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Correspondence Introduction

Volume 19(1) of *JoDD* was a special issue entitled "Innovative Approaches." The rationale for this particular issue was that over the years, members of the Boards of the Ontario Association on Developmental Disabilities (OADD) and *JoDD* had been approached by clinicians who enquired if, in addition to original research papers, *JoDD* might consider publishing perspective, opinion, and other types of articles on various topics to help other clinicians better deal with complex situations in their practice. Among the articles that were submitted in response to the call for papers and published in the special issue was a technical case report by Mark Larin entitled "The Sex Offender Freeze Frame Treatment Technique (SOFFTT)" (Larin, 2013). Larin explained that SOFFTT

...was initially created to help a client come to terms with the array of dynamics within the offending cycle. It was later put into text in order to assist other therapists who were looking for a structured [potential] method of taking clients through treatment. (p. 49)

In his case report, Larin described the approach that was used in therapy sessions with the above client (an individual with mild intellectual disability (ID) who had committed repeated sexual offenses). He pointed out that SOFFTT

...involves the creation of a structured, physical model upon which the interventions will be based. The framework/model is developed collaboratively between the client and therapist, and it produces an ongoing working record in the form of a series of pictures created by the counsellor and client of such aspects as the salient issues pertaining to: the abusive act, the prevailing mindset at the time of the offense, arousal awareness, and the cognitive distortions that occurred. It also incorporates the aspects of victim empathy, exit strategies and relapse prevention through an increased awareness of the factors that lead to the instance(s). (pp. 49, 50)

JoDD encourages feedback from its readers. In the Correspondence section of *JoDD* 20(1) are two articles arising from publication of Larin's case report. In response to this report, Angie Nethercott and Pamela Yates have prepared a Comment that directly follows this editor's note (Nethercott & Yates, 2014). In this Comment, the writers provide "a brief response and considerations for clinicians with respect to this article [Larin's case report] and the SOFFTT technique which Larin advocates" (p. 130).

Following the Nethercott and Yates article, is a response by Larin to the Comment by these writers. Larin explains that his response deals mainly with two important issues that were raised in the Comment:

1. The extent to which theory and evidence-based practices relevant to the treatment of sex offenders in the general population may or may not be applicable to the treatment of sex offenders with intellectual disability (ID); and
2. The extent to which the theory and evidence-based practices have or have not been incorporated into SOFFTT, and how SOFFTT is a technique intended to be a component of an overall treatment plan. (p. 134)

From these articles readers will be introduced to current theory and to the complexities of applying this to individuals with ID. As well, they should gain a better understanding of what is SOFFTT and its use.

References

- Larin, M. (2013). The Sex Offender Freeze Frame Treatment Technique (SOFFTT). *Journal on Developmental Disabilities, 19*(1), 49–60.
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