

# PREVENTION SERIES: WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHO HAVE ENGAGED IN SEXUALLY ABUSIVE BEHAVIOURS

## ONLINE SERIES



The Radius Institute is committed to providing cost effective quality training to those professionals providing mental health services to children and youth. With the ongoing pandemic, we have moved our training series to an online format. This Fall we will be offering a series focused on addressing the work with children and youth who have engaged in concerning or sexually abusive sexual behaviours. There are 3 separate series being offered, each multiple full day workshops:



### Series A

Assessing and Treating  
Concerning Sexual Behaviour  
in Children Under 12



### Series B

Assessing and Treating  
Adolescents who have Engaged  
in Sexually Abusive Behaviour



### Series C

Working in a Family Context:  
Sibling Sexual  
Abuse

## WORKSHOP OVERVIEW:

The workshops will be using a Zoom platform and will run from 9:30am to 4:00pm EST (Toronto Time Zone) with many regulation breaks and involve multiple modes of teaching – lecture, videos, discussion groups, modeling, literature review, etc. The intention is to continue to provide a forum for small group discussions and opportunities to learn and share. The Radius Institute Faculty is looking forward to meeting you. Detailed information for this training series is available on our website: [www.radiuscys.ca/fall-2021-online-training](http://www.radiuscys.ca/fall-2021-online-training).

## GET IN TOUCH:

For additional information, please contact:  
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## Series A

Concerning Sexual Behaviour (CSB) in Children Under 12

WORKSHOP #	WORKSHOP TITLE	DATE/TIME
1	INTRODUCTION to children who have engaged in Concerning Sexual Behaviour (CSB)	Wednesday, September 29, 2021 9:30am - 4:00pm
2	Comprehensive Assessment of CSB in children under 12	Thursday, October 7, 2021 9:30am - 4:00pm
3	Assessing Concern (using the GAIN Tool) and Consolidation	Tuesday, October 12, 2021 9:30am - 4:00pm
4	Treatment for children who have engaged in CSB	Monday, October 18, 2021 9:30am - 4:00pm



## Series B

Adolescents Who Have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behaviour

WORKSHOP #	WORKSHOP TITLE	DATE/TIME
1	INTRODUCTION to adolescents who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour	Monday, October 25, 2021 9:30am - 4:00pm
2	Comprehensive Assessment of adolescents who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour	Monday, November 1, 2021 9:30am - 4:00pm
3	Formulation, assessing concerns, recommendations and consolidation	Monday, November 8, 2021 9:30am - 4:00pm
4	Treatment for adolescents who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour	Monday, November 15, 2021 9:30am - 4:00pm



## Series C

Working in a Family Context when Children and Youth have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behaviours

WORKSHOP #	WORKSHOP TITLE	DATE/TIME
1	INTRODUCTION: Paradigm Shifts - Principles, protocols, approaches when working with families	Monday, December 6, 2021 9:30am - 4:00pm
2	Relationship Repair: Clarification, apology, letters, sibling work	Monday, December 13, 2021 9:30am - 4:00pm

For additional information, please contact:

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## Series A

Concerning Sexual Behaviour (CSB) in Children Under 12

### DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

This series focuses on understanding concerning sexual behaviour (CSB) in children under 12 years of age – prepubescent. The first workshop is open to all those who work with children and have an interest in understanding CSB. For those who will be providing direct service to children under 12 who engage in CSB, we encourage taking the entire series (1 through 4)

### WORKSHOP # 1:

#### **INTRODUCTION to children who have engaged in concerning sexual behaviour: Wednesday, September 29, 2021, 9:30am - 4:00pm**

##### **Description:**

Children under 12 who engage in problematic behaviours are a diverse group. Having a developmentally appropriate lens provides a uniquely different approach to understand the characteristics and motivations of engaging in sexual behaviours prior to the onset of puberty. It is important to distinguish normative child sexual behaviour and sexual play from problematic or concerning behaviours.

##### **Objectives:**

- To understand the characteristics and motivation of children who engage in problematic or concerning sexual behaviour.
- To examine through a developmental lens, normative and concerning sexual behaviours.
- To identify key issues in working with parents and service providers (including safety planning).

**Facilitators:** Nancy Falls, Ed.D., RP and Franca Iannotta, C. Psych

### WORKSHOP # 2:

#### **Comprehensive Assessment of CSB in Children Under 12 Thursday, October 7, 2021, 9:30am - 4:00pm**

##### **Description:**

A comprehensive assessment is essential and considered best practice. Assessing all areas of functioning will help determine the child's strengths and treatment needs. Working with children under 12 also requires the involvement of parents/caregivers. Safety is paramount and decisions regarding safety planning and contact with other children, requires careful and cautious consideration.

