

# 40th Annual InterCourt Conference



## Session 4E: The Development of a Typology/Classification Tool for Youth with Sexual Problematic Behaviors

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March 15, 2024  
8:15 - 9:45 p.m.



THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO  
JUDICIAL COLLEGE

# The Development of the Youth Sexual Behavior Typology Tool (YSBTT)

## A Typology/Classification Tool for Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors

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## Why did we do it?

The Lucas County Juvenile Probation department recognized the need to reform the JSOT program

Three major goals associated with effective juvenile justice practice were established:

1. Enhance public safety
2. Produce better outcomes for youth/family
3. Reduce financial expenditures

## Cost Effective Interventions

November 2007—Lucas County Juvenile Court re-envisioned, redeveloped, and restructured juvenile sex offender treatment program

- Commitments to ODYS reduced
- Out-of-home placements dramatically decreased
- County saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually

## The Emergence of a Typology System

- Learning from outcome study on effectiveness variations
- Utilizing the Risk Principle
- Assessing Risk, Need, and Appropriate Response
- 2014—Lucas County juvenile justice team formed to develop and validate a Typology/Classification tool

## Purpose of the YSBTT

- The development of a common language about differentiating types of juveniles that have engaged in sex offending behaviors.
- A more thoughtful view of the level of risk and needs these youths present.
- A range of classification categories that described groups of youth.
- A program to use such a classification tool combined with a continuum of both treatment/intervention services and supervision levels based on the typology's identified needs.

2/8/2024

## Lucas county Juvenile Court

Juvenile Court Sexual Behavior Treatment (SBT) Program

## Vision Statement for the SBT Program

- The Lucas County Juvenile Court Sexual Behavior Treatment Program is committed to reducing the incidence of sexual abuse by developing community partnerships that promote community safety, victim restoration and public education by:
  - Enhancing healthy relationships
  - Holding youth and parents accountable, and
  - Ensuring an effective continuum of care for both survivors and youth who sexually offend.

## 2007 Evaluation Needs Identified

- Supervision and Safety
- Comprehensive Community Based Treatment
- Continuum of Care
- Community Education
- Collaboration and Partnerships
- Training and Staff Development
- Specialized/Dedicated Staff

## The Comprehensive Approach



### The End Result

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The evaluation demonstrated that effective SBT enhances public safety

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Treating youth and parents holistically preserves families

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Developing collaborative partnerships within the community brings new resources to the table

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Understanding the special dynamics of juvenile sexual offending ensures a balanced and reasoned response at disposition



## The End Result

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Community-based treatment interventions save valuable resources and assists the Court in efficiently and effectively operating in challenging fiscal times

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MOST IMPORTANTLY—it allows us to protect the children of our community, both those involved with the Court and those whose childhoods we preserve by our goal of “No More Victims”

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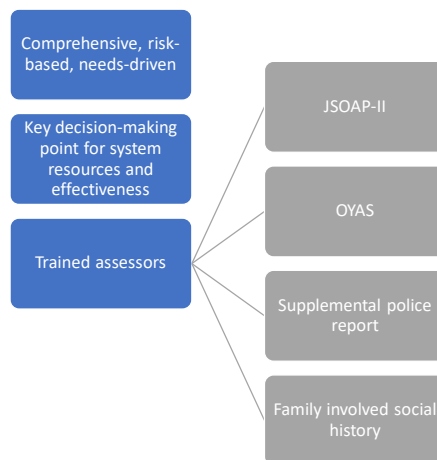
## How is it done?

Lucas county Juvenile Court Juvenile SBT—  
Program Description

# Lucas County Current Programs and Protocols

Assessment	Specialized Program Manager
Partnership w/ Tx providers	Specialized Probation Officers
Treatment	Dedicated Magistrate and Docket
Supervision and Management	Increased Intensity
Community Education	Close collaboration with Mental Health
Community Partnerships (mental health, tx providers, schools, children's services)	Program Evaluation
Training	
Community based engagement and resources	

## Assessment





## Treatment

- Harbor Behavioral Health Programming
  - Group, Family and Individual
- Mastery Learning approach
- Evidence-based
- 6 module intervention
- Target groups
- Partnership with Court
- Includes other mental health needs



## Treatment Partner

Harbor Behavioral Healthcare

## Partnership Between Harbor and Lucas County Juvenile Court



### The Harbor Process: Assessment

- Youth start with complete diagnostic assessment
  - Mental health symptoms (anxiety, irritability, depression, low frustration tolerance, conduct and behavioral issues, focus and attention)
  - School, family, community, and social functioning.
  - Developmental and physical health history.
  - History of trauma for the youth and within the family.
  - History of nonsexual legal interactions and substance use.
  - History and current risk for aggression and harm to self or others.
- Legal and sexual exposure history
  - Current offense, history of exposure to sexually explicit materials, sexually reactive behavior
- Results lead to individualized treatment plan addressing juvenile sexual offense issues and additional treatment goals relating behavioral or mental health issues

