

Case Example: Lamont

Discussion Points

Presenting Problem

Thirteen-year-old Lamont, an African-American boy, lives in a neighborhood affected by gang violence. He witnessed his best friend shot and killed, and shortly after began to affiliate with gang members and engage in risky behavior. He has been on probation for driving under the influence and possessing marijuana with intent to sell. His school counselor reports that he has recently been ditching school and that his grades have declined.

Trust and Engagement

After his best friend was killed, Lamont became much more aligned with the local gang. He tells the therapist that they're his family now. Lamont does not see his gang involvement or marijuana use as problematic. He resists talking freely with the therapist, and has expressed concern that she will tell his probation officer what he tells her. However, he does confide that when he's hanging out with his friends, he sometimes gets "fired up," and explodes in anger for no apparent reason.

Relevant Service Systems

Lamont's mother and aunt reveal that he has been 'hard to control,' and they are worried that he might be kicked out of school. He has struggled with a learning disability since grade school, and they have wanted to obtain an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to help him get services. However, the school appears to be resisting this, claiming that his low school performance is his fault because of his illegal activities. Since attending school is part of his probation requirement, Lamont is at risk of being incarcerated if he continues to skip school.



Describe possible challenges in developing a preliminary treatment plan, given Lamont's history of acute trauma.

What motivational interviewing strategies could you use to engage him in treatment to address his gang affiliation and/or substance use?

How would you gain Lamont's trust and address his concerns about confidentiality?

How would you coordinate care between the juvenile court system, child welfare services and the school district in order to develop a comprehensive treatment plan?