Crisis and the Family
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What is a Crisis?
What is a Crisis?

- Devastation
- Disaster
- Crucial time or event that changes a person’s life
- End to happiness and achievement
- Incentive to achieve new and different goals
Causes:

- Social pressure
- Job stress
- Family problems
- **Defensive mechanisms**

(click on link)
Dealing with Family Crisis

A family crisis usually has three distinct phases:

• the event that precipitates the crisis
• the period of disorganization
• the reorganizing or recovery phase after the family reaches a low point
Factors Associated with Meeting a Crisis Creatively

• A positive outlook
• Spiritual values
• Support groups
• Adaptability
• Informal social support
Some Strategies Which May be Ineffective or Harmful in Solving Family Problems

- Denying or avoiding problems
- Not expressing one’s frustrations
- Keeping one’s feelings inside
Types of Crisis

- Loss of job
- Relocation
- Addictions: drugs/alcohol
- Compulsive gambling
- Suicide
- Criminal attack
- Violent behavior in families
- Missing children
- Community and national crises
- Separation or divorce
Loss of Job

Financial decisions related to unemployment

- Assessing obligations
- Making a budget
- Talking to creditors for payment plan
Relocation

• Feelings of vulnerability
• Uncertainty of the future
• Hesitation leaving familiar surroundings
• Moving is difficult for children – let them help with finding and decorating a new home
Addictions: Drugs/Alcohol

(click on picture)
Statistics on Drunk Driving

Mother's Against Drunk Driving Statistics
(click on link)
411 On Teen Drinking

(click on picture)
Gambling

• Potential losses are high for the whole family

• Gambler goes through family savings

• Threatens family relationships and jeopardizes educational and career opportunities
Suicide

Four patterns:

• Impulsiveness
• Exhibiting many signs of depression
• Suffering from illness or suddenly learning about an illness
• Extreme depression over lost loved ones or other perceived mental or emotional losses
Criminal Activity

- Anyone is vulnerable
- Take precautions
- Can take place anywhere
- Practice situational awareness
Violence

Forms of Violence

- **Psychological**: threats, intimidation, controlling behavior, jealousy or verbal abuse
- **Property**: physically throwing things or punching doors or walls
- **Physical**: pushing, hitting, slapping, punching or kicking

Youth Violence

(click on picture)
Does Your Relationship Need a Makeover?

[Love is Respect](#) (click on link)
Missing/Runaway Children

• 1.5 million children are reported each year

• Children leave home because of abuse

• Communication breakdown

• Divorce/remarriage of parents

• Abductions take place by parents in divorces

• Children are lured by acquaintances or people they do not regard as strangers
Community and National Crisis

• Local terrorist incident
• Natural disaster – earthquake, flood, severe weather or fire
• Preparedness – being ready for crises that could occur (situational awareness)
Separation or Divorce

• Tell children the truth
• Reassure the children that it is not their fault
• Parents should reinforce their love for their children
• Professional counseling may be helpful
Special Needs Individuals

Adult Protective Services (APS) is responsible for investigating abuse, neglect and exploitation of clients receiving services in state operated and/or contracted settings that serve adults and children with mental illness or intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Laws and Public Policies Related to the Family

Texas Family Code

Rights and Duties of a Parent (Sec. 151.001)

A parent has:

(1) the right to have physical possession, to direct the moral and religious training, and to designate the residence of the child

(2) the duty of care, control, protection, and reasonable discipline of the child

(3) the duty to support the child, including providing the child with clothing, food, shelter, medical and dental care, and education
Resources Available During a Crisis

• Educators

• Legal system protections

• Adult Protective and Child Protective Services Division of Texas

• Family relationships

• Friends

• Community resources

(click on picture)
Questions?
References and Resources

Images:
Microsoft Clip Art: Used with permission from Microsoft.

Textbooks:


Websites:
American Red Cross
Plan and prepare information.
http://www.redcross.org/prepare

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Facts Sheets – Underage Drinking
http://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/fact-sheets/underage-drinking.htm
References and Resources

Websites:

Child Protective Services Division of Texas
For additional information on abuse and neglect, visit:
http://www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Protection/About_Child_Protective_Services/

KidsPeace.org
15 Ways to Help Your Child through Crisis

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)
“The mission of Mothers Against Drunk Driving is to stop drunk driving, support the victims of this violent crime and prevent underage drinking.”
http://www.madd.org/

Statistic Brain
Youth Violence Statistics
http://www.statisticbrain.com/youth-violence-statistics/

Suicide Hotlines
Source: Texas Suicide and Crisis Hotline
Crisis hotline available for individuals needing someone to talk to during times of crisis. Provides comforting words.
http://suicidehotlines.com/texas.html

Texas Advocacy Project
Legal solutions to end violence.
http://www.texasadvocacyproject.org/faq.php?faqid=54

Youth Violence Statistics
Source: Character Counts, Where Peace Lives, Bureau of Justice Statistics
http://www.statisticbrain.com/youth-violence-statistics/

15 Common Defensive Mechanisms
Defense mechanisms are one way of looking at how people distance themselves from a full awareness of unpleasant thoughts, feelings and behaviors.

YouTube™:

Does Your Relationship Need a Makeover?
Check out this PSA play in movie theaters in California and Texas....loveisrespect
http://youtu.be/VzKv-7DB7NA