## The Harbor Process: Therapy



### Youth attend weekly sessions to work on their treatment goals:

Achieving mastery of the six modules of treatment

Improving management of mental health symptoms

Increasing responsibility for self, respect for others, and problem-solving skills



### To complete the therapy portion of the program, each youth must:

Successfully complete all six modules with a score of 80% or better

Complete a relapse prevention plan that includes strengths, identifying triggers, risky behaviors, an avoidance or escape plan, and how their support system can help them follow their plan.

Clients present their plans and are encouraged to share their plans with their support system.



### Program Length

Most youth spend an average of twelve to eighteen months in therapy

Some complete in as quick as six months

## The Harbor Process: Group Work

Youth and their parents/guardians are recommended to attend biweekly group therapy sessions.

- Youth Groups focus on:
  - Improving understanding and application of skills from the six modules
  - providing support and a sense of belonging
  - practicing positive problem-solving strategies
  - practicing positive social skills
- Parent Groups focus on
  - parenting skills
  - providing support and belonging
  - Problem-solving
  - managing frustration
  - coping with grief and loss
  - how to manage and cope with difficult youth behaviors
- Parents who are not involved in groups are invited to work on these issues in family sessions with their child's therapist

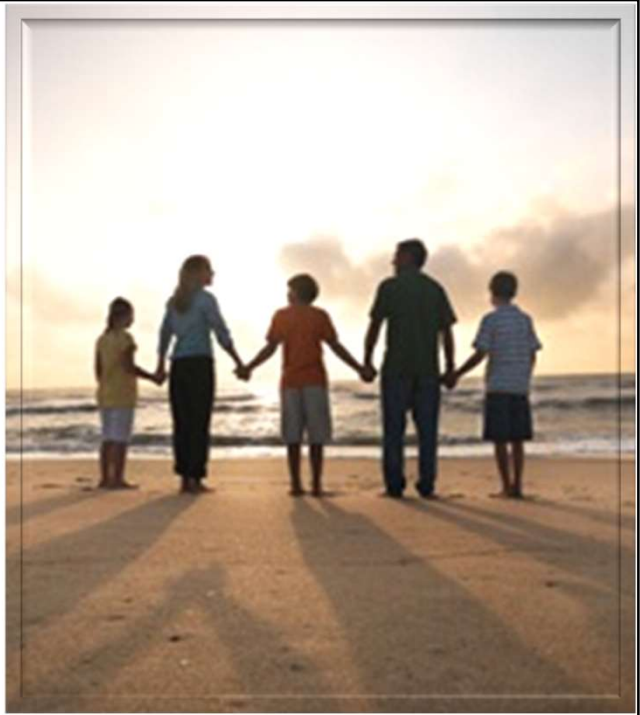


## The Harbor Process: Family Involvement

Parents are recommended to be involved in their child's therapy and communicate regularly with their child's therapist. Questions and concerns about their child's behavior and their progress is welcomed and encouraged!

If more specific systemic needs are identified, families are recommended to meet for individual or family sessions.

- Parents may also be referred for their own therapy services or services for siblings



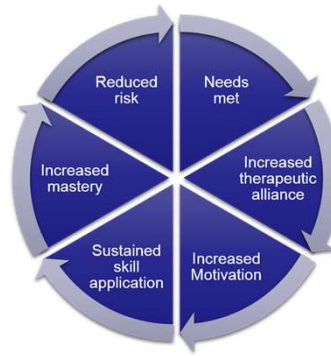
## The Harbor Process: Case Management

- Community-based integrated case managers play a critical role in the treatment process
  - Conduct home visits to meet clients in natural environment and provide insight and advocacy related to current needs amongst multi-disciplinary team
  - Provide linkage to community resources
  - Help to address and mitigate barriers to treatment compliance
  - Review and reinforce SBT program material

