

SOCIAL SERVICES

Lesson Summary



Assess Client

- Past/current functioning
- Impact of torture on social functioning
- Current needs
- Strengths/coping skills
- Physical/psychological limitations
- Resources
- View on healing, hopes, solutions



Skills for Working with Survivors

- Listen with compassion
- Gain trust
- Validate feelings
- Connect with resources



Consider Client Perspective

- Client feel safe & secure?
- What is client asking for, wanting, or believes will help?
- What is working for the client?
- What resources does the client currently use?
- How would the client solve a problem in their home country?



Resources for Clients

- Faith communities
- Spiritual & religious leaders
- Educational programs
- Pro-bono legal services
- Free & low-cost medical care & medication
- Employment programs
- Housing programs
- Transportation resources
- Community organizations
- Socialization activities



Boundaries with Clients are Important

- Survivor needs can be overwhelming
- You can feel pulled to do more than your role or organization allows
- Think about why you are using specific tool & intervention



Common Survivor Concerns

- Personal safety & security
- Employment
- Education
- Housing
- Legal needs/immigration status
- Domestic situation
- Interpersonal issues
- Community concerns



Treatment Plan with Survivors Network (as indicated)

- Family and friends
- Community groups
- Legal Providers
- Medical Providers
- Mental Health Providers
- Community Resources
- Social Service Provider

Survivor Challenges and What you can Provide:

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| Loss of role and status | ▶ Support/explore new roles |
| Conflict with others | ▶ Explore cause of conflicts |
| Estrangement from loved ones | ▶ Explore ways to connect/mourn relationships |
| Lost/impaired relationships or unwillingness to develop new relationships | ▶ Model positive new relationships with consistency/warmth/empathy |
| Learned helplessness & lost sense of competence | ▶ Offer choices/support to complete tasks |
| Dependency, shame and guilt | ▶ Normalize and educate about experience in US |
| Inability to trust others | ▶ Provide consistency/follow-through |