Sexuality and Consent
Objectives

- To develop an understanding of consent
- To develop an understanding of the criteria needed for consent
- To develop an understanding of the assessments and tools developed to assist in defining and assessing consent, knowledge and risk across environments.
The Importance of Consent and Assessment

• To Cause No Harm!
• To reduce victimization
• To assist in defining what is needed for education and planning
• To promote informed decision making
Sexuality Guidelines

All agencies providing services should have Sexuality Guidelines that are person centered and are guided by Best Practices in the field of human sexuality.
Basis for Assessment

- There must be a purpose for any assessment
- Use the appropriate assessment for what is being measured
- There should never be only one assessment done regarding any issue.
- One assessment does not tell the entire story.
- “Don’t guess ... assess!” – Robin VanEerden
The VISCAT

- The Verbal Informed Sexual Consent Assessment Tool
- Measures the ability to consent
- Measures Sexual Knowledge to consent

Developed by William J. Taverner, MA and Christopher DeMarco, Ph.D
CONSENT ASSESSMENT

Principle One:

- The person demonstrates an awareness of the nature of the sexual act and demonstrates the ability to make a choice to engage in or abstain from the type of sexual act.
Principle Two:

- The person demonstrates an understanding of how to prevent unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections or diseases.
CONSENT ASSESSMENT

Principle Three:

- The person demonstrates an understanding of the need to restrict sexual behavior to certain times and places.
Principle Four:

- The person demonstrates an understanding that certain sexual behaviors are illegal in this state.
CONSENT ASSESSMENT

Principle Five:

- The person demonstrates the ability to identify harmful situations and to avoid being exploited and harmed.
CONSENT ASSESSMENT

- A summary is completed
- Levels of need are identified in the following areas:
  - Education
  - Counseling
  - Skills Training
  - Program Planning
OTHER CONCERNS

- Trained clinicians
- Knowing the state laws of where the person is located and residing
- A comfort zone with human sexuality
The Socio-Sexual Knowledge and Attitudes Assessment Tool-Revised (SSKAAT-R) is a valuable tool for educators, counselors and social workers—both as an assessment and as an educational tool—for sex education issues. It is useful with individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, those whose language is limited, and with general populations. Suitable for ages 15 through adult developed by GRIFFITHS AND LUNSKY.
SSKAAT-R

- Measures Knowledge and Attitudes toward Sexuality

- Areas Assessed are:
  - Anatomy
  - Men and Women’s Bodies
  - Intimacy
  - Pregnancy Childbirth and Child Rearing
  - Birth Control and Sexually Transmitted Diseases
  - Healthy Socio-Sexual Boundaries
SSKAAT-R

- Best practice:
  - Trained clinicians only due to the sensitive nature of the assessment and the risk of past trauma needing to be addressed therapeutically throughout the completion of the assessment.
  - Can be used as a pre post test to show positive educational advances
Does not measure consent, but done in sequence with the VISCAT, can be helpful in assessing knowledge that is present to consent.

The VISCAT does not have visuals

The SSKAAT-R uses visuals

Gives a framework to eliminate bias of personal opinions and risk of transferring personal values.
Behavioral Assessment of Sexuality and Social Relationships-REVISED by Shannon Rico MA, ABD: The BASS-R is a comprehensive assessment of the behaviors exhibited, associated with all areas of sexuality, by an individual with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This assessment is appropriate to be used to with those who are Intellectually Disabled, Autistic and individuals dually diagnosed with ID and mental health conditions to ascertain specific areas of concern within the scope of sexuality.
BASS-R

Areas assessed:


The revision of the BASS includes a mental health component that examines symptoms and presentations that would be relevant to further complexities of the individual’s sexual behavior.
BASS-R

- With the addition of the Mental Health Assessment in the revised version, a Mental Health Professional is needed to perform this revised version of the assessment.

- Mental Health symptoms, trauma, and personality disorders as well as sex offending behaviors can be significant concerns regarding the person’s presentation.
BASS-R

- The BASS-R is a tool that based on the results leads to:
  - The identification of needs regarding education in the areas assessed
  - The level of credentials needed to address the various needs, i.e. caregiver, behavior consultant, specialist etc.
  - Includes a curriculum to be taught based on level and need of the person
  - Re-assessment for measuring knowledge gained
ARMIDILLO -S

- Developed by James Haaven
- Assesses the risk of a person to offend or reoffend across environments
- Need 2 or more sanctions regarding problematic sexual behavior or sex offending behavior to justify the assessment
- From the tool a Risk Screening and Risk Management plan can be completed
CASE STUDY

Please refer to the handout
Questions?
References

Verbal Informed Sexual Consent Assessment – Tool – Taverner and DeMarco, 2006


Assessment of Risk and Manageability of Individuals with Developmental and Intellectual Limitations who Offend - Haaven, James (2013)
http://armidilo.net/index.html
References