

Group A Case


Tracy has been involuntarily committed to the same institution over 20 times in the last 25 years. She has been diagnosed with major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder, borderline personality disorder, PTSD, and dissociative identity disorder. Her drug of choice is marijuana.

She was removed from her mother's home when she was five. Her mother is an active heroin addict and a prostitute. Tracy's father was never present in the home. Tracy has one brother who is in jail for 25 years to life for murder. Her mother lives in a one bedroom home on the edge of a town of 40,000.

Tracy bounced from foster home to foster home, staying in some for only a few days. Her case manager's notes indicate that Tracy did not do well in homes with boys. Her longest foster home placement was off and on for two years. She remains in contact with several of her foster families.

She is in the hospital again. Tracy's primary challenge is that she refuses to bathe or clean herself. When she is forcibly taken to the shower with an aide, she becomes violent and strikes out at whoever is there. Her voice becomes childlike and after she strikes out, she falls to the floor and curls up in the fetal position, becoming unresponsive. She has been placed in seclusion and heavily medicated by force when this happens.

Questions

1. Review the slides with this symbol on the upper left: 
2. Discuss the case amongst your group.
3. In this case, what might be evidence of trauma in Tracy's life? List the phrases that tell you this.

4. What is the risk to Tracy if the hospital only works from the medical model?

5. How likely is it that trauma (rather than a "bad brain") might be responsible for Tracy's problematic behavior?

Group B Case

Joseph is a prominent African American pastor and businessman in a medium sized city. He grew up in the neighborhood in which he, his wife, and their two children live. His wife is also from the same neighborhood. He is the only surviving child, the youngest of four live births.

His construction business does well. Their focus is on rehabilitating homes for people of color and helping them attain home ownership as they build generational wealth. He has several people on staff in his business. His church is a generational church, one he took over from his father as his father retired.

As a boy, Joseph attended a church that was not his father's. At his father's urging, he attended a church in another neighborhood where he was actively involved in the youth program.


About two months ago, Joseph saw a newscast about the church of his childhood. The former youth pastor, whom Joseph admired deeply, was accused of sexually abusing children in his care at the church. The alleged abuse occurred during the time that Joseph attended the church.

Joseph has begun to have nightmares about attending summer camp with the church youth group. He is pretty not sure he is having memories about sexual abuse by this pastor.

He has become edgy, angry, and very protective of his children. He has removed them from the day care in which they were enrolled. He and his wife now argue frequently about how to find child care for them. He has taken a sabbatical from his church, leaving a younger pastor in charge. His staff at work are questioning his ability to function effectively at this time.

At the urging of an attorney with whom he spoke about how to take legal action, he is seeing a therapist. He says he is so angry he "would love to find the bastard and kill him," and that he doesn't trust God any more or the church –or himself.

Questions

1. Review the slides with this symbol on the upper left: 
2. Discuss the case amongst your group.
3. In this case, what might be evidence of trauma in Joseph's life? List the phrases that tell you this.
4. What is the risk to Joseph if the clinician only works from the medical model?
5. How likely is it that trauma (rather than a "bad brain") might be responsible for Joseph's problematic behavior?