

SHAPING THE FUTURE

2019 ATSA Conference | Thursday November 7 | 3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

T-38

Treating High-Risk Clients; Meeting Them Where They Are

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High-risk offenders cause the greatest harm in society, so prioritizing their treatment needs directly impacts community safety. High-risk offenders as a sub-group require specific interventions tailored to their explicit risk-need-responsivity (RNR) profile. Their criminogenic needs are unique and complex and are generally not addressed in more conventional treatment curricula.

This workshop presentation will first survey the research applicable to clients who are highly criminal and have traits of psychopathy. We will then present practical and innovative applications of this research to the treatment of these clients. The workshop will show how treatment can address the emotional, characterological, language, interpersonal, and behavioral deficits of high-risk clients—that is, their responsivity issues. We will also describe the ideal motivation, teaching style, and personal attributes of providers who work with high-risk clients.

The workshop will include case studies to promote audience participation and discussions with a goal of facilitating case formulation and skill development.

Learning Goals:

- Identify research relevant to high-risk clients and explain how it informs treatment.
- Identify how a treatment program could incorporate RNR principles specific to high-risk clients.
- Recognize the personal skills and clinical approach most suited for work with high-risk clients.

Jane L. Ward, PhD is the owner and clinical director of Oregon Center for Change, an outpatient agency that specializes in the treatment of adult men who have committed sexual offenses and nonoffending MAPs. She has worked with sexual offenders since 2005 in civil commitment and private settings. Dr. Ward has presented at numerous statewide and national conferences on ethics and treatment of high-risk offenders; she has presented workshops to probation/parole officers on sexual interest and arousal assessments.

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Diana Groener, a Licensed Professional Counselor, has worked with violent offenders of various types in outpatient settings since 1997. She has extensive experience working with domestic violence and sexual violence offenders and with criminally-oriented and psychopathic offenders. She has presented at the state and national level on a variety of topics, such as vicarious trauma, high-risk offender treatment, Internet access for offenders, and on topics specific to domestic violence offenders.