##### **Objectives:**

- To examine functional areas to be assessed.
- To identify age-appropriate language and assessment tools
- To discuss the use of psychometrics and areas of discussion in a parental interview.

**Facilitators:** Nancy Falls, Ed.D., RP and Franca Iannotta, C. Psych



## Series A

Concerning Sexual Behaviour (CSB) in Children Under 12

### WORKSHOP

#### #3:

#### **Assessing Concern (Using the GAIN Tool) and Consolidation**

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 9:30am - 4:00pm**

##### **Description:**

Once all the assessment information is gathered, it is then time to make sense of the information, determine the level of concern of the behaviour and what are the treatment recommendations. The GAIN is a tool that has been developed based on empirical evidence to guide decision making based on the level of concern of the sexualized behaviours.

##### **Objectives:**

- To discuss the development of the GAIN and the factors that assess the level of concern of sexual behaviours in children
- How to draw out the information for the GAIN from the assessment, e.g. identifying specific tools, questions, or sources of information.
- To discuss how assessment information is shared with the parents within a developmental context.
- To highlight the safety needs based on the level of concerning sexual behaviour.

**Facilitators:** Nancy Falls, Ed.D., RP and Franca Iannotta, C. Psych

### WORKSHOP

#### #4:

#### **Treatment for Children Who Have Engaged in CSB**

**Monday, October 18, 2021, 9:30am - 4:00pm**

##### **Description:**

Treatment for children who have engaged in concerning sexual behaviour is individual and based on the results of a comprehensive assessment. Depending on their age, developmental stage, temperament, past victimizations, and the degree of stability in their world (past and present), children will respond/react differently. Treatment will help children sort out the function of the behaviour and develop creative interventions unique to the child and circumstance.

##### **Objectives:**

- To develop creative and specific interventions tailored to match the needs of a child.
- To teach age-appropriate healthy sexuality, and to desensitize children who have been prematurely exposed to adult sexuality.
- To provide appropriate resources and supports for parents and caregivers.
- To discuss the creation, use, and adaptation of safety plans required to ensure the safety of children in their home, school, and community environment

**Facilitators:** Heather Barbour, B.Sc., RSW and Nancy Rumble, MSW, RSW



## Series B

### Adolescents Who Have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behaviour

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

This series focuses on understanding youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour. The first workshop is open to all those who work with adolescents and have an interest in understanding youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviours. For those who will be providing direct service to adolescents who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour, we encourage taking the entire series (1 through 4)

#### WORKSHOP # 1:

##### **INTRODUCTION to youth who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour: Monday, October 25, 2021, 9:30am - 4:00pm**

##### **Description:**

There is no one set of characteristics of youth who engage in sexually abusive behaviours and their motives are multiply determined. They are uniquely different from adults who commit sexual offenses. Understanding the research will provide an overview of the unique characteristics and approaches to working with these youth. Engaging youth in treatment, which is often mandated, is a key determinant to successful outcomes.

##### **Objectives:**

- To highlight the characteristics, motivation and research of adolescents who engage in sexually harming behaviours.
- To discuss therapy, interfering behaviours, and the creation of a brave space.
- To examine the therapeutic stance that facilitates youth engagement.

**Facilitators:** Melissa Maltar, MSW, RSW and Nancy Falls, Ed.D., RP

#### WORKSHOP # 2:

##### **Comprehensive assessment of adolescents who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour: Monday, November 1, 2021, 9:30am - 4:00pm**

##### **Description:**

It is important to conduct a comprehensive assessment to identify an adolescent's strengths, protective factors, risks, and overall treatment needs. As each adolescent's circumstances are unique, a comprehensive assessment will help to identify the factors that contributed to the youth's choice to commit a sexual offence. This session will focus on examining a youth's functioning over their life span, with a specific emphasis on the sexual offence- specific components of the assessment.

##### **Objectives:**

- To examine the components of a comprehensive assessment for an adolescent who has engaged in sexually abusive behaviours
- To explore the assessment of sexual offence-specific areas and the use of developmentally appropriate language and assessment tools.
- To understand and use the Risk, Needs, Responsivity principle in determining the specific treatment needs.

**Facilitators:** Melissa Maltar, MSW, RSW and Nancy Falls, Ed.D., RP



## Series B

### Adolescents Who Have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behaviour

## WORKSHOP

### # 3:

#### **Formulation, assessing concerns, recommendations and consolidation:**

**Monday, November 8, 2021, 9:30am - 4:00pm**

#### **Description:**

While there has been a trend in the field to move from the term “risk” of reoffending, it is important to determine the level of concern a youth poses to themselves, their family, and the community. Methods for determining the level of concern these youth pose within a community will also be addressed. The use of tools to inform decisions related to the level of concern a youth poses will be examined.

