Sex Offending Behaviors and Adults:
A Look at Prevention and Intervention

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sex-related behavior can present challenges in the community and present serious impacts on individuals with special needs. When considering sex offender types of behavior, special considerations are made for supervision, prevention, and education for the individual and the community at large. William is an elderly gentleman who presents with inappropriate sexual behavior resulting in both child and adult victims. The following chapter discusses his history along with some unique challenges related to his sexual behavior, interventions considered as part of his treatment plan, and some lessons learned from working with William and his unique considerations.

INTRODUCTION

Sexual education and sexual behavior are often topics that prompt some uncomfortable conversations in general. The discussion around sex and disabilities is often rife with controversy regarding human rights and health/safety factors. Furthermore, the discussion around aging and sexuality is one that is often overlooked, with the assumption that sexual motivation diminishes over an individual's lifetime. However, the opposite is true, with sexual motivation lasting well into later years (Le Couteur, Anderson, & de Cabo, 2018). Sexuality and motivation for sexual stimulation occurs throughout an individual's entire lifespan and can influence many social interactions. This experience is no different for elderly individuals with special needs.

Research on gerontology, special needs, and sex education is incredibly limited, with much of the research accounting for two of the criteria above. Research might address aging and sex education (Deacon, Minichiello, & Plummer, 1995), sex education and special needs (Baxley & Zendell, 2011), or behavior services in gerontological settings (Burgio & Burgio, 1986). It appears that research on the area of aging, special needs, and sexuality is incredibly scarce, which further highlights the growing need for study in this area, including this case study. This presents a unique issue that limits our knowledge regarding risk factors among this group. Similarly, this limits our understanding of how detrimental problem behaviors around sexual behavior can be in the community.

METHODOLOGY

The below case study is one that discusses concepts related to Unconditioned Motivating Operations (UMOs) or motivations that are naturally occurring from birth, environmental manipulations, community based interventions, behaviors identified as sex offences by legal standards in the Southeast and some southern state programs for individuals with special needs. Additionally, this case study will include some barriers to treatment that require special considerations regarding multicultural competencies.

Participant

William was a 58-year old white male who resided in Daytona Beach, Florida. He was originally diagnosed with Intellectual Delay/Developmental Delay and was in good health. He was not diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder or another variation of the disorder over the years as he was diagnosed at an early age and diagnostic criterion at the time of diagnosis were not as sensitive to ASD during the 50s-60s compared to present day.

Through the duration of services, William maintained his legal competency and was able to make all legal decisions about his services as well as decisions regarding financial, medical, and residential changes. There were never challenges to his legal competency from family members and he was capable of making ongoing decisions about his daily living, including what he ate, how he dressed, where he worked, and what activities he regularly engaged in. William was completely deaf from birth and spoke in American Sign Language (ASL), though it was reported that some of his sign language was modified. Szymanski, Brice, Lam, and Hotto (2012) indicated that the prevalence of individuals with ASD and hearing impairments may be as high as 1 in 59 individuals with a diagnosis, though these data are limited in scope.

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