will learn to identify components necessary for clarification process.
- Participants will learn the best practices for clarification and reunification for sibling sets.
- Participants will be learn how to safely work towards clarification in regards to problematic sexual behaviors.