Boundaries & Expectations

Helping mentors approach the “toughest kids” in the best ways
Agenda

Life after the mission call to action

Kids you may know

Navigating complexities

Key takeaways, Q&A

Expectations

Respect

Engagement
Expectations
The little brother / sister I’ve always dreamed of
Fun, smiling, bonding
I’ve helped them achieve amazing success
I made a difference

Reality
Someone who’s not at all like me or my family
Distant, apathetic, disrespectful
They’re making bad decision after bad decision
I didn’t make a difference.
There are no bad kids. Period.
Shanna
- Mother died at 16
- Ran away
- Abusive relationships
- Teen pregnancy
- Substance use
- Inconsistent

Mentor
- Still show up
- Don’t let their triggers trigger you
- Connect to other mentors
- Be okay with silence
- Dignity of risk
Risk: A Perspective

“The world in which we live is not always safe, secure and predictable... Every day that we wake up and live in the hours of that day, there is a possibility of being thrown up against a situation where we may have to risk everything, even our lives. This is the way the real world is. We must work to develop every human resource within us in order to prepare for these days. To deny any person their fair share of risk experiences is to further cripple them for healthy living.”

Robert Perske

Dignity of Risk

- Means respecting each individual’s autonomy and self-determination to make choices for himself or herself
- Means giving people chances to take the risks that go along with ordinary life, which are necessary for personal growth and development
- Is a principle that must be applied with care and support, based on each person’s needs, interests and abilities.

What Does it Mean to Take Risks?

- Weighing the pros and cons to make a decision
  - Short-term and long-term
- Understanding and accepting consequences
  - Taking responsibility
- Recognizing the possibility of failure
- Making a choice
  - Even without full approval of another person

-Pam Treadway, M.Ed. – full presentation here
Marquis

12 years old
Shy, but school’s good
Mom works overtime
Takes care of brother
Scholarship > stay home
Smell of smoke

Mentor

Generational Poverty
Cultural understanding
Don’t project
Don’t make assumptions
Focus on the positive
Conversations on power
Poverty

Urban Ventures: Facts about Poverty

- Educational Poverty
- Parental Poverty
- Spiritual Poverty

Bias

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Explicit bias</th>
<th>Implicit (Unconscious) bias</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consciously held</td>
<td>Unconsciously held</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessible, tangible</td>
<td>Inaccessible, intangible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activated volitionally</td>
<td>Activated unintentionally</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can be combated with logic and reasoning</td>
<td>Difficult to counter with logic and reasoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overt</td>
<td>Covert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easier to measure</td>
<td>Difficult to measure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-- measured using surveys</td>
<td>-- IAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deliberate discrimination</td>
<td>Causes unintended discrimination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less common</td>
<td>Widely prevalent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relatively easier to contain</td>
<td>Very difficult to mitigate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From In-reach for Successful Aging & End of Life project. PI: Periyakoil 2011-2018
Cultural Humility > Cultural Competence

- Adapted from HealthCity
- MENTOR Better Mentor Toolkit on Cultural Humility (video)

© Melanie Tervalon, MD, MPH – click here
Libby
Rural Indiana
Family doesn’t accept girlfriend
Pay bills with men
Juvenile detention
Depression, self-harm
Failing grades

Mentor
Mental health resources
Keep your thoughts about mom private
Parent resources re: safe home environment
Generational trauma
Mandated reporting
Continuum of Sexual Abuse, SEC, & CSEC

- Linking of “love”, sex, and abuse
- Violation of boundaries
- Guilt & shame
- View self as sexual object
- Low self-esteem
- Run away/homeless
- Poverty & need
- Unequal power dynamics of adult/child relationship
- Media influence
- Demand: billion dollar sex industry
- Approached by recruiters, pimps, traffickers

Child Sexual Abuse

Sexual Exploitation of Children (SEC)

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)

© Girls Educational and Mentoring Services (GEMS)
Navigation

- Cultivate self-awareness & cultural humility
- Connect with resources & other mentors
- Set & maintain boundaries for the long haul
- Stick around & share power.

Remember

You are not responsible for your mentee’s life.