

BLENDING VOICES. STRENGTHENING LIVES.

2020 ATSA Conference | Friday October 23 | 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

TH-PM-04

Ethical and Clinical Issues in Treating Non-Justice-Involved People with Pedophilia and/or Hebephilia

Ainslie Heasman, PhD

Sarah Moss, MSc, MSc

Centre for Addiction & Mental Health

A focus on child sexual abuse as a preventable public health problem has been discussed by many authors in recent years (McPhail, Stephens, & Heasman, 2018; Van Horn et al., 2015; Kenny & Wurtele, 2012). Treatment of non-justice-involved individuals with a sexual interest in pre-pubescent or pubescent children is getting increased attention in the field as a necessary approach in the prevention of child sexual abuse. To date, much of the focus of treatment for individuals with pedophilic and/or hebephilic interest has occurred after one or more offences has been committed, and consequently after the experience of victimization. Often times, once a client is involved in the criminal justice system, relevant child protection reports have been made and associated interventions have been put in place. More recently, there has been a shift towards targeting prevention strategies by focusing on individuals with pedophilia and/or hebephilia living in the community (e.g., Assini-Meytin et al., 2019). Through these efforts, research has emerged highlighting differences between individuals with pedophilia and/or hebephilia who have and have not committed sexual offences (e.g., Jahnke et al., 2019; Shuler et al., 2019) as a strategy for further identifying risk factors related to child sexual abuse perpetration. Further, support for targeting non-justice involved individuals stems from recognizing that many sexual offences go undetected (e.g., Asahina, 2010), with the important caveat that many individuals with pedophilia and/or hebephilia do not commit sexual offences against children and do not report experiencing difficulty managing this interest (e.g., Bailey et al., 2016; Cacciatori, 2017; Goode, 2010; Grady et al., 2018; Houtepen et al., 2016). Despite this, some individuals have sought out mental health services (e.g., Beier et al., 2009; Lasher & Stinson, 2017) – whether for unaddressed mental health needs (e.g., Cantor & McPhail, 2016), stigma-related stress (Jahnke & Hoyer, 2013), or to refrain from childhood sexual abuse perpetration (Beier et al., 2009, 2015, 2016). With the increased attention and opportunities for non-justice-involved individuals to access therapy comes an increased likelihood for child protection concerns to be raised. This can leave the clinician facing legislative requirements that may require a child protection report, which can in turn produce ethical dilemmas.

This workshop will review the available literature on non-justice involved individuals with pedophilia and/or hebephilia, in terms of their treatment needs and barriers to accessing services, including stigma by clinicians. This will be discussed in light of known sexual risk factors for child sexual abuse and sexual recidivism as relevant treatment targets. Recent research examining strategies for engaging this population in treatment, as well as training opportunities, will also be addressed. Mandatory reporting legislation in Canada, the United States and various other countries will be reviewed and discussed. The Canadian Psychological Association Code of Ethics (Canadian Psychological Association, 2017) and the American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct (American Psychological Association, 2017) will be reviewed in the context of identifying and addressing ethical dilemmas that arise in a clinical setting when working with this population. The opportunities, challenges and risks to the client,

BLENDING VOICES. STRENGTHENING LIVES.

2020 ATSA Conference | Friday October 23 | 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM

the clinician, and the therapeutic relationship will be explored with respect to making (or not making) a mandatory report. This discussion will also include considerations regarding whether provision of treatment to this population is a moral duty (Levin, 2019).

Participants will have the opportunity to explore several case examples of non-justice involved people with pedophilia and/or hebephilia seeking therapy. We will explore the risk and protective factors identified in the vignettes and use the various codes of ethics and legislative requirements to engage in a discussion on decision-making with regards to reporting.

The workshop will conclude with practical recommendations for clinical work with this client population (in light of the possible ethical dilemmas) and how this intersects with the various legislative requirements and evidence-based considerations.

This workshop is rated: Adult | Intermediate | Clinical & Research

Learning Goals

- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to summarize the ethical challenges associated with working with non-justice involved individuals with pedophilia and/or hebephilia.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be better able to evaluate the need for mandatory reporting based on case vignettes.
- Upon completion of this educational activity, learners should be able to identify ways to address the ethical, clinical and legal issues in working with non-justice involved individuals with pedophilia and/or hebephilia.

Dr. Ainslie Heasman, PhD, C.Psych is a Clinical and Forensic Psychologist who is currently employed at the Sexual Behaviours Clinic at the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto, Ontario, as well as in private practice. Her graduate school training in the United States afforded her the opportunity to work in a civil commitment setting and a state forensic hospital. Dr. Heasman also previously worked in provincial corrections at the Ontario Correctional Institute. She currently engages in risk assessment for sexual violence as well as group and individual therapy for sexual offending and paraphilic interests for mandated and non-mandated clients. Her research and clinical interests involve non-justice involved individuals with a sexual interest in children. Dr. Heasman has presented nationally and internationally on these topics. She is currently the Treasurer on the Board of Directors of the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (ATSA) and an Associate Graduate Faculty member in the MSc and PhD Forensic Psychology programs at Ontario Tech University.

Sarah Moss, MSc, MSc is a graduate student in the Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology Program at the University of Guelph. Her research interests include understanding sexual offending trajectories for individuals who are at-risk of becoming or remaining involved in the criminal justice system in order to prevent the onset and maintenance of sexual abuse. Sarah holds graduate degrees from Saint Mary's University and the University of Sussex, which focused on forensic and clinical psychology, respectively, and was previously employed as a psychometrist with the Forensic Consultation and Assessment Team at the Centre for Addiction & Mental Health (CAMH) in Toronto, Ontario. She has presented her work at national and international conferences and has collaborated on research reports, book chapters, and peer-reviewed publications during her time as a Research Analyst at CAMH and as a graduate student.