Who is the Family of Transitional Youth?

Presented by:

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Learner goals:

– A review of the research regarding brain growth development and the impact on 18 to 25 year old young adults;

– Share the effect of substance use disorder on the development of the brain and the transitional skills expected of 18 – 25 year old young people;

– Recognize the chaos the substance use disorder may have on the family, infants to grandparents;

– Explore the resources and programs available to behavioral health providers and community support organizations to address the needs of parenting while in treatment and early recovery.

Who is the Family of Transitional Age Youth?
Emerging Adults... (18 – 25 years of age)

For young adults in the U.S., the transition into adulthood begins in the late teens and continues through the mid-20s. The transition can be a stressful process because young people become more self-sufficient and make decisions that shape their futures.
In Reality…

– Past: We used to think the brain was fully developed by early teens years;

– Currently:

– Evidence of brain development well into the early 20’s.

– Neuron growth and pruning actually ends much later than thought.
The Young Brain..... 18 through 24

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Cognitive development continues into later stages and function will be affected until the prefrontal cortex has fully developed.

Prefrontal cortex is important in relation to social reasoning, planning, problem solving and understanding.

Challenges for TAY:

Research on the developing brains of adolescents and young adults points to:

– The importance of understanding the “vulnerability of teens and young adults, and the significance of this stage;”

– The importance of positive, supportive relationships in the framework of the continuing development of the adolescent and young adult brain.
When you think of transitional age youth, what do you think of?

– Behavior;
– Goals;
– Achievements;
– Challenges;
Who is the Family of Transitional Age Youth?
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Feelings and Behaviors

- Generate and record a list of feelings and behaviors that are found in families with a person who is in addiction.
- Post.
Family roles:
(Original work regarding family roles was done by Virginia Satir, and adapted by Claudia Black and Sharon Wegscheider to fit the addictive family model. Over the years the labels have varied but the descriptions fit.)

- **Family Hero (Responsible)**

- **Lost child (Adjuster)**

- **People Pleaser (Placater)**

Who is the Family of Transitional Age Youth?
– Family Clown (Mascot)

– Scapegoat (Acting-Out)


Who is the Family of Transitional Age Youth?
In an sud’s or stressed family system, the disease becomes the focus or concern that organizes the family. The person experiencing sud’s becomes the main figure. All the family members organize their behaviors and reactions in relation to the affected person.

So...? Who is Family?

– For practical purposes, family can be defined according to the individual’s closest emotional connections.
This information was generated in a two day meeting of multidisciplinary researchers, clinicians and policymakers in October 2018.

Participants generated four broad areas for action:

- Pervasive stigma, misunderstanding and fear about SUD and treatment;
- Failure to make the ripple effect a public and political priority;
- Silos in government and service organizations;
- Missed opportunities to identify children at risk and provide them and families with support.
Information shared with the Ripple participants:

- From 2009 to 2014, eight million children in U.S. lived in households with at least one parent with Substance Use Disorder. The majority were under five years of age.
- In 2015, there were 2.6 million grandparents responsible for grandchildren.
- In 2015, 26% of U.S. opioid deaths were adults aged 25 to 34 years of age.
Information con’t:

– In 2015, 23% of U.S. opioid deaths were adults aged 34 to 44 years of age.
– Primary parenting years are 25 to 44 years of age.
– Over 440,000 children estimated in foster care, over 69,000 awaiting adoption because parents lost custodial rights. (as of September 30, 2017)
– For every child formally placed in foster care, either with a relative or otherwise, 19 go to live with a family member outside the system according to Generations United.
– Estimated 2.7 million children are in these informal kinship arrangements.

The three level family:

Who is the Family of Transitional Age Youth?
The Illinois Department on Aging:
- 220,088 children under 18 years of age living in a grandparent’s home;
- Represents 101,951 grandparents who are responsible for their grandchildren;
- Research has shown that parental substance abuse is the main reason grandparents are taking responsibility for their grandchildren.

Source: The Opioid Crisis and the Elderly, (December 2018), Illinois State Bar Association
Available Resources:

– Illinois Department on Aging,
– Illinois Department of Children and Family Services,
– Illinois State Bar Association,
– Illinois Department of Human Services,
– Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services,
– Grandparents Raising Grandchildren.
A HANDBOOK
FOR THE TREATMENT OF
ALCOHOLISM/ADDICTION,
FAMILY INVOLVEMENT AND RECOVERY

Recovery is reclaiming the person you were born to be.

Alice M. Lebron, LCSW,
MSWAC, BCD Emeritus

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National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW)
A Curriculum to Facilitate Recovery
For Parents and Children
Impacted by Alcohol and/or Drug Dependence

Created by Linda Sibley, M.A., Lead Author and
Rosemary Tisch, M.A. and Mary Gardner, M.A., Co-Authors

0 thru 3 Years
Supplement
Group Leader Guide

Preface
Session 1 – Session 16

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Volume 1
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Preface
Session 1 – Session 4

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