

Case Presentation

Case Study part A

Identify a client system available in the agency setting

Tom is a very attractive, intelligent, 42 year old white male who was admitted to St. Barnabas for rehabilitation services in the form of PT and OT due to his wheel chair being customized to the wrong specifications. Tom received fractures in both hips due to this error.

Review the available social history information on the client and then incorporate these added elements: Functioning of the client system from an individual, family and community perspective with an emphasis on strengths and resiliency.

Tom is a very intelligent, charismatic and charming. He enjoys company and is very social. When Tom was 18 he was involved in a motorcycle accident that has left him a paraplegic. Previously, Tom has struggled with bouts of depression and issues of “what if”. Currently, Tom has a great support system of friends and family. His parents and brothers are very involved in his life. Tom adopted a son 16 years ago who now lives out of state. He has a great relationship with his son. Unfortunately, Tom has had two failed marriages.

He voices that he has the ability to care for his home and himself with very little outside support. His plans are to return home after he completes his therapy and continue on with his life. His social life involves playing in dart tournaments and hanging out with his friends at local pool halls. He voices having no substance abuse issues but does admit to drinking heavily right after the accident. Upon admission, Tom received a 30/30 on

his mini-mental assessment. He is very cognitive and is capable of making his own decisions and voicing his own needs. He voices that his main concern is “getting too into his head”. Because of his history of depression he receives anti-depressant medications that he receives from his primary care physician.

Issues related to diversity should be identified and addressed

Tom voiced concerns that because of his disability he does not have full access to all of the establishments he likes to frequent. Several of his favorite places to hang out in have steps leading to the restrooms. This makes it impossible for him to utilize the restrooms without his friends picking him up and carrying him and his chair down the steps. This often embarrasses him and further shows the differences he has with non-disabled adults. He is aware of the Americans with Disabilities Act but says that many places still do not follow the guidelines.

Identify another theoretical framework, which is appropriate for social work practice with this client system

Ecological theory and feminist theory will be utilized to explain, explore, and define the population of disabled adults. Ecological theory was chosen because it explains human development by describing aspects of the individual, the environment, and interactions between the two. Ecological theory argues that people are active participants and are not passive in their lives (Rogers, 2006 pg. 37). Individuals who are disabled are subjected to rapidly changing environments for various reasons; one reason may be that the business is under construction and past entrances have been moved or are no longer handicapped accessible. The fundamental tenet of ecological theory is the way people perceive their environments and the transactions that occur in these environments.

Ecological theory has some compelling strengths. It is comprehensive and goes beyond the psychological and attends to the larger environment. This theory is also less likely to place blame for the problems the client is experiencing entirely on the individual.

Feminist theory was chosen as feminist thought can be applied to many different areas of individuals with disabilities. Feminist thought is best described as the advocacy of social, economics, and political equality between men and women. Feminist theory provides an avenue to examine inequality, oppression, and disenfranchisement of disabled adults (Rogers, 2006 pg. 99). Many disabled adults have endured years of oppression and discrimination from society. The feminist theory is limited in that it focuses on women at the expense of other minority groups. Also, it can be difficult to test and it does not predict behavior (2006). Feminist theory was chosen because society often views disabled individuals as less valuable and is often demeaned by the society in which they form relationships. Disabled individuals are living on the edge of society and are forced to suffer daily from what one could argue as societal oppression.

Develop an interactive plan with the client system, which is representative of sound generalist social work practice including evaluation of the actual intervention(s) itself.

- February 19, 2008, Tom will be supplied with information in regards to counseling services that he eligible to receive.
- February 21, 2008, Tom will be encouraged to choose a convenient counseling service and should make appointment to see therapist after DC from St. Barnabas.

- February 26, 2008, Tom will be provided information in regards to the Americans with disabilities act and he will be encouraged to file complaints against businesses that are not meeting guidelines.
- February 26, 2008, Tom will receive area information on support groups that may be of interest to him in regards to his disability.
- February 33, 2008, Tom will be encouraged to attend support group meetings upon discharge from St. Barnabas.

Develop a list of social work tasks and roles, which would be utilized with this client system during the intervention process

- Social worker will discuss area counseling services that his insurance will cover and area free counseling services.
- Social worker will provide information about the Americans with Disabilities act and numbers that can be called to report violations. If Tom would like assistance in making report social worker will advise him that reports can be make for him.
- Social worker will offer information concerning area disability support groups where he can discuss issues with other disabled individuals.

Bibliography

Americans with Disabilities Act. ADA Home Page. *ADA.gov*. Retrieved February 16, 2008, from <http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm>

Anderson, E. A. and Koblinsky, S. A. (1995, January). Disability Policy: The

Need to Speak to Families. *Family Relations*, 44(1), 13-18. Retrieved October 8, 2006, from <http://www.jstor.org>

Rogers, A.T. (2006). Human Behavior in the Social Environment (ital). Portland:
McGraw Hill.