

Desert Sage Youth Regional Treatment Center Therapeutic Modalities

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Outline

- Treatment philosophy/trauma-informed care
- Motivational interviewing/ motivational enhancement therapy
- Dialectic Behavioral Therapy
- Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach
- Continuing Care



Treatment Philosophy/ Trauma-Informed Approach

- Prevalence of significant trauma history in adolescent (all races) residential substance abuse treatment is near 80% (1)
- As result of endemic nature of trauma, a trauma-informed approach is utilized
- Trauma-informed approach is like a universal precaution for traumatized individual



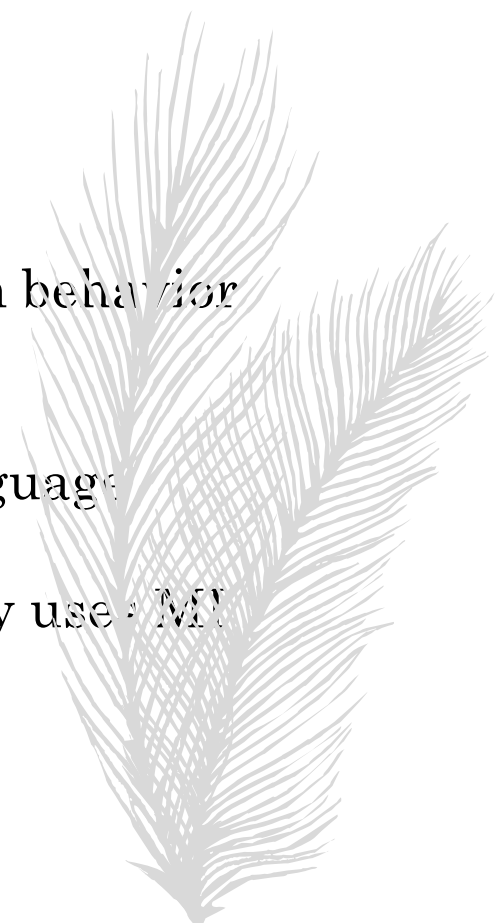
Respite

- Time at the beginning of treatment during which the youth internalizes the safety of the facility
- Will generally occur during the first week
- Will avoid putting demands on the youth apart from participating in evaluation and familiarization with facility and staff



Motivational Interviewing

- Recognition of various stages of readiness to change
- Non-confrontation
- Eliciting patients reasons for health behavior and encouraging change talk
- Developing plan using patients language
- Motivational Enhancement Therapy uses MI principles, more formalized



Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT)

- Evidence-based, developed by cognitive behavioral therapy therapist
- Used for many conditions, especially those conditions which characterized by emotional reactivity
- Ideal for this population, used as primary treatment at Desert Skies



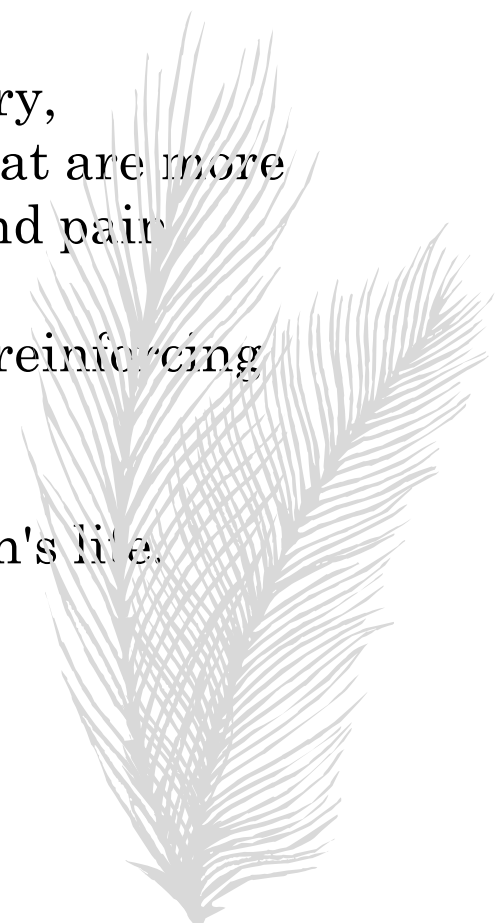
DBT Basic Components

- Mindfulness – Developing an awareness of one's internal state and its link with behavior
- Distress Tolerance - Developing the ability to experience distress without reacting impulsively
- Emotional Regulation - Controlling emotions rather than being controlled by them
- Walking the middle – Being able to tolerate ambiguity
- Interpersonal effectiveness



Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach

- Evidence based
- Based on operant conditioning theory, individuals will choose behaviors that are more reinforcing, i.e. increase pleasure and pain
- It works to make sober living more reinforcing than addiction
- Must involve all aspects of the youth's life. requires close monitoring



Major Skills Developed in “Procedures”

- Functional behavioral analysis of substance using behavior and prosocial behavior
- Development of prosocial activities
- Problem solving skills



Family Interventions

- Recovery can be undermined if family does not reinforce the youth's sobriety
- There can be many ways that families can fail to reinforce sobriety
- Both DBT and ACRA curricula have family modules

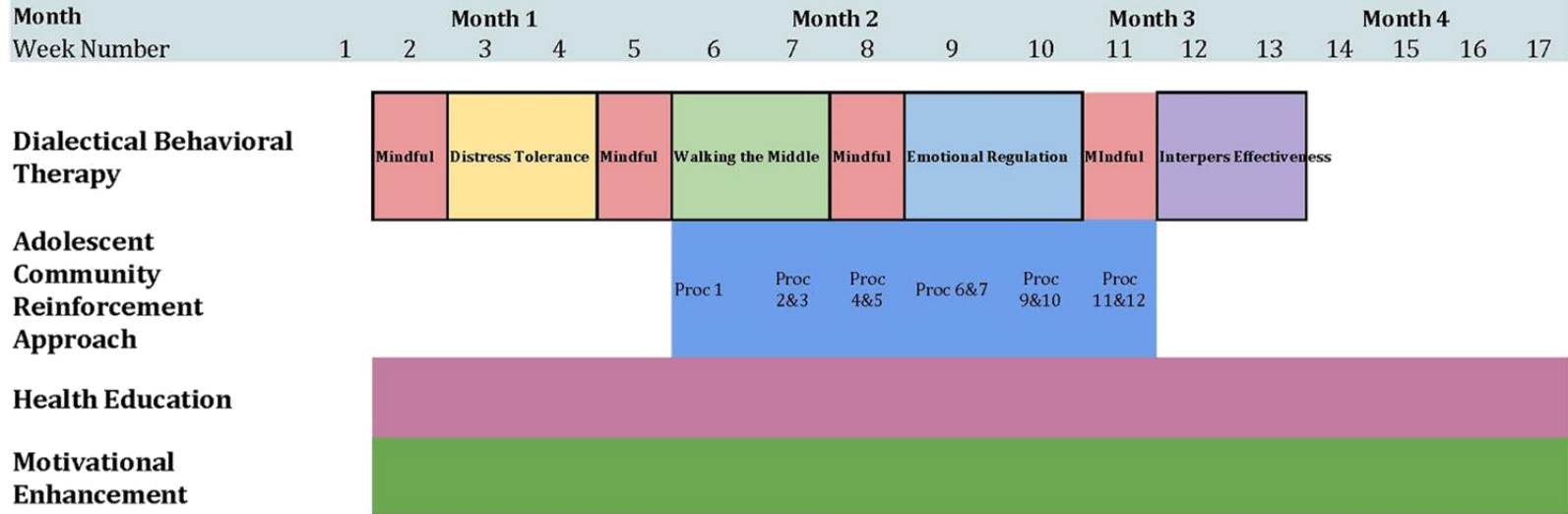


Sequencing

- After respite, dialectic behavioral therapy will be the first in the sequence, as it is essential to develop emotional regulation and understand one's behavior
- ACRA is more specifically focused on substance abuse behavior



APPENDIX F – Sequence of therapies



Elements Common to DBT and ACRA

- Both include elements of mindfulness
- Both include functional behavioral analysis



Aftercare/Continuing Care

- Aftercare more frequently being referred to as continuing care to stress that substance abuse disorders are chronic conditions and post YRTC treatment is an essential part of care
- Studies have shown that without continuing care, 12 month abstinence rate post adolescent residential treatment is 20%, continuing care increases rate to 30%



Continuing Care Model

- One of the best established means of continuing care is Assertive Continuing Care, which is based on the same theoretical model as ACRA
- Requires close case management and inclusion of the family



Training

- All Desert Sage clinical staff will be trained in DBT and ACRA
- Training is available from the original researchers and others in various formats and locations
- Will encourage continuing care staff in tribal and urban Indian health programs to be trained in ACC



Curriculum References

Rathus, Jill and Miller, Alec, Skills Training Handouts for DBT® Skills Manual for Adolescents, Guilford Publications, Inc.

Godsey, Susan, et. al., The Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach for Adolescent Cannabis Users, U.S. Government Printing Office, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (public domain)

