CRIMINAL THINKING AND ANTISOCIAL LOGIC

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OBJECTIVES

✓ THE PARTICIPANT WILL IDENTIFY MALADAPTIVE THINKING PATTERNS THAT ARE PREVALENT WITH THE JUSTICE INVOLVED OFFENDER THAT PERPETUATES CRIMINAL AND ANTI-SOCIAL ACTIONS.
✓ THE PARTICIPANT WILL UNDERSTAND SPECIFIC CRIMINAL THINKING PATTERNS AND IDENTIFY HOW TO RESPOND TO CRIMINAL THINKING STATEMENTS IN A MANNER THAT AVOIDS CONFRONTATION AND RESISTANCE.
✓ THE PARTICIPANT WILL DEFINE ANTISOCIAL PERSONALITY DISORDER AND ANALYZE THEORIES ASSOCIATED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENDING.
✓ THE PARTICIPANT WILL EVALUATE AND IDENTIFY EVIDENCED BASED RESEARCH IN ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT PLANNING FOR THOSE WITH CRIMINAL THINKING PATTERNS AND COGNITIVE DISTORTIONS.
✓ THE PARTICIPANT WILL DEVELOP LEARNED TECHNIQUES THROUGH THE USE OF EXPERIENTIAL ROLE PLAYS THAT WILL HELP IN DEALING WITH JUSTICE INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS.
CRIMINAL THINKING

THOUGHT CONTENT AND PROCESS CONDUCIVE TO THE INITIATION AND MAINTENANCE OF HABITUAL LAWBREAKING BEHAVIOR.

MENTAL PROCESS REQUIRED TO LIVE IN A CRIMINAL LIFESTYLE.

WHAT ARE CRIMINAL THINKING ERRORS?

• CRIMINAL THINKING ERRORS ARE PREVALENT IN OUR SOCIETY. THESE ERRORS ARE PREVALENT IN EACH OF US TO VARYING DEGREES. OFFENDERS TAKE THESE BEHAVIORS TO THE EXTREME WHICH THEN CONTINUES INTO PATTERNS OF THINKING AND ACTION BEHAVIORS THAT VICTIMIZE AND HARM OTHERS.
BRAIN CHANGE

Research indicates that individuals with anti social personality disorder lack full development of the pre-frontal cortex. Substance use causes brain chemistry changes in pre-frontal cortex and limbic areas. Lack of full development from substance use will impact appropriate judgment, decision making, impulsivity, emotional regulation, and social dynamics. The individual’s environment and family history also has an impact on criminality and substance use.

Cycle of Criminal Thinking- Interlocking Gears
PROTECTION OF THINKING PATTERNS

• WHEN A COUNSELOR ATTEMPTS TO INTRODUCE FACTS IN THE ANALYSIS OF THE CRIMINAL'S THINKING AND DECISION MAKING, THE FACTS BRING TO LIGHT THE ILLOGICAL NATURE AND CONTRADICTIONS PRODUCED BY THIS MANNER OF THOUGHT. THE OFFENDER THEN ATTEMPTS TO PROTECT HIS THOUGHT PATTERNS AND IS PUSHING TO FIND WAYS TO LIVE THE LIFE THAT IS DESIRED.

HOW TO IDENTIFY CRIMINAL THINKING BEHAVIORS?

LISTEN FOR: NEGATIVE EXPRESSION ABOUT THE LAW.

• NEGATIVE EXPRESSION ABOUT CONVENTIONAL INSTITUTIONS, VALUES, RULES, & PROCEDURES; INCLUDING AUTHORITY.

• NEGATIVE EXPRESSIONS ABOUT SELF-MANAGEMENT OF BEHAVIOR; INCLUDING PROBLEM SOLVING ABILITY

• NEGATIVE ATTITUDES TOWARD SELF AND ONE'S ABILITY TO ACHIEVE THROUGH CONVENTIONAL MEANS.

• LACK OF EMPATHY AND SENSITIVITY TOWARD OTHERS.

"IDENTIFY PRO CRIMINAL VALUES, BELIEFS AND ATTITUDES!"

THE CONTENT OF WHAT PEOPLE THINK
HOW DOES ADDICTION AND CRIMINAL THINKING DRIVE EACH OTHER?

