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Darren Tungsvik
Minnesota State University, Mankato

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Paraphilias: Relevant factors for treatment providers of sexual offenders

By: Darren Tungsvik
MSW Student, Minnesota State University, Mankato

Minnesota Sex Offender Program

Overview
The Minnesota Sex Offender Program (MSOP) provides comprehensive services to individuals who have been court-ordered to receive sex offender treatment. Most MSOP clients have completed prison sentences. Clients are civilly committed by the courts and placed in treatment for an indeterminate period of time. A court may commit a person to MSOP to ensure public safety if a judge determines that the individual is a (sexual psychopathic personality)1 or a (sexually dangerous person)2 or both.

1: Minnesota law from 1939 for SPP
2: Minnesota statute: 253B.02 from 1994 for SDP

Paraphilia: recurrent, intense sexually arousing fantasies, sexual urges, or behaviors involving 1) non-human objects, 2) the suffering of oneself or partner, or 3) children or other non-consenting persons that occur over a period of at least 6 months.

Paraphilic Disorder: a paraphilia that is currently causing distress or impairment to the individual or a paraphilia whose satisfaction has entailed personal harm, or risk of harm, to others.

Paraphilia is necessary but not a sufficient condition for having a paraphilic disorder, and a paraphilia by itself does not necessarily justify or require clinical intervention.

Key Content in Training

- Diagnostic criteria for Paraphilic disorders.
- Relevant considerations for cultural and gender differences within diagnostic criteria for Paraphilic disorders.
- Changes in diagnostic criteria: DSM IV to DSM V.
- Types of treatments and their effectiveness for Paraphilic disorders.
- MSOP specific factors, concerns, and issues for clinical staff to be aware of related to Paraphilic disorders.
- Factors for clinical staff to know related to reintegration of clients.

Implications / Recommendations

- Fulfillment of MSOP's mission of providing effective treatment for sexual offenders.
- Increase in knowledge and awareness for clinical staff of the associated factors related to Paraphilic disorders in a treatment setting.
- Recommendation for individualized treatment applications for clients with Paraphilic disorders.
- Management of Paraphilic disorders vs. cure of Paraphilic disorders.
- Management of symptoms and behaviors related to Paraphilic disorders for clients is necessary for community reintegration.
- Clinical staffs knowledge of their clients and issues related to Paraphilic disorders is critical for successful client reintegration into the community.

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Purpose

- To educate clinical staff at MSOP of Paraphilic disorders and their factors related to the treatment of sexual offenders.
- Contribute to MSOP's mission of promoting public safety through providing comprehensive treatment and reintegration opportunities for civilly committed sexual offenders.
- Need exists at MSOP with a lack of educational training materials for clinical staff of Paraphilic disorders and their treatment.

Process

1. Literature review conducted. Research related to:
   - Description of each Paraphilic Disorder:
     - Voyeuristic Disorder, Exhibitionistic Disorder, Frotteuristic Disorder, Sexual Masochistic Disorder, Sexual Sadism Disorder, Pedophilic Disorder, Fetischistic Disorder, Transvestic Disorder, Specified Paraphilic Disorder, Unspecified Paraphilic Disorder
   - Onset, Symptoms, Behaviors.
   - Deviant factors.
   - Implications for treatment settings.
   - Treatment options and factors.
   - Factors related to reintegration of clients.

2. Interview with MSOP Psychologist.

3. Creation of Training Program:
   - Development of PowerPoint.
   - Created script for audio in PowerPoint and presentation to clinical staff.
   - Converted PowerPoint using iSpring Program.

4. Presentation to clinical staff at MSOP.

5. Training PowerPoint added to CBT section for staff development content on MSOP website.