Outline

The ACT Model

The nature of human suffering "Healthy normality" is a myth Language: The double-edged sword Undermine unhelpful thoughts Aiming for psychological flexibility and why The ACT hexagon model

Limitations of the Research and Potential Risks

Acceptance

Strengthening a willingness to have emotions The opposite of acceptance is experiential avoidance Experiential avoidance throughout the lifespan Why acceptance is important Case example: Teenage shyness & hoarding

Defusion

Look at thoughts rather than from thoughts Deal with automatic thoughts

The power of words

The problem with cognitive fusion Address CBT-based disputation techniques with defusion

"Taking your mind for a walk" exercise Case example: Eating disorders & social phobia

Perspective-Taking

sexual trauma

Understand the "Self" in ACT Self-as-content, self-as-perspective, self-as-context Observer self-exercise Deal with identity issues Case examples related to PTSD & childhood

Mindfulness

Contacting the present moment Why being in the here-and-now is critical for mental health

Relationship between mindlessness and psychopathology

Meditation, mindfulness and mindful action Exercises for mindful action Case example: Anger, personality disorders, alcoholism

Values Work

The positive side of language Identifying core values Differentiate values and goals Writing values-based treatment goals The ethics of values clarification Establishing the life line Case example: Heroin addiction, bipolar disorder

Committed Action

Define "commitment" objectively Integrate evidence-based therapy with ACT Develop ACT-based behavior therapy treatment plans

Improve behavioral activation with ACT Accelerate exposure therapy with ACT Case example: Depression, agoraphobia

Pulling It All Together

Hexaflex model for psychological flexibility Ask the "ACT Question" for self-help and case conceptualization

Inflexahex model: Diagnosis from an ACT approach Case example: Obsessive-compulsive disorder

Incorporate ACT into Your Own Approach

Social skills training **Applied Behavior Analysis** Inpatient treatment programs systems Exposure and ritual prevention Behavioral activation Parent management training **Executive coaching**

The Mindful Action Plan

ACT simplified Passengers on the bus: The classic ACT group exercise How ACT can make you a better therapist

Objectives

- 1. Demonstrate effective use of the six core processes of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) to help clients advance psychological flexibility.
- 2. Illustrate clinical techniques for increasing psychological flexibility in clients using ACT.
- 3. Utilize acceptance approaches with avoidance problems to strengthen a client's willingness to have emotions.
- 4. Implement clinical skills to help client effectively handle automatic cognitions.
- 5. Utilize effective ACT exercises in therapy to aid clients with developing new skills to engage in the present moment and move past struggles.
- 6. Assess and clarify a client's values in order to develop an effective treatment plan and avoid potential clinical problems.
- 7. Integrate ACT into different therapeutic styles and methods as an approach to managing symptoms.
- 8. Create committed action plans for clients with anxiety disorders to improve level of functioning.
- 9. Use metaphors to undermine language-based avoidance repertoires to improve client engagement.
- 10. Utilize clinical strategies to develop an ACT-based behavior therapy plan as it relates to treatment outcomes.
- 11. Implement emotional, behavioral willingness and exposure techniques with clients to reduce experiential
- 12. Apply ACT techniques to the treatment of specific disorders including depression, anxiety, trauma and personality

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Speaker

Adria Pearson-Mauro, PhD, is a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice in Denver, CO and Instructor at the University of Colorado, Denver. She holds a PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Nevada, Reno, where she was trained in ACT by Dr. Steven Hayes, co-founder of ACT. Through national and international ACT workshops, Dr. Pearson-Mauro has trained clinicians in beginning, intermediate and advanced levels of ACT.

Dr. Pearson-Mauro is co-author of the book, ACT for Body Image Dissatisfaction (2010). She has also published in peer-reviewed journals and books on the topic of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy. Between 2014-2017 she was president of the Rocky Mountain Association for Contextual and Behavioral Sciences (ACBS).

Speaker Disclosures:

Financial: Adria Pearson-Mauro is an assistant professor at the University of Colorado. She receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc.

Non-financial: Adria Pearson-Mauro is a member of the Association for Contextual and Behavioral Sciences (ACBS). She is the president of the Rocky Mountain Association for Contextual and Behavioral Sciences.

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