

Benchmark Critical Incident

Marie Postiglione-Dupell

Liberty University

Scenario #2 Jane

The presenting issue regarding school counselor Jane is that she did not adhere to basic therapeutic counseling protocol. Jane school counselor did not screen students for group membership. Screening potential students prior to allowing participation is an essential component when developing a counseling group. It is the professional school counselor's responsibility to make ethical decisions regarding selection of participants via the process of screening individuals. Furthermore, not every student is appropriate candidate for every group. The case of Alice(student) if screened may have provided information that she was not a proper fit for Jane's group and benefit from individual school counseling or a counseling group specific to her depression. Potentially perhaps Alice's struggles and suicide attempt could have been prevented if school counselor Jane would have conducted a high-quality screening tool such as Group Readiness Questionnaire (GRQ).

American School Counseling Association

The American School Counseling Association (ASCA), ethical codes and standards that address issues specific to school counselors group work code A.7.C states "Screen students for group membership." ASCA, (2014). The school counselor did not follow (ASCA) recommended ethical standard for group membership selection regarding screening protocol therefore issues may have developed due to this oversight by the school counselor. In this case the student struggled in group and escalated into an attempt to commit suicide.

American Counseling Association

The American Counseling Association (ACA), ethical codes and standards that address issues specific to professional school counselor responsibilities to parents working with minor's code B.1. state's school counselors "Recognize that providing services to minors in school

setting requires school counselors to collaborate with students' parents/guardians as appropriate" (ACA), 2014. The school counselor observed student in group was struggling to what degree the information is limited. Although, school counselor preventively could have communicated that to student's parents as a follow up check in. The counselor also could have processed the difficulty issues the student was having in current group session with student and parents present at time of pick up.

Action

There could be legal and ethical implications for this school counselor due to the lack of professional oversight in membership selection for this group. Therefore, may have contributed to stressors that resulted in suicide attempt by student. School counselor should consult with parents that their daughter should be seen at local mental health facility for complete mental health/suicidal ideation assessment and medical care if needed. Referral to outside mental health professional for counseling additional with school counseling services. Resources provided to parents regarding support groups specific to depression and or suicide.

References

American Counseling Association. (2014). ACA Code of Ethics, Alexandria, VA: Author

American School Counselor Association. Ethical Standards for School Counselors. American School Counselor Association, n.d. Web.24 April 2014

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¹Add footnotes, if any, on their own page following references. The body of a footnote, such as this example, uses the Normal text style. *(Note: If you delete this sample footnote, don't forget to delete its in-text reference as well. That's at the end of the sample Heading 2 paragraph on the first page of body content in this template.)*

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Table Title

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