Dealing With the Unknown

5-28-2013

A.M.B.E.R. clinic
Albuquerque Multidisciplinary Behavioral Evaluation for Recovery and Resiliency

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Overview

- **Setting a framework**
- **Establishing priorities**
- **Verification of sources**
- **Outcome measures**
- **Systematic documentation**

Framework

- **Start with entry to encounter**
  - **chief complaint or referral**
  - **curbside or clinic**
- **What is the context**
  - **new problem**
  - **exacerbation of long-standing**
- **Who are the players?**
  - **Family?**
  - **Team of experts?**
  - **School system?**

Framework

- **Get the history**
  - **Acute, recent events**
  - **Long-term, Developmental experiences**
- **Learn the additional sources**
    - **Experts; reports; hospitalizations**
    - **Alternative therapies**
    - **Competing strategies?**

Framework

- **Geographical factors**
  - **Access to resources**
  - **Distance to care; transportation**
- **Finances**
  - **Sources of income**
  - **Health insurance (federal/state/private)**
  - **Short-term v. long-term**

Priorities

- **Acute?**
  - **emergent**
  - **urgent**
- **Chronic…**
  - **preventative – medical; environmental**
  - **maintenance: supports**
- **Quality of Life**
  - **Opportunities**
  - **Decision-making; capacity**
  - **Communication**

Verification

- **Reliability of information**
  - **Expert training & bias**
  - **Quality of evaluations**
- **Objective ~ Subjective reports**
  - **“Feels like”; “reminds of”**
  - **Behavior: eliciting expected responses**

Verification

- **Consultations**
  - **Cost/benefit – value added?**
  - **Independent review**
- **Limitations**
  - **Problem-focus v person-focus**
  - **Dysfunction v Function**

Outcomes

- **Measureable**
  - **Functional change**
  - **Self-developed scales**
- **Meaningful**
  - **Engagement**
  - **Initiation**
  - **Effective**
- **Repeatable**

Documentation

- **Systematic data entry**
  - **Changes in meds; behavior; interventions; sleep**
- **Reasonable intervals**
  - **Expected rates of change**
- **Organize information**
  - **In progress notes; labels for others to read**

Documentation

- **Use and adapt forms**
  - **Tailor to need**
  - **Request local approval**
- **Paper records**
  - **Patients can develop**
  - **Keep folder over time**
- **Patient notebooks**
  - **Copy of data; self-developed**

Summary

- **Integrate information sources**
- **Focus on functional improvement**
- **Anticipate life-time needs and expectations**
- **Address the person**
  - **Invite them as active participant**
  - **Train them to be a self-advocate**