

A Special Presentation

A One Day Workshop

Working with People with Challenging Behavior

**“Final common paths to maladaptive behaviors and mental health disorders
in persons with developmental disabilities”**

with

Nathan E. Ory, MA

**Saturday, November 22, 2003
9:00am to 5:00pm
(Registration is at 8:30am)**

**Alaska Pacific University
Carr Gottstein Building
Room 102**

Sponsored by:

**Alaska Psychological Association (AK-PA)
State Office of FAS
Southcentral Foundation FAS Diagnostic Clinic
Alaska Pacific University**

PART I

“Having trouble with transitions.” Stuck behavior.

Supporting children and adults with persistent, repetitive behaviors: Perseverative responding.

“Stuck in a rut, unable to shift” is a frequent complaint of caregivers. Some repetitive actions are profoundly dysfunctional and are beyond the person’s ability to self-regulate. These occur in a variety of diagnostic categories.

Perseverative responding reflects deficits in a person's ability to self-sequence, self-attenuate, and self-regulate their own thoughts, emotions, and actions. The session focus is on differential evaluation of repetitive behavior: Is it behavioral, psychiatric, neurological, or just something to do?

Focus is on evaluation of repetitive behavior and how to use structure to assist transitions.

Part I objectives: At the conclusion of this session, the participant should be able to:

1. Recognize the differences and distinguish between complex behavioral habits, ritualistic behavior, sensory-self-activation behavior, and neurological based perseverative patterns of responding.

2. Adapt behavior plans to provide ongoing guidance, to intervene and divert individuals who become “stuck” in perseverative patterns of behavior.
3. Implement crisis management plans to personally mediate, protect and rescue individuals from endless cycles of escalating, non-functional behavior.

PART II

“Trying my hardest, doing my best”

Why some people with developmental disabilities don’t “get better.”

Supporting persons who are functionally dependent and emotionally fragile.

People who are “functionally dependent” are handicapped by their inability to self-orient or organize their own behavior. They may be capable in certain areas, yet in others are either incapable, or dependent on others to be able to cope. This leads to a constant life experience of frustration, failure, non-acceptance, and helpless lack of control. How to understand and respond to dependent persons who are variable in their need for assistance?

People who are “emotionally fragile” are unable to tolerate the experience of frustration, failure, non-acceptance, or lack of control. There is typically a very wide range between their relative strengths and weaknesses, with a tendency to be perfectionist. Often, they are more handicapped by their emotional over-reactivity than they are by their actual intellectual deficits.

Part II objectives: At the conclusion of this session, the participant should be able to:

1. Recognize and define the wide split between cognitive versus functional ability.
2. Identify the strengths and weaknesses associated with many common themes of functional dependence.
3. Recognize and describe cognitive and emotional deficits that are typically underlying maladaptive behavior patterns.
4. Convert “behavior” plans to “mental health management” plans by using additional props and structure to provide continuity and emotional support.

About the Speaker

A registered psychologist, Nathan Ory has worked in Victoria, British Columbia since 1978 with children and adults with developmental disabilities. He has specialized in working with individuals with autistic spectrum disorder, fetal alcohol syndrome, extremely challenging behavior, and/or diagnosis with a concurrent mental illness.

Since 1990 he has been a member of the inter-disciplinary Island Mental Health Support Team which assists persons to remain in their community settings. He describes his role as being one of functional behavior analysis, direct counseling, caregiver training about the effect of cognitive disabilities on a person’s coping ability, prescriptive behavioral strategies and emotional management strategies.

Nathan contributes articles to the web sites www.autismvictoria.com and www.autismtoday.com. He has published a book, Working with People with Challenging Behavior. He has also produced seven videotapes of presentations based on chapters from this book. Contact Nathan at challengingbehavior@shaw.ca.

Nathan Ory has an MA from Ohio State University in experimental psychology (1968 learning and memory) and a BA from Georgia State College (1967). He is married with two children. His family has two cats and a dog.

Schedule

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|---------------|---|
| 8:30 - 9:00 | Registration |
| 9:00 - 10:15 | Explanation of perseverative behavior in persons with FASD, autism and other organic brain syndromes. Is it behavioral, psychiatric, neurological, or just something to do? What is it like to be trapped in perseverative patterns? Motor, sensory, verbal, emotional, and cognitive. |
| 10:15 - 10:30 | Morning break |
| 10:30 - 11:45 | Protecting individuals from perseveration; methods for assisting transitions with a “prop, a rule and a role”. Crisis interventions. Introduction to “functional dependence.” Comparison of cognitive function in persons who are “normal”, “developmentally disabled, and who have “organic impairment.” |
| 11:45 - 1:15 | Lunch break |
| 1:15 - 2:30 | Cognitive factors in functional dependence. Happy and sad themes of living as a person who is functionally dependent. Using predictable expectations, familiar routines and external boundaries. |
| 2:30 - 2:45 | Afternoon break |
| 2:45 - 4:30 | Emotionally fragile and reactive persons. (The “emotional sponge,” “mirror,” “magnifying glass,” “radar,” and conditioned emotional reactions.) Chronic, maladaptive patterns of adjustment. Metaphors for successful approaches. |
| 4:30 | Closing and evaluation |

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Six (6) continuing education credits will be awarded to participants who attend the entire full-day presentation as offered. Partial credit cannot be given

Fees

**Working with People with
Challenging Behavior
Saturday, November 22, 2003**

Six (6) CE credits

**AK-PA Members: \$100
Non AK-PA Members: \$120
Students (no CE credits): \$20**

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Cancellation requests, **IN WRITING**, must be postmarked seven (7) days prior to the start of this event in order to receive a refund. All cancellations are subject to a \$25 processing fee. Authorized refunds will be mailed following the completion of the seminar. AK-PA regrets that no refunds can be issued for ANY reason after the deadline.

REGISTRATION FORM

**Working with People with
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Saturday, November 22, 2003**

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