

Sexual Counseling Services at Harborcreek Youth Services provides treatment to male sexual offenders and sexually reactive males between the ages of 10 and 18. A support group is offered for parents of clients who are sexual offenders.

The Offender Program consists of five phases of sexual offender treatment.

Phase I focuses on sexual education. This is a psycho-educational phase in which boys learn about sexual development, correct sexual terminology, conception, menstruation, sexual misconceptions, and acquiring a more respectful attitude about sex. A Phase I test is given at the end of the sixth session. Clients who are not able to pass the test receive special tutoring from their therapist until they are able to comprehend the material.

Phase II is the phase in which clients begin to process their offenses. They learn the difference between consensual and non-consensual sexual relations, legal definitions of sexually offensive behavior, and fines and sentencing guidelines for sexual offenses. The group begins to consider the levels of denial and to confront any denial exhibited by members of the group. Empathy, Thinking Errors, and High Risk Situations are introduced during this phase. Disclosure to the clients' families and probation officers also begins during this phase. In addition, a brief introduction to the concept of an offense cycle is presented to the group.

Phase III develops Victim Awareness and Empathy. Clients complete victim profiles, apology letters, and autobiographies ("Beginning to Tell My Story"). Each of these assignments is shared with the group. Clients must demonstrate comprehension of the material before moving on to the next phase. Disclosure is usually complete by the end of Phase III. Home visits may begin during Phase III if victims are not living in the home. Clients are expected to apply the information they learn during this stage to the daily living milieu and to home visits.

Phase IV consists of sessions that focus primarily on the clients' Offense Cycle. This Offense Cycle includes triggers, inappropriate fantasies, and planning and committing the offense. Discussions and presentations of the Offense Cycle are the main focus of this phase. Clients must pass an SCS post-test during the final session of this phase in order to move forward.

Phase V is devoted to Relapse Prevention work. Clients learn how to build healthy relationships and role play healthy relationships, as opposed to the Violence Wheel. Acquaintance rape is introduced during this phase. Practical ways to handle sexual temptation are stressed. Clients must develop a personal Relapse Prevention Plan.

SCS aftercare continues until the client is discharged. Relapse Prevention Groups are open-ended and process-oriented. Clients are expected to hold each other accountable for victimizing others, thinking errors, high risk situations, and inappropriate behavior.

The boys in our transitional living programs act as mentors to the new graduates. Reintegration into the community begins during this aftercare period.