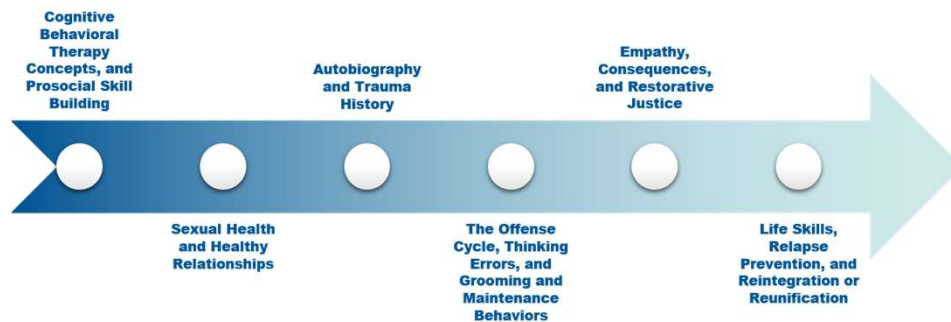
## Motivation and Mastery

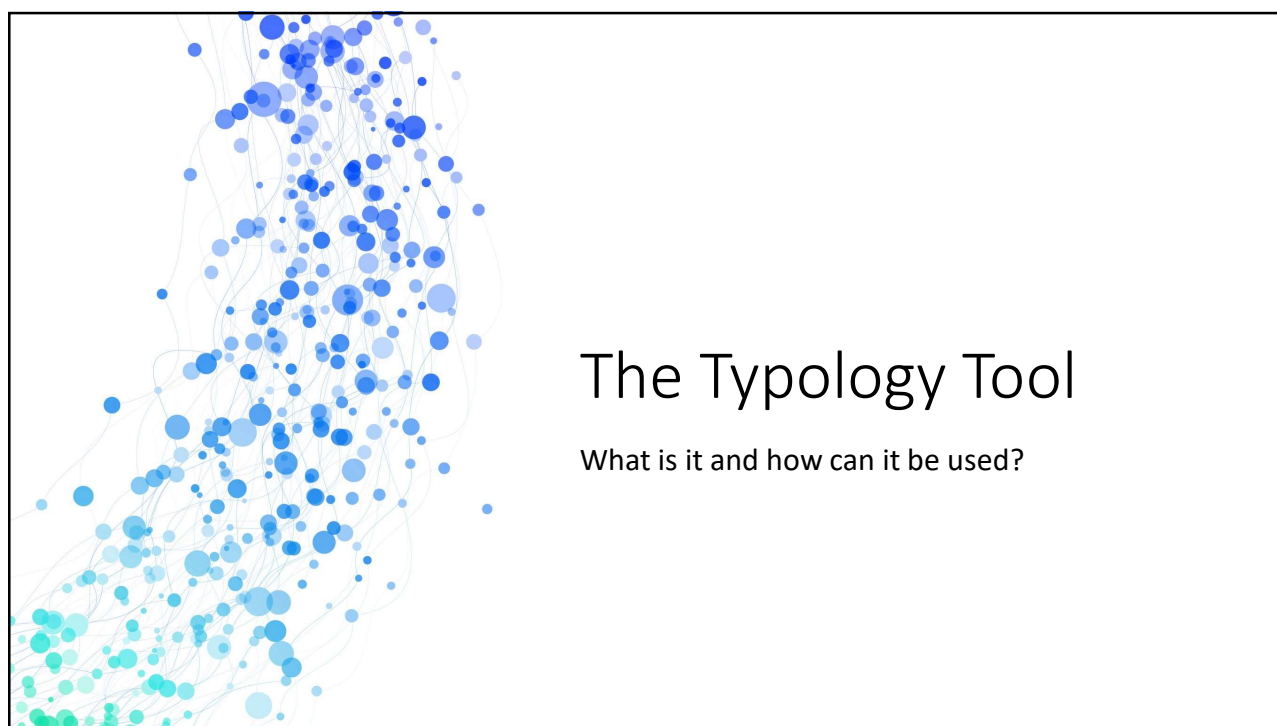
Stages of Change model applied to motivate each client to move through the five stages of change to new and stable behavior.

By recognizing how unmet needs influence both mastery and motivation, we can address the lower level needs that block mastery, identify what helps our youth move through the stages of change, and increase mastery!



## The Six Modules





## Literature on pervasive risk factors for youth with problematic sexual behavior (PSB)

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Elevated rates of trauma and abuse

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Atypical sexual interests and early life exposure to sexual material

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Poor behavioral and emotion regulation skills

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Age of victim

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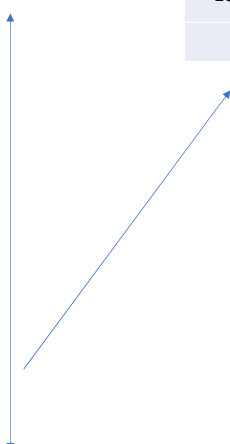
Empathy toward victims

## Goals and Methods of this project

- Design a typology tool that provided meaningful classifications for youth with PSB
- These classifications can help courts, probation officers and treatment providers determine intervention needs
- Typology intended to augment, not replace risk assessment
- Methods & Analysis:
  - Probation and clinical team conducted a retrospective, independent data review of 60 youth adjudicated of a SO.
  - Tool validated using Exploratory and Confirmatory Factor Analysis; Typological Distinctions created using Latent Class Analysis.

