Verbal Abuse

“Mosaic”

PROTECT | PREVENT | EMPOWER

27th Annual NAPSA Conference
Philadelphia, PA

NAPSA - 2016
Verbal Abuse

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Paul Needham

Steve Field
Verbal Abuse

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What is it?

How to Identify it?

The effects?

“After all it’s just Verbal Abuse.”
Objectives

- Utilizing *video* clips and *group discussion* participants will be able to:
  - Better identify verbal abuse and severity of harm this form of abuse has on the victim.
  - Relate the issue of verbal abuse to other forms of abuse APS often deals with, Sexual Abuse, DV, Stalking, Undue Influence.
  - Identify many different elements and indicators of verbal abuse.
  - Identify many of the effects on the victims.
"Verbal Abuse"

means the use of words, sounds, or other communication including, but not limited to, gestures, actions or behaviors,
by a caretaker or other person providing services to a vulnerable adult
Verbal Abuse

- that are *likely* to cause
  - a reasonable person
    - to experience
      - humiliation
      - intimidation,
      - fear
      - shame or
      - degradation
Lessons Learned

- Victim’s fear: What will you do to me, rather than for me?
- Abusers are more powerful to the victim than interventionists
Victim Indicators

- Hypertension
- Significant weight loss or gain
- Dizziness
- Sleeplessness
- Sadness, depression, confusion
- Cowers
(more) Victim Indicators

- Is emotionally upset
- Withdrawn, non-responsive
- Exhibits unusual behavior
- Reports being verbally abused
**Cycle of Violence**

**Phase 1: Tension Building**
- Anger, blaming, & arguing occur

**Phase 2: Acute Battering**
- Batterer asks for forgiveness, promises it won't happen again
- Batterering incident occurs

**Phase 3: Honeymoon Stage**
Love
Hope
Fear
TENSION BUILDING
Crisis or Violent Episode
Seductive Calm
STRESS Period

Dr. Lenora Walker
Jimmy
"Verbal abuse" means the use of words, sounds, or other communication including, but not limited to, gestures, actions or behaviors, by a caretaker or other person providing services to a vulnerable adult that are likely to cause a reasonable person to experience humiliation, intimidation, fear, shame or degradation.
Signs of Verbal Abuse

- While watching the following videos……..
- Refer back to the working definition of “verbal Abuse” and utilize that definition to:
  - Who the offender/perpetrator is?
  - What action makes it verbal abuse?
  - What are the victim reactions?
Golden Years
Mrs. Goldberg
Mr. Ruben
Lunch Lady
Mr. Connors
Gaslight (1944)
“A Mother Never Gives up Hope”

- Anne:
Dorothy and Gary
“Just to Have a Peaceful Life”

- Pat
Questions?
Thank you!

Questions?
Steve Field
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Paul Needham
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Bibliography

- Preventing Elder Abuse by Family Caregivers; NCEA March 2002

- Older People’s Understanding of Verbal Abuse, Nandlal, and Wood, Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect Vol. 9(1) 1997

- National Center on Elder Abuse: The Basics: Major Types of Elder Abuse 2003 website

- The Verbally Abusive Relationship: How to Recognize It and How to Respond, Adams Media Corp Canada 1992
Web Sites

- http://db.rdms.udel.edu:8080/CA NE/index.jsp
- http://members.tripod.com/~Deaf Deb/index.html
Videos

- “Golden Years” –
  - Goldpitt Productions-1994
- “In Your Hands”
- “A Mother Never Gives Up Hope”
- “Elder Abuse- 5 Case Studies”
- “Just to have a Peaceful Life”
  - Terra Nova