Dealing with Difficult Coworkers

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OBJECTIVES

• Discuss how difficult co-workers can put a strain on the health care team

• Explores ways to coach and manage difficult coworkers

DID YOU KNOW?

• 2 million US workers are victims of workplace violence (WPV) ... a year

- 75 % are in healthcare and Social Services
- 94 % of leaders had a toxic person at work which correlated with increased patient mortality
- 49% stated intimidation by another practitioner resulted in medication error

JC SENTINEL EVENT ALERT

- Released in 2008
- Behaviors that undermine a culture of safety
- Created new leadership standard that required
 - Code of conduct to define acceptable, disruptive, and inappropriate behaviors
 - Leaders implement process for managing disruptive behaviors

JC SENTINEL EVENT ALERT 2018

- Define workplace violence
- Systems for staff to report workplace violence (WPV)
- Review cases
- Provide follow up
- Develop quality initiatives to \downarrow incidences of WPV

DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

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•Any behavior that is : interpersonal; results in perceived threat to victims and/or witnesses; and violates a reasonable person's standard of respect

TYPES OF TOXIC BEHAVIORS

Shaming

Humiliates others
Sarcastic remarks
Pot- shots
Points out mistakes of others

Passive Hostility

Distrust of others opinions
Passive aggressive behaviors
Territorial
Difficulty accepting feedback
Unaware behaviors toxic

Team Sabotage

- Monitors team behaviors • Meddles
- ${\boldsymbol \cdot} Uses$ authority to punish others

TYPES OF TOXIC EMPLOYEES













TOXIC / DISRUPTIVE EMPLOYEES

• Grueling personalities

• Behaviors impact every team member

• Behaviors impact everyone the contact



BULLYING

BEHAVIORS

Covert

- Excluding others
 Withholding information
 Refusing to help
- Sabotaging
- undermining

Overt

- Yelling
- Criticizing
- Intimidating
- Blaming
- Raising eyebrows

THE BULLYING BOSS

- Ridiculing
- Devaluing in front of others
- Accusing of incompetence
- Blaming

• Failing to give credit

Bullying Is Not

- Setting high expectations
- Holding staff accountable
- Providing feedback
- Has a bad day

Bullying Is

- Setting unequal expectations in same position/ practice level
- Holding staff accountable for performance outside of scope
- Is disrespectful to staff during individual or group interactions
- Consistently engages in behavior that is rude , disrespective, degrading

"BULLYING IMPACTS BOTH DIRECT TARGETS AND BYSTANDERS WHO WITNESS THE ASSAULTIVE BEHAVIORS"

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HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

- Workplace Harassment
 - Quid Pro- Quo
 - Hostile Work environment

• Sexual Harassment

- Unwelcome sexual advances
- Requests for sexual favors

WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

• Joint Commission – Sentinel Event Alert in April 2018

- Every episode of violence or credible threat warrants notification to leadership ,security and as needed law enforcement
- Incident reports completed and analyzed
- Zero Tolerance
- Providing
- Medical staff policies

PREVALENCE



2 million / year Victims WPV

> 75% are in healthcare or SS

94% leaders had toxic

person

49% stated intimidation resulted in med error

Fink-Samnick 2018

2008 80% of doctors were disrespectful to staff



\$11581 per nurse per year in lost production 28% of staff experience bullying from direct manager



200,000 patients die each year due to medical error

Up to 80% result of communication

EFFECTS

• Undermines communication



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• Stress has been shown to decrease technical performance of surgeons and other professionals



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• Stress has been shown to decrease technical performance of surgeons and other professionals

• Decreased patient satisfaction



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CLINICIANS

• Health issues

- Occupational stress
- Burnout
- Mental Health
 - Depression
 - Suicide
 - Posttraumatic Stress Disorder
- Decrease self esteem
- Cardiac issues
- Substance abuse



INSTITUTIONS

• Decreased productivity

• Job commitment

• Turnover

INSTITUTIONS • Absenteeism

• Presenteism

• Legal action





"Often the right path is the one that may be hardest for you to follow. But the hard path is also the one that will make you grow as a human being"

Karen Mueller Coombs



ADDRESS THE ISSUEBring issues to light

• Set and hold clear expectations

• Educate and coach

Doing nothing is something

CULTURE OF SAFETY

• Safety culture

- is the sum of what an organization **is** and **does** in the pursuit of safety
- Just culture
- Reporting culture
- Learning culture

CULTURE OF SAFETY

• Education staff and Managers

• ALICE® training

• Starting every meeting with "awareness"

BEING IN THE MOMENT

- Self awareness
- Not just turning off technology
- Planning ahead



• Being intentional with what ,how ,and when you say things

AUTHENTIC AND HUMANISTIC

• What is said and how it is said

• Respecting individuality

• Praise

• Coach

CURIOUS V JUDGMENTAL

• Peoples behaviors make sense to them

• Be willing to ask questions and listen actively

• Try to understand their reality

LOOK IN THE MIRROR



- What can I do ?
 - To role model
 - To achieve desired outcome?
 - To provide clarity
- How did I contribute to that ?
- What can I do next time to make it successful?

"Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing."

Albert Schweitzer



ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP BEHAVIORS

• Courageous Conversations

• Provide timely, clear and specific performance expectations and feedback

• Teach , Coach and mentor

• At least 50 % of your time should be developing others

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Up to 80% result of communication

LISTENING MORE EFFECTIVELY

• Acknowledging

• Paraphrasing

• Active Listening



COMMUNICATION SKILLS & BEHAVIORS

• Listening

• Speaking

• Observation

• Questioning







COACHING CONVERSATIONS

- Be intentional
- Consistently deliver 5:1
- Encourage feedback
- 50% of time should be coaching and mentoring
- 1:1 meetings

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

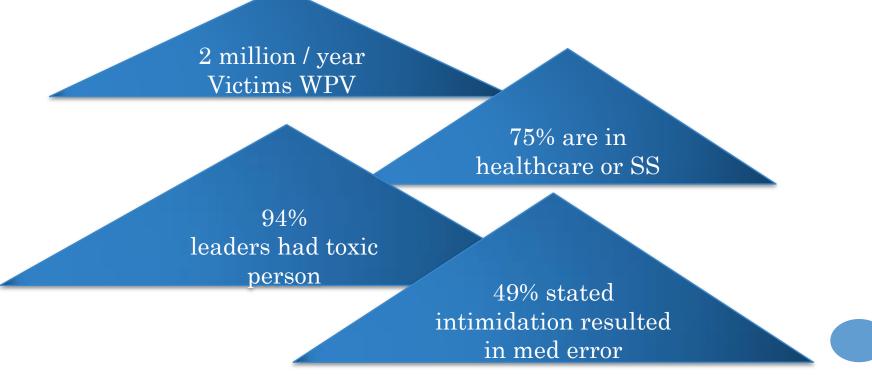
• EAP for wellness resources

• Event reporter for disruptive behavior

• Prevent hiring







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ADDRESS THE ISSUES

• Culture of Safety

• Zero tolerance

• Coach and Mentor

