Call for Papers: Special Issue on Family Therapy with Adolescents in Residential Treatment Settings

Contemporary Family Therapy: An International Journal

Families with a troubled adolescent or young adult face unique challenges and may find themselves making the difficult choice to send their child to a residential program. The options available to families include such placements as therapeutic boarding schools, wilderness therapy, and residential treatment centers. Adolescents and young adults in residential placements present with a wide variety of issues, including drug and alcohol problems, oppositional behavior, mood disorders, and eating disorders. It is not uncommon for parents to turn to a residential placement as an alternative to a more restrictive placement such as hospitalization or incarceration.

Recognizing the influence of the family system on behavior, many residential programs promote family involvement and treatment. However, there is a unique challenge in providing these services because the individual in treatment is separated from the family. Mental health professionals working in these settings face significant challenges when they attempt to apply the methods and techniques taught in master’s level graduate programs.

Family therapists working in residential settings have to be proficient in working with a wide range of mental health issues and proficient at engaging family members both directly and indirectly. Family members are faced with conflicting emotions about placing their child in a program, maintaining motivation to work on the system while the child is in treatment, and planning for the return of the child after treatment is completed.

Given the increasing prevalence of residential placements for adolescents and young adults, developing techniques and interventions that promote change at the systemic level has become a priority. This special issue of Contemporary Family Therapy is seeking papers that focus on family therapy techniques and interventions for adolescents and young adults in residential programs. Although all papers will be considered, manuscripts that are research based will be weighted more heavily.

Call for papers:

http://www.springer.com/psychology/journal/10591?detailsPage=societies

All work will be peer reviewed and follow the usual guidelines of the journal. Author guidelines can be found at:


We are accepting papers up to June 30, 2015 on this topic.

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