

SHAPING THE FUTURE

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

T-47

Assessing and Treating More Generally Delinquent Sexually Abusive Adolescents

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Historically, assessing and treating adolescents who have engaged in sexually abusive behavior focused on a narrow sex offense specific framework. As the field has evolved, research has informed that recidivism rates for sexually abusive youth are higher for non-sexual delinquency than sexual reoffense. Additionally, typology research has delineated subtypes of adolescents whose sexual offending is part of a broader range of non-sexual delinquency. This subtype has been described as “sex plus” and “generalists” in the typology research synthesized in two publications authored by this social worker in 2017.

The evidence for the diverse developmental pathways and offense patterns associated with juvenile sexual offending along with the higher rates of non-sexual recidivism, calls for a more holistic and integrated treatment plan targeting both sexual and non-sexual conduct problems, as well as other influential factors.

This workshop will focus on the more generally delinquent subtype of sexually offending youth and provide information for clinical intervention by identifying key constructs for assessment, possible etiological factors, and unique risk and needs that should be targeted in treatment. In addition to relevant research associated with juvenile sexual offending, the general delinquency literature will be referenced to discuss sociocultural factors associated with delinquency, juveniles with callous and unemotional traits, gang involved youth, and juveniles manifesting aggression secondary to having experienced complex trauma. Best Practices for treatment will be presented in an integrated manner in the context of a risk reduction/health promotion framework. Evidence based interventions discussed will include the ecological framework, cognitive-behavioral skills based, trauma-informed care, and Aggression Replacement Training. Case examples will be provided and workshop attendees will be encouraged to apply the information to their own cases.

Learning Goals

Workshop attendees will:

- Goal: Increase understanding of the rationale for addressing non-sexual delinquency and conduct problems with juveniles who have committed sexual offenses
 - Objective: Articulate specifically how recidivism, risk assessment, and typology research delineates a delinquent lifestyle subtype of sexually abusive youth

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- Goal: Increase understanding of the key constructs for assessment and dynamic risk factors that are more likely to be associated with the generally delinquent subtype of sexually abusive youth
 - Objective: Identify three of Edward Latessa’s dynamic risk factors associated with juvenile delinquency
- Goal: Increase understanding of evidence based treatment for juvenile delinquents
 - Objective: Identify and define the three major components of Aggression Replacement Training

Tom Lerversee, LCSW, worked for 34 years in clinical and administrative positions in the Colorado Division of Youth Corrections (DYC). He currently has a private practice focused on consultation, training, and clinical services. Tom is also an adjunct professor at the University of Denver Graduate School of Social Work. His numerous publications include co-editing/authoring *Juvenile Sexual Offending: Causes, Consequences, and Corrections, 3rd edition*, with Gail Ryan and Sandy Lane. Tom is a former member of the board of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) and is also an ATSA Fellow. He is co-chair of the National Adolescent Perpetration Network and also a member of the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board. Tom was presented with the National Adolescent Perpetration Network’s “Pioneer Award” in 2005 for his “21 years of unique contributions to prevent perpetration of sexual abuse” and the 2010 Gary Burgin Leadership Award by the Colorado Sex Offender Management Board.