MULTI YOUTH PROBLEMATIC SEXUAL BEHAVIORS: RESPONSE, ASSESSMENT, AND TREATMENT

MATTIE DODDS, LMSW
ANNALISE GUNN, LISW

OBJECTIVES

- Objective 1: Participants will be able to define multi-youth problematic sexual behaviors (PSB’s) and gain understanding of the nuances related to these cases.
- Objective 2: Participants will gain understanding of the appropriate community response to multi-youth PSB’s
- Objective 3: Through the use of case examples participants will learn a CAC’s response to multi-youth PSBs from the point of intake assessment through treatment completion.

PROBLEMATIC SEXUAL BEHAVIORS (PSBS)

- Problematic Sexual Behaviors (PSBs) are defined as behaviors which are initiated by a child that involve sexual body parts and are considered developmentally inappropriate and/or potentially harmful to themselves or someone else.
- We define Multi-Youth PSB’s as problematic sexual behaviors occurring between three or more children.

DETERMINING IF SEXUAL BEHAVIORS ARE PROBLEMATIC:

- Frequency: High Frequency
- Consideration: Occurs between Youth of Significantly Divergent Ages/Developmental Abilities
- Harm: Intrusive Behaviors
- Excludes Normal Childhood Activities
- Behaviors are Longer in Duration than Developmentally Expected
- Includes Force, Intimidation, and/or Coercion
- Unresponsive (i.e., does not decrease) to Typical Parenting Strategies
- Behavior Interferes with Social Development
- Elicits Fear & Anxiety in Other Children

Bonner, 1995; Davies, Glaser, & Kossoff, 2000; Friedrich, 1997; Larsson & Svedin, 2001
ETIOLOGIES

- Behavior problems,
- Developmental and verbal delays,
- Impulse control problems

- Lack of parental supervision,
- Family stress/trauma,
- Parental depression or substance use

- Physical abuse or harsh parenting practices,
- Domestic violence,
- Community violence

- Sexual abuse (penetration or multiple perpetrators)

Modeling/Exposure

Child Vulnerabilities

- Focus on internalized violence
- Sexual abuse
- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect

- Abuse of children
- Vulnerabilities in children

- Child abuse
- Vulnerability to abuse

Modeling of Coercion

Modeling of Sexuality

- Child abuse
- Vulnerability to abuse

Confidentiality

Stereotypes/Myths

Caregiver Responses

Collateral Consequences

RETAINED

CASE EXAMPLE

At recess one day, a teacher observed Shawn touching Emily's private part under the slide. Shawn and Emily are both in the second grade. The teacher informed the guidance counselor who then spoke with Shawn. Shawn reported to the guidance counselor that he watches "adult movies" while his mother is at work. After speaking with both Shawn and Emily, it was discovered that there had been 3 other second and third graders involved in repeated acts of PSBs on school grounds. The school principal made a law enforcement report and the children were then referred to Dee Norton for Forensic Interviews by the detective.

DISCLOSURES

- All 5 children (Shawn, Emily, Noelle, Cyrus, and Michael) received forensic interviews at Dee Norton. Disclosures included information about touching behaviors, oral sex, and "humping" that happened on the playground and in the classroom. From the disclosures made, it was apparent that all children, with the exception of Noelle, engaged in different sexual behaviors with Shawn being central to most of their disclosures. Emily was also a central child to the other's disclosures.

NEXT STEPS

- Collaboration with referring agency - LE
- Mandated report to DSS for Shawn, coordination with Community Based Prevention Services
- Navigating confidentiality with the caregivers
- 4 children received specialized assessments that also assessed their sexual behaviors and Noelle received a trauma assessment
- Coordination with the school
WORKING WITH THE SCHOOL...

- Psychoeducation with the staff regarding PSB’s
- B-Safe for 2nd and 3rd graders
- Panel discussion with caregivers regarding sexual education

TREATMENT OPTIONS

- Good Lives Model of Offender Rehabilitation
- Pathways
- B-Safe
- MST-PSB*
- PSB-CBT*

*Evidence-based interventions

NATIONAL CENTER ON THE SEXUAL BEHAVIOR OF YOUTH

- The Sexual Behavior Problems Program (SBP) was developed by The Center on Child Abuse and Neglect at The University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center.
- The program consists of three treatment groups specifically designed to accommodate the developmental needs of adolescent, school-aged, and preschool children.
- Manualized treatment model used internationally for over 30 years.

FOCUS OF TREATMENT

- The primary focus of treatment is to eliminate the identified PSB.
- Other goals include:
  - improving the parent-child relationship;
  - reducing non-sexual problematic behaviors;
  - improving school behavior;
  - and, generally improving behavior at home and in the community.

PSB-CBT

- The final randomized clinical trial evaluated PSB-CBT compared to treatment as usual and found PSB-CBT more effective in long-term recidivism rates. (Carpenter, et. al, 2006)
- The active ingredients within the treatment model:
  - Behavior Parent Training
  - Clear rule setting related to sexual behaviors and boundaries
  - Supervision
  - Positive parenting skills
  - Sex education
  - Abuse Prevention
  - Self-control Skills

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

- Shawn was referred for PSB-CBT group treatment and successfully completed this treatment.
- Emily was referred for individual PSB-CBT treatment to address problematic sexual behaviors as well as trauma symptoms for an unrelated trauma.
- Noelle was referred for TF-CBT to address her trauma symptoms related to the PSBs.
- Cyrus and Michael completed B-safe that included information about sexual behavior rules.
Now we want you to practice…

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Place yourself in the shoes of different community partners (DSS, LE, CAC, School)…What is your role? What is your goal?
- How might different individuals involved be feeling?
- What are some potential next steps for this case?
- Do any mandated reports need to be made?
- Discuss potential nuances implicated in this case.
- What are the challenges you foresee in this case and how can these challenges be addressed?
- Are these cases vastly different from cases involving just two youth?

"Children are likely to live up to what you believe of them." - Lady Bird Johnson

REFERENCES