Seminar in Preventive Psychological Intervention

EDS 246b
Stephen E. Brock, Ph.D., NCSP

Course Description: Study and application of various primary, secondary, and tertiary psychological interventions designed to prevent school failure and/or emotional challenges. Examines techniques of identifying pupils who are experiencing mental health difficulties that interfere with school functioning, and intervention techniques designed to address these problems.

Gerald Caplan’s “Preventive Psychiatry”

  - Primary Prevention
  - Secondary Prevention
  - Tertiary Prevention

Primary Prevention

- Lowering the rate of new cases of a disorder in a population over a certain period of time by counteracting harmful circumstances before they have a chance to produce problems.
- Examples include
  - Child Abuse Prevention
  - Violence Prevention
  - Skill Building (e.g., Problem solving, conflict management, social skills instruction, bully proofing, etc.)
  - School Safety Planning
  - Disaster/Crisis preparedness
Secondary Prevention

- Reducing the rate of disorders by shortening the duration of existing cases through early diagnosis and effective treatment.
- Examples include
  - Child Abuse Intervention
  - Violence intervention
  - Student Success Teams
  - School crisis response
  - Psychological triage
  - Crisis intervention
  - Suicide intervention

Tertiary Prevention

- Programs designed to rehabilitate individuals with long term problems to return them to their productive capacity as quickly as possible to their highest potential.
- Examples include
  - Special education
  - School referral to mental health
  - 504 accommodation plans
  - Disaster recovery
  - Suicide postvention
  - Psychotherapy

Prevention Providers

- While all primary, and most secondary, prevention activities are appropriate undertakings for general educators, tertiary prevention requires special expertise training and skill.
- This response requires long-term psychological, and psychiatric treatments that are typically beyond what most general educators can provide.
- Mental health professionals typically provide these services.
Typical Seminar Agenda

1. Questions
2. General discussion & activities

Course Overview

- **Required Readings**
  - To be read by the dated indicated on the seminar outline. These readings are available online or in the required texts.

- **Required Resources**
  - While not all are required reading these documents need to be made a part of each students electronic libraries. To document that you have obtained these documents place them on a CD and turn in each no later than the date indicated on the course outline.

Course Overview

- **Seminar Requirements/Activities:**
  1. Attendance/Class participation.
  2. Field Observation/Interview.
  4. Psychological Triage Activity.
  5. Psychological First Aid Script.
  6. Psychological First Aid Role-Plays.
  7. Psychological First Aid Observation.
  8. Suicide Intervention Script.
 10. Extra Credit.
Child Abuse Prevention

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Adapted from “Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention” by Sean Surfas, Ph.D., LEP

Statistics

- In the U.S. 3+ children die in their home as the result of abuse each day
- In California, between 2000 – 2010, 950 children died as the result of abuse
- By age 18, 1/4 of girls and 1/6 of boys have been sexually assaulted.
  - Abuse and neglect among special needs youth is 1.7 times the rate observed among other youth
    • 28% of special needs boys
    • 42.5% of special needs girls

Statistics

- 85% of sexual assaults on children are perpetrated by a familiar (usually trusted) person.
- A child abuse report is made every 10 seconds.
Types of Abuse (CA statistics)

- Neglect – 63%
- Physical – 19%
- Sexual – 10%
- Emotional – 8%

What is Child Abuse?

Is this child abuse?

1. A girl is slapped for screaming at her mother; the slap stings, but leaves no lasting mark.
2. A boy is punished in a way that requires stitches.
3. A father burns his daughter’s palms with a lighted cigarette when he finds her smoking.
4. A mother is careless and spills scalding coffee on her daughter, who is seriously burned.

What is Child Abuse?

Is this child abuse?

5. A boy’s arm is broken after wrestling with his father for sport.
6. A girl is spanked so hard she is badly bruised, but the father says he did not mean to hurt her.
7. A boy is grounded for a week for a minor offense.
8. A father takes away his son’s drivers license for getting a parking ticket.
Child Abuse Defined

- The physical or mental injury, sexual abuse or exploitation, negligent treatment, or maltreatment of a child under the age of 18 by a person who is responsible for the child's welfare under circumstances which indicate that the child's health or welfare is harmed or threatened.

Child Welfare Act

Neglect

- Failure of parents or caretakers to provide needed, age appropriate care including food, clothing, shelter, protection from harm, and supervision appropriate to the child's development, hygiene, and medical care.

Physical Abuse

- Any non-accidental injury to a child under the age of 18 by a parent or caretaker. These injuries may include beatings, shaking, burns, human bites, strangulation, or immersion in scaling water or other, with resulting bruises and welts, fractures, scars, burns, internal injuries or any other injury.
Sexual Abuse

- Any inappropriate sexual exposure or touch by an adult to a child or an older child to a younger child. This includes, but is not limited to fondling, sexual intercourse, sexual assault, rape, incest, child prostitution, exposure, and pornography. It does not matter whether the victim was forced or tricked to any of the above. Regardless it is considered sexual abuse.

Sexual Offenses that are Child Abuse

1. Sexual Assault
2. Sexual Molestation
3. Sexual Exploitation
4. Sexual Grooming

Emotional Abuse

- Parental behavior, such as rejecting, terrorizing, berating, ignoring, or isolating a child, that causes or is likely to cause, serious impairment of the physical, social, mental, or emotional capacities of the child.
A mandated reporter is required to report child abuse if she or he in their professional capacity, or within the scope of his or her employment has knowledge of, or observes a child whom the mandated reporter knows or reasonably suspects has been the victim of child abuse or neglect (P.C. 1166[a], emphasis added).

Contact Child Protective Services and/or local law enforcement

Suspected Child Abuse Report form

Guidance for mandated reporters
- Required Reading:
  - [https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/whatiscan.pdf](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/whatiscan.pdf)
- Required Resource
Reporting Child Abuse

- Sacramento County CPS
  - [http://www.dcfas.saccounty.net/CPS/Pages/CPS-Home.aspx](http://www.dcfas.saccounty.net/CPS/Pages/CPS-Home.aspx)
- 24 Hour Child Abuse Hotline:
  (916) 875-5437 (875-KIDS)
  - In an emergency always call 911 for law enforcement.

Disclosure of Reporter Identity

- The identity of the reporter shall be confidential, and shall be disclosed only...
  - To agencies investigating the report
  - When the person waives confidentiality
  - By court order

Informing Family Members

- Mandated reporters are typically not required to inform parents of family members that a report has been made
- In some cases it might be a good idea
- In other instances doing so might place the child in harms way
Investigation

- Either law enforcement or CPS will investigate all reports and make one of the following determinations:
  - Unfounded (no evidence to suggest abuse)
  - Inconclusive (not enough evidence)
  - Substantiated (enough evidence to suggest abuse)
  - All inconclusive and substantiated reports go into the Child Abuse Central Index (CACI)
    - [http://oag.ca.gov/childabuse](http://oag.ca.gov/childabuse)

Failure to Report

- A misdemeanor punishable by up to 6 months in county jail, a fine up to $1,000.00, or both
- May be subject to civil damages
- May lose your credential

Immunity from Liability

- Immune from civil or criminal liability as a result of making a required report
Required Readings & Resource

Readings

Resource

Activity
- Develop a suspected child abuse scenario
- Complete a child abuse report form
- Discuss your understanding of the possible outcomes of the hypothetical report you would “file.”

Final Exam
- Develop possible questions
Next Meetings

- 21-30-19, Violence Prevention
  - Read