

BLENDING VOICES. STRENGTHENING LIVES.

2020 ATSA Conference | Friday October 23 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

FR-AM-02

Challenges in Collaboration to Facilitate Treatment in Cases of Youth Who Have Sexually Offended

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Collaboration to facilitate treatment in cases of youth who have sexually offended is critical to the success of the youth in the therapeutic process. The various multidisciplinary team members involved in such cases need to be able to communicate with each other and work together to insure that everyone who needs intervention services receives such services. Finding resources alone is a complex task, in addition to managing the different perspectives of the team members who are working with the juvenile himself/herself, the victim, and caregivers, as well as other extended family members. The team often includes, at a minimum, therapists, probation officers, caseworkers, case managers, law enforcement officers, and attorneys. Barriers seem even more overwhelming to overcome in cases where the youth who has offended and his/her victim(s) are members of the same family. It is oftentimes particularly difficult to persuade families to have the victim(s) in therapy when there is no Court involvement and no formal requirements for victims to receive their own follow-up. Additional barriers may be rendered by the families themselves, who have their own attitudes and perspectives of what needs to be happening in the case. Many caregivers, who should be involved in every element of treatment, often have past trauma of their own to manage, such that a trauma-informed approach to case management is often imperative for successful case outcomes.

This presentation will explore the challenges of successful collaboration, particularly from the perspectives of a juvenile probation officer and mental health clinicians who work with youth who have committed illegal sexual behavior, victims, and caregivers. Case examples, including at least one case of an adolescent female who has offended sexually, will be utilized to illustrate the challenges of successfully blending voices of the professionals and family members involved in these cases to strengthen lives of the youth who has offended, his/her victim(s), caregivers, and other members of the family.

This workshop is rated: Youth | Intermediate | Clinical

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Learning Goals

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify the critical importance of collaboration between professionals and family members when working with cases in which youth have sexually offended.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to identify some of the barriers, challenges, and possible strategies in working to coordinate therapeutic interventions for all members of the family in which a youth has offended, particularly when the victim(s) is/are part of the same family.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to understand the importance of a trauma-informed approach to case management in families in which a youth has sexually offended.

Janice K. Church, PhD is a Psychologist and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Medicine. She is the Assistant Director of the Family Treatment Program and Adolescent Sexual Adjustment Project at Arkansas Children's Hospital. Dr. Church received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Louisville. She has conducted numerous workshops on child maltreatment issues at the state, national, and international levels. She is active in state and national professional organizations, particularly those with a focus on child abuse. She is a national trainer for Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy and is the current President of Arkansas ATSA.

Adrian Sanders, BA is a juvenile probation officer and Sexual Abuse Management Team Coordinator for the 6th Judicial District serving Pulaski and Perry Counties, Arkansas. He earned his B.A. degree in criminal justice from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Having served the juvenile court system previously as a Families in Need of Services (FINS) case manager, he now coordinates a team comprised of members of agencies likely to have direct contact with individuals involved in an incident of juvenile sexual offending. The team meets monthly to review adjudicated cases of sexual offending to assure that parties are receiving appropriate services in a timely manner. Ms. Sanders also carries a caseload of his own clients who have sexually offended.

Karen Boyd Worley, PhD is a Clinical Psychologist. She received her doctoral training at Texas Tech University. She is a Professor of Pediatrics for the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences at Arkansas Children's Hospital. Dr. Worley is the Director of the Family Treatment Program, which provides treatment for families in which there has been sexual abuse. She is also the Director of the Adolescent Sexual Adjustment Project, which provides outpatient assessment and treatment for adolescents who have committed illegal sexual behaviors. Dr. Worley is active on a number of state boards addressing child abuse issues, provides statewide training and consultation, and has several publications on child maltreatment.