

GET READY !
He's coming home

Reunification and the Juvenile Sex Offender

Dan Powers, LCSW



Key Components

Prosecution

Law

Enforcement

Medical



CPS

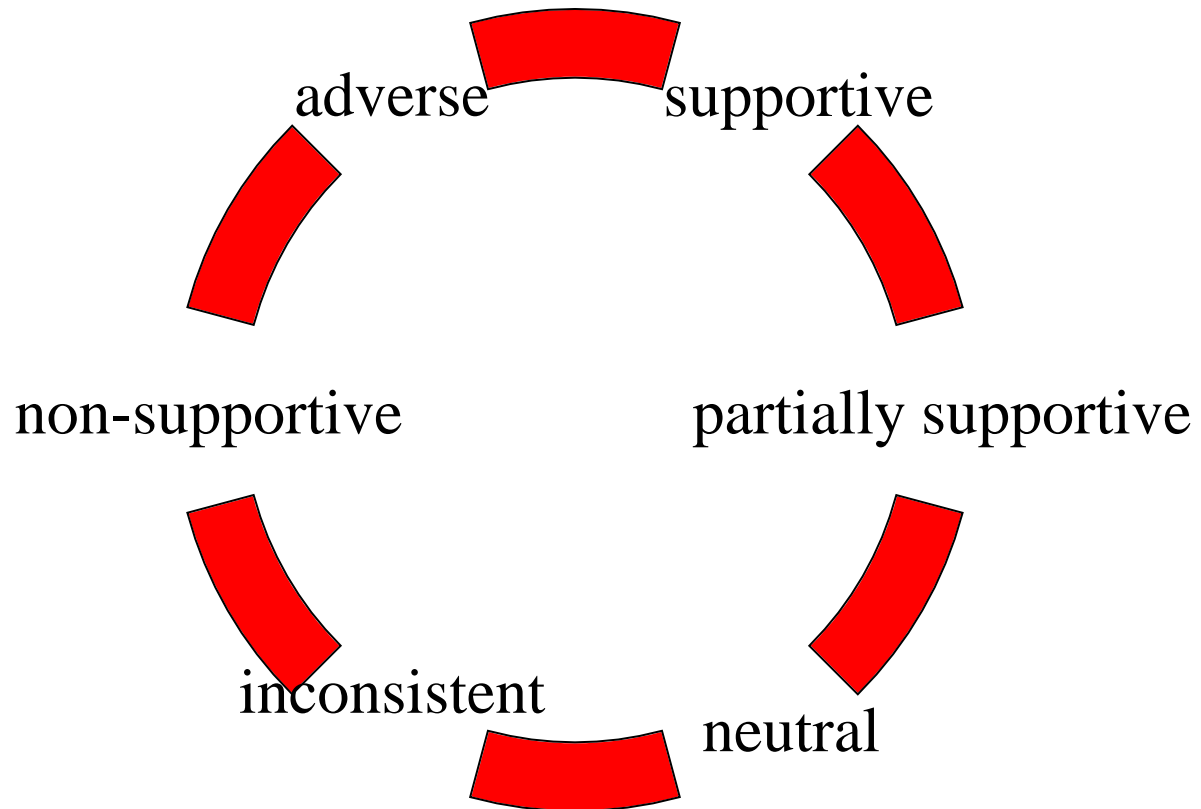
Mental Health

Kids who experience
trauma

Have their scope of the
world change

WHY KIDS DON'T TELL

Lack of Caregiver Support



TREATMENT IS MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN

- There is ongoing support by the parent and the parent has regular contact with the therapist
- A sense of safety has been established to protect against further victimization
- Therapy is concurrent with changes in the family system / the parent or family has some type of therapeutic intervention
- It is open-ended

THERAPY WITH CHILDREN INVOLVES

- Providing a safe place for the child and establishing a relationship
- Going at a pace that is set by the child and working within the child's system
- Confidentiality
- Processing the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that result from the trauma

THE FOCUS ON PARENTS

- Parents are a key to child's recovery - we see them for an hour a week!
- Parental responses to the trauma are associated with child functioning
- Child placement is often a function of parental response and support
- Possible reunification of family

Treatment Issues Require

- Extensive training and experience in child abuse and family violence
- Treatment professionals who specialize in this field
- Coordination of treatment services for victims and their families

Five Components of Juvenile Sex Offender Treatment

Relapse Prevention

- Identify and Develop Offense Cycle with ability to avoid cycle with appropriate coping skills
- Develop and able to practice physical safety plan
- Develop and able to practice emotional safety plan
- Identification of cognitive distortions/thinking errors with an ability to change them to appropriate thought processes
- Ability to control behavior/impulses
- Ability to comply with community as well as probation requirements

Victim Empathy

- Demonstration of an understanding of impact of sexual abuse on victims
- Ability to take full responsibility for behaviors and understand their impact on victims
- Ability to identify environmental as well as cognitive role in sexual abuse
- Affective demonstration of empathy
- Ability to treat others with care/concern

Development of Healthy Social Skills

- Develop and maintain appropriate peer relationships
- Develop and maintain an ability to comply with authority figures
- Academic Achievement/Behavioral Achievement at the school/work level
- Participation in adult supervised peer-related activities

Development/Understanding of Healthy Sexual Relationships

- Understanding and following laws regarding sexual activity
- Development of appropriate sexual boundaries/demonstration of that development
- Understanding of the dynamics of a healthy sexual relationship/ability to verbalize that understanding
- Ability to identify and change deviant sexual fantasies
- Ability to conceptualize appropriate sexual fantasies

Supervision

- Development of internal controls for youth so that he may supervise self
- Parental demonstration of ability to identify relapse prevention concepts including but not limited to offense cycles, red flags and probation rules
- Parental ability to supervise youth appropriately in the community
- Ability of parent to work in tandem and appropriately with juvenile, treatment provider and juvenile probation staff

REUNIFICATION

Prior to consideration

- Reunification of the family is recommended by juvenile authorities
- Parent/guardian expresses desire for reunification when appropriate
- All appropriate releases of information will be obtained by Juvenile Dept. / therapist to contact CCCAC Clinical Director
- Summary of treatment will be sent to each clinician

Prior to consideration

- Dialog between treating therapists regarding process of reunification session
- Agreement between therapists for reunification session
- Approval by Clinical Director
- Session is scheduled during regular Center hours

Prior to session

- Session will take place at the CCCAC
- Discussion addressing the process of reunification session with victim(s) and offender by their respective therapist
- Discussion with parents on goals of session by Juvenile Dept. therapist

Prior to session

- Discussion of parent's role in session by Juvenile Dept. therapist
- A CCCAC consent for treatment signed by offender and parents

During session

- A detention officer, Juvenile Dept. therapist or parent must accompany and be in sight of the offender at all times (arrangement for this will be agreed upon in advance)
- Offender will wait in vestibule area until the start of session
- Child victim will wait in the therapy waiting area and will have no contact with the offender prior to the session
- Child victim or therapist may end session at any time

After Session

- Set appointment for next session
- Review of session by therapists
- Both therapists must document visit
- Both therapists will give feedback to parents
- Therapist will consult with client individually after meeting

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