

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Wednesday November 6 | 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

P-25

Treatment of Sexually Abusive Youth with Consideration of Developmental Trauma and Pornography Consumption

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Youth who have experienced developmental trauma are over-represented in the cohort who engage in sexually abusive behavior. They can also be difficult to connect with and engage in treatment, particularly in relationally-based work. Other factors such as the use of pornography can be an additional factor to the trauma dynamic. This session considers the impact of developmental trauma and pornography consumption on sexually abusive youth and sexual abuse situations. A comprehensive overview of these issues, as well as treatment strategies regarding these issues will be presented through interactive demonstration and discussion. A 'sanctuary-based' model of trauma treatment - working through the 'trauma-centric lens' - and using teachable moments is presented.

Learning Goals:

Attendees will

- Be introduced to a child-developmentally-appropriate treatment paradigm for sexually abusive behavior treatment work, which also pays appropriate attention to the criminogenic principals of R(isk), N(eeds), R(esponsivity).
- Gain understanding of both the impacts of developmental trauma and pornography on sexually abusive adolescents.
- Be provided with a comprehensive understanding of how developmental trauma may 'skew' a youth's ability to manage their internal emotion world and how this may contribute to engaging in sexually abusive behavior. Consideration of Pornography and its impacts (contribution?) will also be discussed and treatment strategies provided.
- Gain skills- through direct demonstration and interactive learning techniques - in working with youth to increase their emotional awareness, as well as management of emotional states, and why this is important in treatment of youth who engage in sexually abusive behaviors,
- Gain skills in formulating treatment goals and matching these treatment goals to therapeutic practice – in other words – what to do for what issues; both the 'why' and the 'how'.
- Be engaged throughout the presentation to consider and discuss case examples and situations designed specifically to ensure their theoretical and practice knowledge is up-to-date.

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Dr. Russ Pratt is the Director of Prime Forensic Psychology. Prior to May 2017, he was the Statewide Principal Practitioner with the Office of Professional Practice in the Department of Health and Human Services in Melbourne, Australia, where he commenced in 2010. He also worked at Monash Health Sexual Assault (SECASA) for over 12 years, including being the manager and senior clinician of the *AWARE* treatment program for youth exhibiting sexually abusive behaviors. A Counselling and Forensic Psychologist, Russ has 20-plus years of experience working with sexual assault, trauma, attachment, family systems and child protection issues. He has worked with sexually abusive youth, adult sex offenders, and victims and survivors of sexual assault. He was a recipient of a Creswick Fellowship in 2007 which enabled him to investigate best practice adolescent programs in the USA, the UK and Europe. He is a past chairman of the Victorian Offender Treatment Association (VOTA), a current board member of ANZATSA, a member of the NSW Children's Guardian's Expert Advisory Panel, and a past Board Member of the Victorian Therapeutic Treatment Board (a ministerial appointment). In 2014, Russ was appointed a Board Member of the National Adolescent Perpetrator Network (NAPN) based in Denver USA, by Gail Ryan. In October 2015, Russ was elected in the first lot of Fellows of ATSA. Russ regularly writes and presents both nationally and internationally regarding youth exhibiting sexually abusive behaviors, the impacts of pornography on sexual practice, particularly for youth and with those adolescents who sexually harm others, and trauma, attachment and brain development issues. In 2019, Russ is presenting preconference seminars in Oregon, Massachusetts (MASOC) and selected Australian conferences.