

OFFENDER'S PERCEPTIONS OF PARTNERS IN TREATMENT

Sex Offenders' Perception of a Community-Based Collaborative Treatment and Case Management Model

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Federally-sentenced sexual offenders participating in a community-based program were surveyed regarding their experiences with respect to a spectrum of services offered by the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) and local community agencies. The interdisciplinary sex offender treatment and supervision model employed by the CSC includes Psychology, Psychiatry, Parole, Social Work, psychoeducational programming, Chaplaincy (including the Circles of Support and Accountability program), residential and financial services, Personal Support Workers for higher need clientele, and an array of public health care agencies. The purpose of the present study was to examine the principle of responsivity (Andrews & Bonta, 1998) from the participants' perspective. Dependent variables included participants' assessments of the process of treatment and supervision goal setting and attainment, including the level of engagement, personal relevance, support and instillation of hope offered by various service providers. Additionally, participants were canvassed on their opinions and experiences with the controversial, legally mandated Ontario Sexual Offender Registry (SOR). Participants' responses highlighted the importance of collaboration rather than confrontation, and a strength-based approach in conjunction with risk management. While compliance with the requirements of the Registry was exemplary, its utility was highly questioned. Research evaluating the community-based sex offender program, which is based on the adaptation of skills learned in the institutional setting to the community with a focus on support for living a balanced fulfilling life, has demonstrated its effectiveness for the management of sexual recidivism (Stirpe, Picheca & Abracen, 2007; Wilson, Stewart, Stirpe, Barrett, & Cripps, 2000).

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Child Molesters' Aptitudes for Intimate and Sexual Relationships with Adult Partners

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Child molesters typically display poor abilities in forming and maintaining intimate relationships with adult partners. These deficits are believed to be important elements in the development and perpetuation of sexually abusive behaviours toward children. To this day, very little is known about child molesters' actual dispositions toward intimacy and sexuality with adults partners. The study investigates child molesters' capacity for intimate relationships with adult partners, the quality of such relationships as perceived by the offender, romantic attachment style, attitudes toward sexuality in general, and sexual self-esteem. Data obtained from child molesters will then be examined to determine whether certain patterns of dispositions are linked to a greater tendency to have recourse to sexually abusive behaviours with children. The sample consists of 100 child molesters and two comparison groups (100 non-sexual delinquents and 100 non-delinquents). All subjects are males aged 18 years and over. They are recruited from treatment centres, prisons, halfway homes, job research centres, universities and social clubs. Results will be discussed in light of the necessity for better discriminating analyses of the specific treatment needs of each child molester, the pertinence of including spouses in treatment and the prevention of recidivism.