



WORKING WITH PERSONS WHO SEXUALLY OFFEND

QUALITY BURNETT RIVERSIDE MOTEL, QUAY STREET, BUNDABERG, QLD

21st -25th March, 2011

COURSE CONTENT

Introduction to Working with Sexual Offenders

Introduce the course curriculum and contextualise the topics to be discussed within the greater societal concern regarding sexual offenders.

What is Sexual Deviance?

Discuss the concept of sexual deviance, looking at historical and contemporary views of such behaviour. Topics will include: socio-cultural perspectives on sexual deviance, the paraphilias, the psychology of sexuality, bio-evolutionary perspectives, the neurobiology of sexual behavior, and the role of context.

Assessment of Sexual Offenders

Review the various techniques used to evaluate sexual offenders, their behaviour, and the risk they pose to the community. Topics will include: psychophysiological assessment of sexual preferences, static and dynamic predictors of sexual reoffense, actuarial prediction methods, the role of disinhibiting agents, developmental histories, bio-medical factors, and the relative contribution of general psychological states to risk. *Participants will receive specific certification training in the use of measures included in the Dynamic Supervision Project (Static-99R, Stable-2007, Acute-2007).*

Therapeutic Engagement of Sexual Offenders

Participants will learn about the qualities of an effective sexual offender therapy provider. Key components of empirically supported approaches such as motivational interviewing are discussed and reviewed. Participants participate in entertaining “real-play” exercises.

Therapy with Sexual Offenders

Discussion of the methods used in therapy with sexual offenders. To do this, we will explore the history of sexual offender therapy, follow trends in therapeutic methodologies, consider what works and what does not, look at medical means of treating sexual offenders (therapeutic sexual drive reduction), and psychological methods of therapy. Regarding the latter, we will focus primarily on the Risk, Needs, Responsivity model and the Self-Regulation Model (including the pathways model and its Good Lives adaptation).

Community Risk Management

Examine the issues involved in managing sexual offender risk in community settings focusing on conditional release, measures of official control (e.g., polygraph/voice stress analysis, GPS monitoring, sexual offender registries), community-based follow-up treatment, collaborative models, and community engagement. Regarding collaborative models, partnerships between statutory agencies (e.g., law enforcement, parole boards, probation and parole supervisors) and community-based service providers will be stressed. We will also discuss issues related to restorative justice initiatives in working with sexual offenders; specifically, Circles of Support & Accountability.

Special Groups

Discuss issues related to sexual offending in what have been termed “special groups”—including the intellectually-disabled, and cultural perspectives in sexual offending. We will specifically address issues related to evidenced-based practice in the assessment and treatment of women and juveniles who sexually offend, highlighting current theoretical perspectives and best practice methods.

Victim Issues

Discussion of victim issues as related to sexual offending, including demographics and patterns of abuse. First, we will review the issues faced by victims of sexual abuse. Next, we will examine the putative role being the victim of sexual abuse plays in the development of a sexual abuser (i.e., the cycle of abuse).

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