<b>Evidence of Inappropriate sexual expression</b> (33 TOTAL ITEMS)	1.DEVIANT AROUSAL (3 Items)	1Current arousal patterns are triggered by age-appropriate fantasy_RC
	2.PAIRING DEVIANT AROUSAL WITH SEXUAL ACTING OUT (7 items)	4Youth experienced deviant arousal as part of their problem sexual behavior (PSB)
	3.PORNOGRAPHY AND SEXUAL URGE MANAGEMENT (5 Items)	11The youth incorporates pornography into their daily routines and rituals
	4.FAMILY HISTORY OF VICTIMIZATION (12 items)	16Has been pressured to engage in PSB by family members
	5.CHARACTERISTICS OF SEXUALLY ABUSIVE BEHAVIORS (TRAUMA, ABUSE HISTORY, AND PATTERNS OF OFFENDING) (6 items)	28Youthful Offender has trauma reminders that influence PSB
<b>Limited Understanding of victim impact</b> (12 TOTAL ITEMS)	6.EMPATHY DURING TREATMENT (3 items)	34Expresses empathy and/or remorse prior to intervention/education
	7.LEVEL OF EMPATHY (5 items)	37Expresses empathy for strangers that experience hardship
	8.ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITY (4 items)	42Accepts responsibility for their PSB
<b>Level of Planning in commission of PSB</b> (10 TOTAL ITEMS)	9.GROOMING AND AGE OF VICTIMS (5 items)	46Grooming occurs with time and personal attention
	10.PLANNING (5 items)	51PSB is impulsive (decision to abuse happened just prior to the PSB)_RC
<b>Level of Power and control</b> (11 TOTAL ITEMS)	11.COERCION, POWER, AND AGGRESSION IN OFFENDING BEHAVIOR (7 Items)	56Verbal threats of injury used in the commission of PSB
	12.NON-SEXUAL AGGRESSION (4 Items)	63Very frequent displays of verbal aggression toward others (~ weekly)

TYPOLOGY CATEGORIES				
Isolated Incidence	Exploratory Behaviors	Ambivalent	Aggressive/ Sexualized	Aggressive/ Coercive
0-.23	.24-.34	.35-.45	.46-.56	.57 >
High level of accepting responsibility; treatment empathy; low to mod level of grooming, age of victims & planning; low level of deviant arousal, family victimization and pornography (26 Youth)	High understanding of victim impact (empathy, treatment empathy, accepting responsibility), mod to high deviant arousal & deviant arousal in PSB and planning, low to mod pornography, grooming and age of victims; lo family history of abuse and coercion, power and aggression (12 youth)	Low Porn/deviant arousal; low to mod empathy during treatment and coercion, power and aggression and low empathy (7 youth)	High coercion, power & aggression and deviant arousal; mod to high deviant arousal in PSB and non-sexual aggression; low to mod family history of victimization, trauma reminders, grooming and age of victims and planning; and low understanding of victim impact and porn (11 youth)	High and extreme planning, coercion, power and aggression; PSB deviance and treatment empathy; mod pornography, family history of abuse & characteristics of sexually abusive behavior (trauma reminders and high frequency of abusing) (3 youth)

TOTAL SUB-DOMAIN SCORES	Client Sub-Domain Scores	LEVEL OF NEED for Sub-Domain Scores				
		Low	Low-Moderate	Moderate-High	High	
		0-.24	.25-.49	.50-.74	.75-1	
1. Deviant arousal	0.00					
2. Pairing deviant arousal with sexual acting out	0.00					
3. Pornography and sexual urge management	0.00					
4. Family history of victimization	0.00					
5. Characteristics of sexually abusive behaviors (trauma, abuse history, and patterns of offending)	0.00					
6. Limited empathy during treatment	0.00					
7. Limited level of empathy	0.00					
8. Limited accepting responsibility	0.00					
9. Grooming and age of victims	0.00					
10. Planning	0.00					
11. Coercion, power, and aggression in offending behavior	0.00					
12. Non-sexual aggression	0.00					



## Wrap up

What does it all mean for court and treatment systems?



Ohio and Lucas County  
Pioneering efforts with  
Youth with Sexual  
Behavior Problems

Limitations and  
generalizability of  
findings for the YSBTT



Treatment and Response

What Do You Do With an YSBTT  
Classification tool?



# Questions and Answers

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