

Exploring Options: Parental Mental Health Issues in Dependency Court

AOC

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Your Concerns

- What behaviors do you observe that cause you concern?
- Why do they concern you?
- INR: *How does this behavior interfere with parenting?*

Why do people behave as they do?

- **Biology** – supplies levels of potential
- **History**
- **Systemic** - Context
- **Belief** about the future
- What is **normal**?

Psychosis

- Loss of contact with reality
 - **Delusions**
 - False beliefs
 - Disorganized speech – Loose Associations
 - **Hallucinations**
- What is inside one's mind is greater than reality
- Schizophrenia, Bipolar,

Personality Disorders (Most: Ego Syntonic)

- Cluster A – Odd Disorders
 - **Paranoid** – irrational suspicion, mistrust, interpreting motivation as malevolent – (male)
 - **Schizoid** – lack of interest, detachment from social relationships, restricted emotional expression – (male)
 - **Schizotypal** – extreme discomfort interacting socially, distorted cognitions & perceptions – (male)

Personality Disorders

- Cluster B – Dramatic, Emotional, Erratic
 - **Antisocial** – disregard for & violation of rights of others, lack of empathy – (female)
 - **Borderline** – instable relationships, self-image, identity, behavior and affects often leading to self harm & impulsivity – (female)
 - **Histrionic** – attention-seeking behavior, excessive emotion – (female)
 - **Narcissistic** – grandiosity, need for admiration, lack of empathy - (male)

Personality Disorders

- Cluster C – Anxious or Fearful
 - **Avoidant** – social inhibition & inadequacy, extreme sensitivity to negative evaluation – (equal)
 - **Dependent** – need to be cared for by others – (dependent)
 - **Obsessive-compulsive** (NOT OCD) – rigid conformity to rules, perfectionism & control – (male)

Mental Status Exam

- Appearance
- Attitude (rapport)
- Behavior (eye contact, body-language)
- Mood & Affect (congruency, blunted, exaggerated)
- Speech
- Thought Process (quantity, tempo, form)
- Thought Content
- Perceptions
- Cognition (attention, memory [short & long term], ability for abstract thinking)
- Insight
- Judgment
- REMEMBER CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

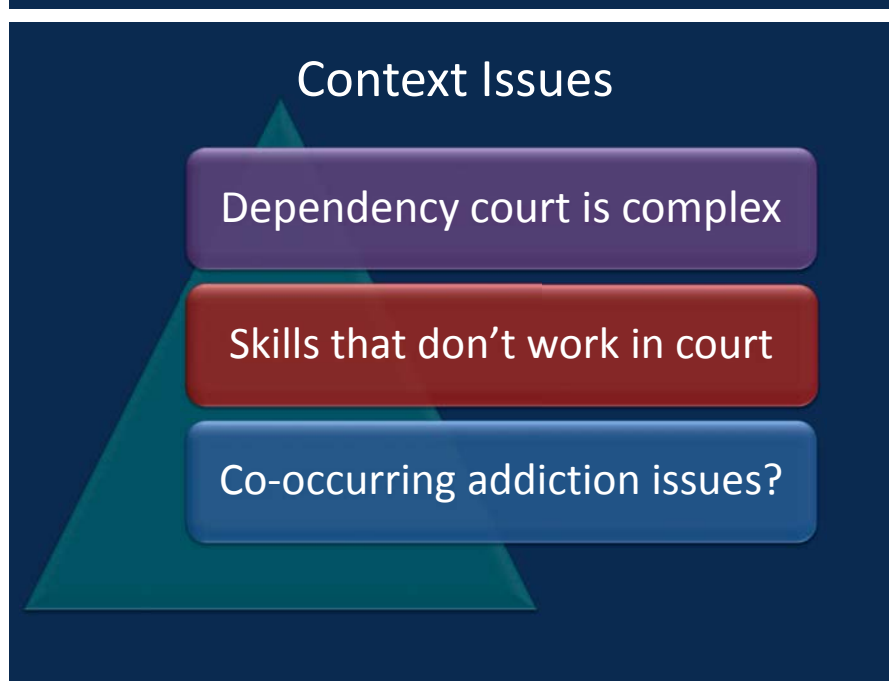
Resources

- PubMed Health – NIH
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth>

Institute for Advanced Studies in Personality and Psychopathology -
<http://www.millon.net>

National Alliance on Mental Health - <http://www.nami.org/>

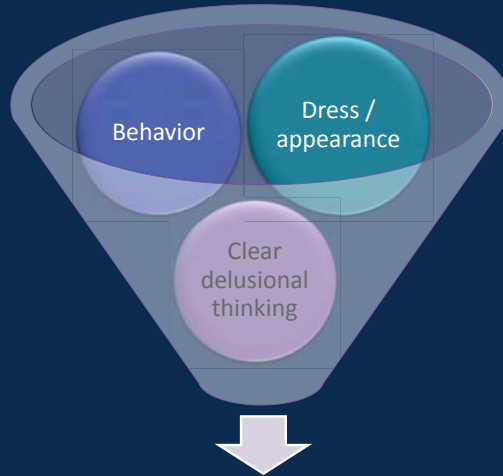
Mental Status Exam -
<http://www.nevdgp.org.au/files/programsupport/mentalhealth/Mental%20State%20Exam%20-%20form.pdf?PHPSESSID=aebebbe47bf4cfb4119bc939249f47aa>



Before you get to court....



What do we see in court?



Need further assessment

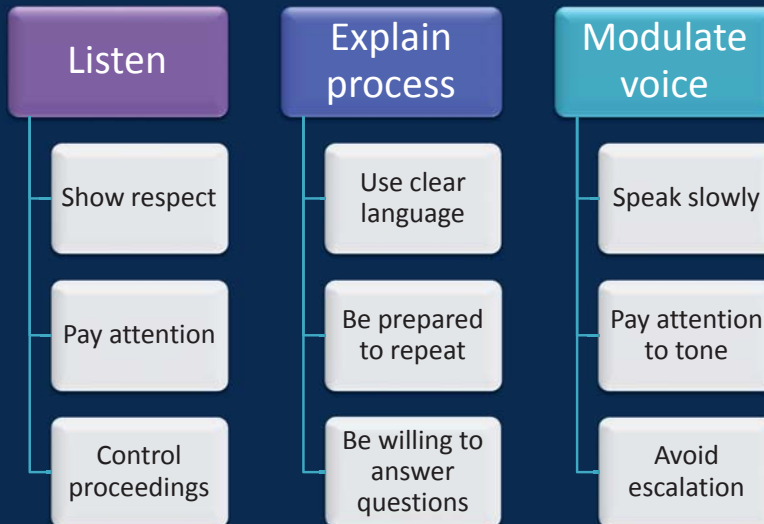
Courtroom Observations



Legal steps to consider



How to interact....



Mental Health Courts



Mental Health Dependency Court?

Rachael Pendleton,
April 2008,
Center on
Children &
the Law

Essential elements

Child
CourtWorks
The Mental
Health Court
Model: Can
Child
Dependency
Courts
Benefit?

Multidisciplinary team

MH & community supports

Individual plans based on client's functioning

Client's therapist in courtroom

Frequent court reviews

Early & comprehensive diagnosis & prognosis

Mental Health Dependency Court?

Questions

Types of cases where it won't work?

For chronic MH issues, how long court supervision?

How deep court delve into monitoring & casework?

What if prognosis is poor?

Which model of MH court is most effective?

What are outcomes for kids?