#### **Objectives:**

- To review factors highlighted in the literature as it pertains to risk assessments of youth who engage in sexually abusive behaviours
- To examine the ERASOR as a tool to guide decision making as it relates to level of concern
- Through case examples, to practice using the tools as part of the comprehensive assessment.

**Facilitators:** Melissa Maltar, MSW, RSW and Franca Iannotta, C. Psych

## WORKSHOP

### # 4:

#### **Treatment for adolescents who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour: Monday, November 15, 2021, 9:30am - 4:00pm**

#### **Description:**

Treatment for adolescents who have engaged in sexually abusive behaviour is individualized and must be based on the results of a comprehensive assessment. Specific to sexually abusive behaviours, topics will include understanding the sexual offending behaviours, navigating pornography, problematic sexual arousal patterns, victim impact, apology letters, and healthy sexuality. Adolescence is a time of great change in the lives of youth. Believing a youth can make substantive changes and go on to lead a healthy life is critical in both the therapeutic stance and approach to treatment.

#### **Objectives:**

- To understand how to translate assessment recommendations into uniquely tailored treatment plans.
- To examine interventions to address specific sexually abusive behaviours.
- To discuss the impact of pornography, sexual health, consent, and sexual decision-making.

**Facilitators:** Sean Basarke, MSW, RSW and Bente SKau, NSW, Ph.D., RSW



## Series C

### Working in a Family Context when Children and Youth have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behaviours

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION:

When sexual abuse committed by a youth within a family context occurs, there are unique issues. Having both the child who has harmed and the child who has been harmed receiving service at the same agency is ideal, but not required. It is important to take a holistic and family centered approach to repairing all the relationships that have been ruptured because of the sexual abuse. The first workshop is open to all those who work with youth and have an interest in understanding youth who engage in sexually harming behaviours. For those who will be providing direct service to youth engaged in sexually abusive behaviours, we encourage taking the entire series (1 through 2).

#### WORKSHOP # 1:

##### **INTRODUCTION: Paradigm Shifts - Principles, protocols, and approaches when working with families: Monday, December 6, 2021, 9:30am - 4:00pm**

##### **Description:**

There are unique features and issues that arise when sexual abuse happens within a family, and particularly, when the sexual abuse is committed by an adolescent. This training will include an overview of the unique features of sibling sexual abuse, and a review of a community protocol, including the VORS Principle, to guide decision making throughout the process – from disclosure to treatment completion. The key to successful outcomes sits with the capacity of creating safety plans; they must be family specific, dynamic, and flexible enough to allow for safe contact to occur.

##### **Objectives:**

- To review the unique features within families where sibling sexual abuse has occurred.
- To explore a protocol to work with families where sibling sexual abuse has occurred.
- To examine the role of parents and caregivers, with a focus on how to involve and support parents.
- To provide information on how to involve and support the parents / caregivers .
- To examine the components of the VORS Principle: Voice, Openness, Responsibility, Safety.
- To review how the VORS principle can be applied throughout the assessment and treatment process.

**Facilitators:** Melissa Maltar, MSW, RSW and Nancy Falls, Ed.D., RP



## Series C

Working in a Family Context when Children and Youth have Engaged in Sexually Abusive Behaviours

### WORKSHOP

#### # 2:

**Relationship Repair: Clarification, apology, letters, sibling work:  
Monday, December 13, 2021, 9:30am - 4:00pm**

**Description:**

Treatment of sibling cases needs a planned and coordinated approach, usually involving a team of professionals who will support the child who has been victimized as well as the child who has caused the harm. It is possible to have ruptures in many relationships because of sibling sexual abuse. Reunification is a process. While there are many terms used in the field, we define reunification as a repair of the relationships ruptured because of the sexual abuse committed by an adolescent. It does not necessarily refer to where the youth will reside following treatment. Letter writing has been identified as an effective tool in repairing relationships. The use of letters, and the process of repairing the relationships will be the focus of this workshop.

**Objectives:**

- Concretize the reunification process, inclusive of apology, clarification, and the family work that accompanies sibling sexual abuse treatment.
- Familiarize participants with how letter writing can be utilized as a purposeful intervention, addressing several therapeutic goals within the context of sibling sexual abuse treatment.
- Provide participants with some concrete examples of letters and the types of questions that can be used to facilitate the development of a therapeutic letter.

**Facilitators:** Heather Barbour, B.Sc., RSW, Sean Basarke, MSW, RSW, and Bente Skau, MSW, Ph.D., RSW

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