

BLENDING VOICES. STRENGTHENING LIVES.

2020 ATSA Conference | Thursday October 22 | 10:15 AM – 11:45 AM

TH-AM-02

Assessing Intervention Needs and Progress in Adolescents and Young Adults: The Youth Needs and Progress Scale

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Effective interventions when youth have been sexually abusive require high quality assessments. Initial and repeated risk and needs assessment are necessary for identifying appropriate treatment targets, intervention intensity, and service delivery and resolving treatment needs.

This workshop will review the development and implementation of a new evidence-informed Youth Needs and Progress Scale (YNPS) (formerly the Treatment Needs and Progress Scale). We will discuss the rationale and evidence-base for the dynamic risk, protective, and treatment responsivity factors included in the YNPS, item ratings how findings may guide clinical decision-making, case planning, and treatment interventions, as well as implementation challenges and successful strategies.

This workshop is rated: Youth | General | Clinical

Learning Goals

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to increase awareness of the importance of developmentally appropriate assessment measures for identifying relevant intervention targets, creating and delivering appropriate case plans, and evaluating client progress, or the lack thereof.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to increase knowledge of risk, protective, and intervention "responsivity" factors associated with effective interventions for youth who have been sexually abusive.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to appreciate some of the challenges involved in developing, implementing, and evaluating a new needs and progress assessment scale, and possible ways to address and overcome obstacles.

Dr. Sue Righthand is a psychologist with a Master's degree in Criminal Justice and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. She has extensive experience working with children with problematic sexual behavior, adolescents and adults who have sexually offended, as well as individuals who have experienced or perpetrated child maltreatment and other forms of violence. She is affiliated with the University of Maine where she is an Associate Research Professor. Currently, Dr. Righthand is the Co-PI for the Office of Sex Offender Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking

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(SMART) Office's FY 16 *Assessing, Treating, and Managing Juveniles with Illegal Sexual Behavior: The Juvenile Treatment Progress Scale Development and Implementation Project*. She is a consultant to the National Center for Sexual Behavior in Youth and the Maine Department of Human Services. Dr. Righthand provides training, consultation, and program evaluation throughout the country. She co-authored the *Juvenile Sex Offender Assessment Protocol II* and related research. Her recent collaborations include *Effective Intervention with Adolescents Who Have Offended Sexually: Translating Research into Practice* and *The Safer Society Handbook of Assessment and Treatment of Adolescents who have Sexually Offended*.

Melissa Jankowski is a 6th year graduate student in the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program at the University of Maine. She has conducted many evaluations with youth who have demonstrated problematic sexual behavior and has completed court ordered evaluations of adults who have offended sexually. Her research, which is funded by a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, focuses on risk in resilience factors for psychopathology, problematic behavior, and health-risk behaviors in youth. Her dissertation work focuses on how self-criticism impacts the benefits and barriers to self-harm in adolescents and she has published on the effects of social-cognitive risk factors for suicide in older adolescents. In addition to her work with Dr. Righthand on the Youth Needs and Progress Scale, Melissa recently co-authored a chapter on the assessment of social skills in children and adolescents in the book *Social skills across the lifespan: Theory, assessment, and intervention*.

Tamara Hart, MA has over 23 years' experience working with the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice (KYDJJ) where she is currently an Executive Advisor for Treatment and Programming. She provides coordination of evidence based services and fidelity monitoring for the agency. Since 2010, Ms. Hart has conducted annual treatment provider certification training to KYDJJ and partnering agency clinicians who work with adolescents who have committed sexual offenses. During her tenure with DJJ, Ms. Hart has served as treatment director at the KYDJJ Reception and Assessment Center and a residential treatment center for youth with sexual behavior problems. She also worked for nine years with the KYDJJ community mental health branch conducting court ordered forensic psychosexual assessments and providing sexual offense-specific treatment to adolescents. Her formal background is in clinical psychology. Ms. Hart worked with Drs. Sue Righthand, Robert Prentky and Tamara Kang in the piloting of and data collection for the Treatment Needs and Progress Scale, the precursor to the Youth Needs and Progress Scale.