

### **Building Strong Relationships:**

Navigating Conflict and Building Trust



SYMPOSIUM 2024 | ARLINGTON, VA #CCAOASYMPOSIUM24

#### **Objectives**

- Participants will practice navigating conflict professionally, by understanding the background and needs of each individual
- Participants will analyze relationship building strategies to improve their communication skills

#### **Agenda**

- 1. Identifying conflict in our work
- 2. Individual conflict navigation skills
- 3. System wide trust

#### **Define conflict:**

 a) Competitive or opposing action of incompatibles: antagonistic state or action (as of divergent ideas, interests, or persons)

b) Mental struggle resulting from incompatible or opposing needs, drives, wishes, or external or internal demands

#### **Healthy Conflict**



# Where do you experience conflict?



#### **Our Values Support Us!**

- Purpose
- Behavior
- Decision Making
- Career Choices
- Confidence Builders

## Values Shape Our Professional Identity



#### **Shared values and goals**

Relationship building and trust.

When in conflict or anticipating conflict, determine:

- What do you have in common?
- Do you have shared values?
- What goal could you agree on?

#### **Cognitive Distortion**

Are internal mental **filters** or **biases** that increase our misery, fuel our anxiety, and make us feel bad about ourselves.

Our brains are continually processing lots of information. To deal with this, our brain seeks shortcuts to cut down our mental burden.



#### **Restructure Cognitive Distortions**



- What evidence do I have that confirms my perspective?
- Are there aspects of this situation that I am not seeing?
- Is there a middle ground or a gray area that I am rejecting?
- Would somebody else also arrive to the same conclusion?
- What's the overall effect of how I am thinking?

#### **Shared Understanding - Boundaries**

Boundaries are **NOT** about controlling others.

Others **CANNOT** guess or assume your boundaries.



#### **Boundary Mindset**

You deserve healthy boundaries!

Healthy boundaries do not make you a bad person, in fact they make you a better:

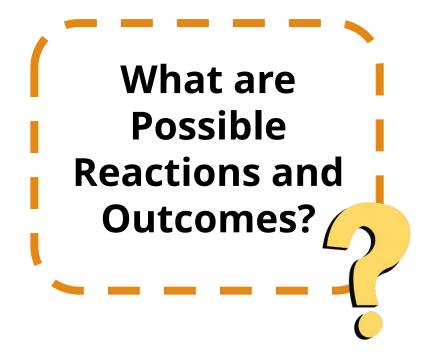
- Friend
- Partner
- Parent
- Sibling
- Leader
- Colleague
- Human

#### **Boundary Steps**

- Identify the need for a boundary
- Set a boundary using clear and kind language
- Hold the boundary



**Before Engaging Consider** 



**Before Engaging Consider** 

#### **Preparatory Reflections and Action**

- Make a plan
- Acknowledge bias and assumptions
- Schedule the conversation

# What are biases and assumptions?

#### Consider

Narratives Identities Emotions

#### **Biases and Assumptions:**

- What may a provider assume of a parent:
  - Who picks up late
  - Isn't interested in potty training a 3 year old
  - Forgets diapers and other supplies
  - Lingers when dropping off their child

#### **Biases and Assumptions:**

- What may a parent assume of a provider:
  - Is short in discussion at drop off and pick up
  - Sends lots of reminders and notes home
  - Refusing pick ups from 1pm-3pm
  - Call for a pick up
  - Shares concerns about a child's development

#### **Biases and Assumptions:**

- A system partner who:
  - Takes a long time to reply to emails
  - Makes unreasonable requests
  - Calls providers during the day
  - Lectures a provider

## Critical Thinking for Crucial Conversations

- What do I really want for myself?
- What to I really want for this person?
- What do I really want for the relationship?
- How would I behave if I really wanted these results?

#### **During**

- Be clear
- Communicate your "why" and shared value
- Active listening
- Stay on topic
- Remain calm
- Make a plan together

#### **Communication to meet needs**

- Awareness of emotions
- Compassion for others emotions
- Meet your needs and others needs when you communicate

#### **Non-Violent Communication**

- Observation: What is actually happening in our senses?
  Sight, hearing, touch, tate and smell, plus our inner senses: voice, vision and thoughts
- Feelings: Physical sensations with non-verbal cues + emotions
- Needs: resources required to sustain and enrich life
- Request: An opportunity to contribute to the well-being of yourself and others

#### **After**

- Follow through on any commitments made
- Follow up or check back in as needed
- Assess how it went
  - What went well?
  - What could have gone better?
  - Were you surprised by anything?
  - What might you change if you had to do it again?

Talk through the **Before**, **During** and **After** considerations and steps.

#### Scenario:

CCR&R Staff wants to ask a Provider to attend a FCCN

#### **Building Trust Within the System**

- Communities of Practice
- Liaison roles
- Strategic communication
- Planned community

#### **Building Trust Within the System**

- Surveys and Needs Assessment
- Language Access Support
- Referral System

#### **Small Group Work**

- What relationships and partnerships are most difficult in your work?
- What gaps do you see, where trust is lacking?
- How do you or could you work on building relationships and trust with those you need to work with?

#### Wrap Up

#### **Action Plan:**

- What are you walking away with from this session?
- How will you implement it?

## Questions?

Kat Martinez

martinezke@mail.wou.edu

Valeria Anderson

andersonv@mail.wou.edu



### Thank You

Please fill out our survey.



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