

Supporting Dignity: Deconstructing and Reconstructing Peoples Stories

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Authors:

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Aim:

To familiarise delegates with a range of therapeutic practices based on deconstruction, relational and narrative theory, their contributions to practice and the lives of clients.

Disclosure of Interest Statement: None

PRESENTATION 1:

Contribution of narrative and relational practice in AOD and related sectors

Presenting Author:

Mark Hamersley

Background:

Narrative and relational practices support peoples to exercise agency in their lives.

Mark will introduce their use at AOD and Family Violence settings in which he and the other presenters have been involved.

Description of Model of Care:

People are supported to re-negotiate 'totalising', deficit-based identity descriptions, developing agency based on demonstrated resilience, achievements and strengths. Individuals, groups and communities are supported in advancing preferred directions in their lives.

Effectiveness

Peoples are supported in changing relationships with alcohol and other drugs, violence and other issues important to peoples being supported. Practices have been found helpful by peoples of First Nations and other cultures.

Next Steps:

The practices have been equally helpful in assisting peoples in a family violence service.

Practice:

The practices extend understandings of what 'client-based care' involves, and what can become possible in drawing on the experiences and knowledges of people being supported.

Recognition of the contributions of 'lived experience', has supported peoples to transition from being 'clients' to professional support and management roles.

PRESENTATION 2: Theory and Practice

Presenting Authors:

Greg Smith

Background:

Drawn from extensive literatures on de-construction, relational identity and identities and co-research, these practices assist individuals, groups and communities to draw on their own skills and knowledges to support preferred directions in their lives.

Intervention:

Drawn from extensive literatures on de-construction, relational identity and and co-research, these practices assist individuals, groups and communities to draw on their own skills and knowledges to support preferred directions in their lives.

Implementation:

Greg will review the above influences and contributions.

He will then review a range of methodologies based on relational and narrative practices developed over 15 years in a First Nations-controlled settings in which the presenters have been active.

Practices include re-authoring, resource booklets, letters, videos, song writing and a range of metaphors to support transitions in people's lives. These have included relationships with alcohol and other drugs, violence and interpersonal relationships. Excerpts will be displayed.

Conclusions

These practices provide possibilities and directions for all practitioners in the AOD services committed to client centred practice.

The methodologies are equally applicable in all settings, irrespective cultural or social context or services sector

PRESENTATION 3: From the perspective of a past client and since as community Elder

Presenting Authors:

Uncle Leslie Stanley

Background:

Uncle Les was a client of the AOD service at a time when these practices were developed, and remained involved with as a Community Elder, working closely with the practitioners

Intervention:

Les will describe his experiences as a participant, observer and co-facilitator of these practices.

Acceptability

Uncle Les will describe ways in which he has observed these practices support the journeys of men, in providing respectful and positive alternatives to 'mainstream' clinical and treatment approaches.

He will describe the role of close listening and development of trust.

Implications for Practice

Practices are available to support AOD and clients of other services to develop agency and self-confidence.

Through the use of these approaches, their commitments, achievements and insights can be made available to support others in similar positions.

ROLE OF THE CHAIR

Dr Sather will ask questions of each presenter, focusing on their personal reflections and learnings.

The chair will encourage reflections, questions and contributions by delegates.