



Minority Fellowship Program

The National Board for Certified Counselors

Innovations in Counseling: Working with Minority Populations- Part 4 Session 9: Considerations for Assessment, Diagnosis and Counseling of Teenagers with Addiction Issues

Webinar Follow-up Question and Answer Session with Dr. Kevin Doyle.

1. Question from Keith Norman

How would you respond when a parent reports suicidal ideations but the client denies or does not present any suicidal risk?

Answer

A few thoughts here:

- Continue to assess for suicidality (client)
- Refer the parents to appropriate professionals
- Consider family counseling/therapy
- Continually reassess

2. Question from Keosha Branch

Can drug use cause prolonged or repeated instances of dissociation or depersonalization?

Answer

Yes, that is possible, although I would not characterize it as common, particularly with adolescents. However, the substances adolescents use (hallucinogens, inhalants) can produce unpredictable effects.

3. Question from Joshua Maldonado

What do you think of MAT treatment for adolescents?

Answer

I am not a medical doctor, of course, so I need to be careful of scope of practice here. I would generally not default to medication-assisted treatment first, but with a later adolescent in particular with a significant opiate problem, this is life-threatening, so MAT could very well be a viable option. I like to develop good consultative relationships with clients' medical providers (PCPs).

4. Question from Charmaine Rimple

Would you provide the name of the manual for levels of care for adults?

Answer

Sure: *The ASAM Criteria: Treatment Criteria for Addictive, Substance-Related, and Co-Occurring Conditions*

Available at: <http://www.asam.org/quality-practice/guidelines-and-consensus-documents/the-asam-criteria/text>

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