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Sensory Integration for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

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Sensory Integration for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

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BACKGROUND

- Since the start of the global pandemic, stay-at-home orders forced IPV survivors to stay in the home with abusers, increasing the risk of abuse and the impact of psychological trauma (Bright et al., 2020).
- In Dallas, Texas, 25 - 33 % increase in domestic violence cases in 2020 (DV) reports [NCADV], 2021).

PROBLEM

On average, five times as many survivors of IPV commit suicide due to an abusive relationship than homicides by their abusive partner (Sarwary, 2020).

Occupational therapists are skilled in supporting community-based programs such as ones in domestic violence shelters, but their presence lacks within the community (Fisher & Hotchkiss, 2008).

PURPOSE

To establish sensory integration as a treatment approach at domestic violence shelters to support trauma recovery for survivors of IPV and reduce revictimization.

METHODS

Needs Assessment

- Literature Review:
 - Gathered evidenced-based research highlighting the role of sensory integration in supporting trauma recovery.
- SWOT Analysis of Sensory Room:
 - Established a strategy for the Grant Proposal by identifying additional manipulatives/therapeutic tools to enhance therapeutic use of sensory room (ex: tools encouraging movement)
- Interview Staff: Identified direction of sensory manual to support counselors/advocates/interns:
 - Results indicated that staff required education in how and when to incorporate sensory-based therapeutic activities to support clients.
- Adult Sensory Profile (ASP): Clients assessed on level of ability to identify sensory preferences.
 - Results indicated clients had trouble in ability to self-identify sensory preferences.
- Sensory Screening Tool (in progress):
 - Results from the needs assessment recommended future directions to publish modified assessment tool screening state of regulation for survivors of IPV.

Funding

- Grant received from The University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences:
 - USAHS funded new sensory equipment for Genesis Women's Shelter & Support Outreach.
- **Granted \$230.99 for 8 new sensory tools**

Marketing



Genesis Podcast

- Clinical Directors Consultation:
- Lunch and Learn (April 28, 2022):
- Conference for Crimes Against Women (May 2022).

Project

Sensory Room Manual

Sensory Room Manual Contents

Education

- The role of occupational therapy in trauma recovery.
- The impact of trauma in the body.
- The role of sensory integration in supporting occupational engagement.

Therapeutic Implementation

- Sensory-Based Therapeutic Activities: 8-10 step-by-step activities for 8 different manipulatives.
- Grounding vs Stimulating.
- Cognitive restructuring.

Outcomes

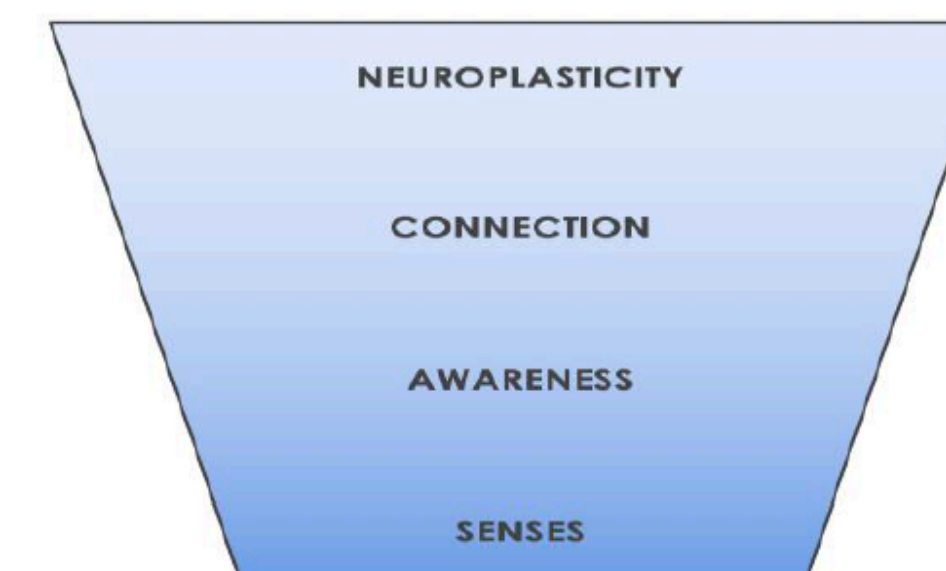
- Enhancing the interdisciplinary team of occupational therapy fieldwork students (from USAHS) at Genesis Women's Shelter through a shared intervention approach.
- Sensory Room Manual is accessible to all domestic violence shelters.
- Trainings for interdisciplinary teams treating trauma survivors.

Objectives

1. To support trauma recovery through sensory integration .
2. To develop the client's self-awareness and self-regulation of thoughts, bodily sensations, emotions and actions .
3. To support interdisciplinary team in incorporating sensory integration as a new treatment approach to supporting trauma recovery.
4. To encourage domestic violence agencies to establish sensory rooms.
5. To encourage occupational therapists in community-based programs.

Theoretical Frameworks:

1. Sensory Integration Theory (Ayres, 1972).
2. Model of Occupational Empowerment (Fisher & Hotchkiss, 2008).
3. Sensory in Trauma Framework



The Sensory in Trauma Framework

Future Directions

- Sensory Rooms in domestic violence shelters.
- Establishment of sensory integration as a treatment approach in healing trauma for IPV survivors.
- Quantitative studies following up with developed screening tool
- Publishing

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