**ADDICTIVE THINKING**
- CONTROLS WITH DECEIT
- CHEATS AND CONS
- ABUSIVE
- PASSIVE AGGRESSIVE
- UNDERMINES AND CONFUSES
- MANIPULATES WITH LIES

**CRIMINAL THINKING**
- CONTROLS WITH POWER
- CHEATS AND CONS
- ABUSIVE
- INTIMIDATES
- UNDERMINES AND CONFUSES
- MANIPULATES WITH THREATS

**ADDICTION AND CRIMINAL THINKING**

**ADDICTIVE THINKING**
- IRRESPONSIBLE
- FALSE PROMISES
- IMPULSIVE
- UNRELIABLE
- DENIES FACTS
- DUCKS OUT ON OBLIGATIONS

**CRIMINAL THINKING**
- IRRESPONSIBLE
- LACK OF EFFORT
- IMPULSIVE
- UNRELIABLE
- DISTORTS FACTS
- REFUSES OBLIGATIONS
ADDICTIVE AND CRIMINAL THINKING

ADDICTIVE THINKING
• PLEASURE FOCUSED
• CRAVES SENSUALITY
• INSTANT GRATIFICATION
• LOW DISCOMFORT LEVEL
• JUDGMENTAL
• LUSTFUL

CRIMINAL THINKING
• EXCITEMENT FOCUSED
• CRAVES THRILLS
• INSTANT GRATIFICATION
• LOW BOREDOM TOLERANCE
• DENIES JUDGEMENT
• POWER HUNGRY

NEUTRALIZING AND MINIMIZING ATTITUDES

• NEUTRALIZATION TECHNIQUES INCLUDE:
• DENIAL OF RESPONSIBILITY: CRIMINAL ACTS ARE DUE TO FACTORS BEYOND THE CONTROL OF THE INDIVIDUAL, THUS, THE INDIVIDUAL IS GUILT FREE TO ACT.
• DENIAL OF INJURY: ADMITS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACT, BUT MINIMIZES THE EXTENT OF HARM OR DENIES ANY HARM
• DENIAL OF THE VICTIM: REVERSES THE ROLE OF OFFENDER & VICTIM & BLAMES THE VICTIM
• “SYSTEM BASHING” THOSE WHO DISAPPROVE OF THE OFFENDER’S ACTS ARE DEFINED AS IMMORAL, HYPOCRITICAL, OR CRIMINAL THEMSELVES.
• APPEAL TO HIGHER LOYALTIES: “LIVE BY A DIFFERENT CODE” – THE DEMANDS OF LARGER SOCIETY ARE SACRIFICED FOR THE DEMANDS OF MORE IMMEDIATE LOYALTIES.

[SYKES AND MALTZ]
THE SEPARATION

• ANYONE WHO HAS EVER HAD CRIMINAL OR IRRESPONSIBLE THOUGHTS IS GUILTY OF CRIMINAL THINKING AND THEREFORE CAN BE LABELED AS A “CRIMINAL”.

• WHAT IS OMITTED IN THIS CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE TERM “CRIMINAL” ARE THE ASPECTS OF CRIMINAL THINKING AS A WAY OF LIFE AND NOT ONE OR TWO EPISODES OF IRRESPONSIBLE THINKING.

GLENN WALTERS LIFESTYLE THEORY

✓ LIFESTYLE THEORY ARGUES THAT CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR IS A GENERAL CRIMINAL PATTERN OF LIFE.

✓ LIFESTYLE THEORY HOLDS THREE KEY CONCEPTS: CONDITIONS, CHOICE, AND, COGNITION.

✓ A CRIMINAL LIFESTYLE IS THE RESULT OF CHOICES CRIMINALS MAKE, SOMEWHAT A RESULT OF OUR ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS.
WALTERS CON’T

✓ COGNITION REFERENCES TO COGNITIVE STYLES PEOPLE DEVELOP AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THEIR BIOLOGICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS AND THE PATTERN OF CHOICES THEY HAVE MADE IN RESPONSE TO THEM.

✓ LIFESTYLE CRIMINALS DISPLAY COGNITIVE FEATURES OR THINKING ERRORS THAT MAKE THEM WHAT THEY ARE.

Diagrammatic Presentation of Criminal Lifestyle Theory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conditions</th>
<th>Choices</th>
<th>Cognition</th>
<th>Behavior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early biological and environmental experiences and personal traits</td>
<td>Choices resulting from conditions</td>
<td>Cognitive style formed by choices; “thinking errors”</td>
<td>Pattern of behavior; rule breaking, impulsiveness, egocentrism, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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1. CLOSED CHANNEL THINKING
2. VICTIMSTANCE
3. VIEWS SELF AS A GOOD PERSON
4. LACK OF EFFORT
5. LACK OF INTEREST IN RESPONSIBLE PERFORMANCE
6. LACK OF TIME PERSPECTIVE
7. FEAR OF FEAR
8. POWER THRUST
9. UNIQUENESS
10. OWNERSHIP ATTITUDE

