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Creative Arts Personal Growth Group (CAPG)

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Lisa S. Sosin, Ph.D., LPC, LLP, BACS ACC Conference, 2020

Contents of Presentation

- (1) CAPG Rationale
- (2) CAPG Theoretical Framework
- (3) CAPG Screening and Sessions
- (4). Participate in and Process a CAPG Intervention
- (5). CAPG Research Findings

Rationale for CAPG

- Current Crisis of Bullying, Interpersonal Violence, and Marginalization (Artime et al., 2019; Brendgen et al., 2019; Rospenda et al., 2013)
- Fear, Trauma and Shame (Bauman et al., 2013; Carney et al., 2019; Crosby et al., 2010; Hase et al., 2015; Marshall et al., 2015; Plexousakis et al., 2019)
- Value of Group Interventions (Bauman, 2010; Brown, 2019; Singh, 2013)
- Dearth of interventions for Adults (Sosin et al., under review)

CAPG Evidence-Based Theoretical Framework

- The Creative Exposure Intervention (CEI) (Sosin & Rockinson-Szapkiw, 2016)
- CBT, mindfulness, and creative arts approaches (Bayne & Thompson, 2018; Fortuna & Vallejo, 2015; Harris, 2014; Heyes et al., 2013; Schwartze et al., 2019)
- Group work competencies, values, and guidelines (Guth et al., 2019; Singh et al., 2012; Thomas & Pender, 2008)

CAPG Goals

Experiencing an inclusive community

Learning effective tools to monitor and modify fear and shame

Reintegrate devalued and disowned parts of the self

(Sosin et al., under review)

CAPG Preparation

- CAPG Training
- Supervision
- Screening
- Orientation
- Consent
- Research

(Sosin & Trexler 2019; Sosin & Noble, 2020; Sosin et al., under review)

Characteristics of Effective CAPG Leaders

Highly Competent Group Workers

(Guth et al., 2019; Singh et al., 2012; Thomas & Pender, 2008)

- Active
- Provide Structure
- Keep the group interpersonally focused
- Multiculturally sensitive
- Advocacy Minded

(Jacobs et al., 2016; Ratts et al., 2010)

CAPG Session Structure

- Open Art
- Anchoring
- Opening Round
- Psychoeducation
- Creative Activity
- Closing Round

Overview of CAPG Protocol

Session One

- Goals:
 - Interpersonal Connection and Safety
 - Understand Impact of Bullying, Interpersonal Violence, and Marginalization
 - Learn Anchoring Skills and Trigger Recording
- Psychoeducation:
 - Activation
 - Window of Tolerance
 - Anchoring
 - Trigger Record Chart
- Creative Arts Activity: Anchoring and Safe Place

Session Two

- Goals:
 - Embarking on a journey toward knowing and accepting Self
 - Authentic connection
- Psychoeducation:
 - Biologically primed, core human needs for inclusion, safety, and acceptance
 - Getting back "home" to the authentic You
- Creative Arts Activity: Core Self Depiction and Mutual Celebration of Diversity

Session Three

- Goals:
 - Deepen Group Connection
 - Increase knowledge and skills needed to monitor and modify fear and shame
- Psychoeducation:
 - Emotions and needs related to them
 - Meeting emotional needs vs. coping
- Creative Activity: Creative Exposure Intervention (Sosin & Rockinson-Szapkiw, 2016)

Session Four

- Goals: (Same goals as Session Three)
 - Deepen group connection
 - Transform fear and shame into compassionate connection
- Psychoeducation:
 - Attuning to one other
 - Past and future-oriented thinking, as well as self-criticism, impact fear-shame
- Creative Arts Activity:
 - Safe Place with Installation of Loving, Protective Person(s)
 - The Creative Self-Compassion Tool (CSCT)

Session Five

- Goals:
 - Process "shame narrative"
 - Grieve about events and their impact
 - Deepen members compassion toward themselves and one another.
- Psychoeducation:
 - Fear and shame triggered by shadows
 - The root of shame
 - Discovering the "rest of the story"
- Creative Activity: Depicting our shame story

Session Six

- Goals:
 - CAPG Review
 - Learn a final creative tool
 - Develop an aftercare plan
- Psychoeducation:
 - Attunement
 - Embodiment
- Creative Arts Activities:
 - The Embodied Present Moment Awareness Tool
 - After care art based plan
 - "Pass it forward"

The Embodied Present Moment Awareness Tool

CAPG Manual, Supervision, and Running a CAPG Group in Your Setting

Summary of Research Findings

Leader Characteristics and Session Structure/Content

Creative Arts Activities

Group Processing

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