

Additional Techniques for Managing Chronic Family Conflict

Facilitators:

Dr. Stephanie Kutzen & Dovid

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Mediation & Family Therapy

• Definition of <u>Mediation</u>: Process led by trained mediator in disputes to manage and contain emotional expression so settlement can be reached.

Definition of <u>Family Therapy</u>:
 Process facilitated by
 psychotherapist trained in family
 dynamics to explore meanings,
 reactions and levels of disorder.

Elements of Mediation

- Mediators focus on problem solving to design a strategy.
- Conflict is managed using negotiation.
- Focus is on current and future needs (not past) to reach agreement.

Elements of Family Therapy

- Counselors help couples and families to nurture change and development.
- Treatment improves communication to selfmanage conflict.
- Therapist reflects/redirects back by anticipating triggers and re-aligns.
- Positive result is better functioning home environment.

Family Therapy Models

- 1. Couples Therapy- reduces risk of conflict affecting entire family.
- 2. Intergenerational/Family Therapy- Informs how generational patterns/problems impact family conflicts in the present.
- 3. **Narrative Therapy** Families develop a story of their life to better understand behaviors, roles, experiences.
- 4. **Psycho-Education** Teaches members about mental health, addiction, social, economic, educational impact to develop empathy and support for others.
- 5. **Structural Family Therapy** Uses family mapping to create a visual representation of problems, re–frame negative interactions.

Important Qualities of Family Therapists

- Holds professional license and registration.
- Creates and maintains safe environment.
- Analytical thinking.
- Compassionate, empathetic.
- Skilled listener, speaker with organizational skills.