CRIMINOGENIC FACTORS

- Address offenders' greatest criminogenic needs. These criminogenic needs are dynamic risk factors, that when addressed, affect the offender's risk for recidivism.
- Examples of criminogenic needs are: criminal personality; antisocial attitudes; values, and beliefs; low self control; criminal peers; substance abuse; and dysfunctional family.
- Need to manipulate and control others
- Need for high risk behaviors
- Blames others for own actions

LSI- R LEVEL OF SERVICE INVENTORY REvised
CRIMINOGENIC NEEDS

• ANTI-SOCIAL ATTITUDES, BELIEFS, VALUES:
  ➢ RATIONALIZATION — “EVERYBODY DOES IT, SO WHAT’S THE PROBLEM”, “I HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO WHAT I WANT”.
  ➢ MINIMIZATION — “NOBODY GOT HURT, SO IT’S OK”, “THEY GOT “INSURANCE”.
  ➢ DENIAL OF RESPONSIBILITY — “I WAS FRAMED”, “I’VE ALREADY BEEN “PUNISHED ENOUGH”.
  ➢ CRIMINAL THINKING — “I’M TOO SMART TO GET CAUGHT”.
  ➢ ANTI-SOCIAL ASSOCIATES — “WELL, YOU SEE, MY BUDDY KNEW THIS GUY…”.
  ➢ LOW LEVELS OF EDUCATIONAL/VOCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT.
  ➢ POOR SELF-CONTROL/SELF-REGULATION — “I GOT FRUSTRATED WITH MY PO, SO I SAID TO HELL WITH IT.
  ➢ SUBSTANCE ABUSE.

ANTI-SOCIAL PERSONALITY DISORDER

✓ Primary psychopaths are thought to have behavior that is biological in origin.
✓ Secondary psychopaths have behavior that is the result of genetics and adverse environments.
APD CONTINUED

✓ **APD**: A PERVASIVE PATTERN OF DISREGARD FOR, AND VIOLATION OF, THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS THAT BEGINS IN CHILDHOOD OR EARLY ADOLESCENCE AND CONTINUES INTO ADULTHOOD.

✓ THE MOST WIDELY USED MEASURE OF PSYCHOPATHY IS THE **PSYCHOPATHY CHECKLIST-REVISED (PCL-R)**: CLINICIANS RATE PATIENTS AS EITHER HAVING OR NOT HAVING 20 BEHAVIOR/PERSONALITY TRAITS.

THE IMPORTANCE OF ASSESSMENT

☐ OFFENDER TREATMENT PROGRAMS THAT CONDUCT THOROUGH, RIGOROUS AND OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT OF OFFENDERS AND USE THE ASSESSMENT INFORMATION TO INFORM TREATMENT PLANNING DECISIONS HAVE BEEN PROVEN TO HAVE MUCH BETTER OUTCOMES THAN PROGRAMS THAT DO NOT ENGAGE IN SUCH ASSESSMENTS.

☐ ASSESSMENTS MAXIMIZE TREATMENT RESOURCES (STAFF, MONEY, TIME) BY TARGETING THEM WHERE THEY WILL PRODUCE THE BEST OUTCOMES, RATHER THAN WASTING THEM ON OFFENDERS WHO WILL DERIVE LITTLE BENEFIT.
Effective Intervention

STRATEGIES

• CAPTURE THE CRIMINAL THINKING RATHER THAN JUST LETTING IT GO BY.

• HELPS THE CLIENT OBSERVE HIS/HER CRIMINAL THINKING.

• ALLOWS THE CLIENT TO SEE ERROR IN THINKING OR ATLEAST TALK ABOUT AND DEFEND THEIR CRIMINAL THINKING.

• RESPOND BY BUILDING A BRIDGE FROM NEGATIVE LABELS TO A PRODUCTIVE CONVERSATION THAT ENHANCES AWARENESS.
STRATEGIES

Use language that is reflective and free of jargon

Elicit offender view and interpretation

Look for a shift in thinking rather than monumental behavioral changes

Adapt to change by use of many types of challenges of the behavior.

Address thoughts: IMMEDIATELY

CONSISTENTLY

REPEATEDLY

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/SUPPORT

- SAMUEL YOCHELSON, S. SAMENOW. (1977) THE CRIMINAL PERSONALITY-THE CHANGE PROCESS VOL. II.
- SAMENOW, S.E. (1998) STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT CRIMINALS. UNDERSTANDING AND TREATING ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIORS.