

Module 2 child abuse (case) bhe415 community and domestic violence

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Affiliation: Responding to Summers friend As a seven grade student, Summer is a minor and her protection lies in the stakeholders who she interacts with both at school and at home. Given that summer is not protected at home and the only person she has been able to talk to is her friend, my response to her friend is by asking her to direct Summer to me as this would feel less awkward if she realizes that her friend has talked to someone else about what is bugging her. In this case, Summer's friend is an agent of communication who can persuade Summer to speak up with an authoritative figure. However, having been the first to listen to the case, I am obligated to instruct and assure Summer's friend that regardless of whether she decides to persuade Summer into talking about her issues with an authoritative figure, her situation is serious and involves criminal act as the perpetrator is an adult of 19 years. As a recommendation, I would advise Summer's friend to abstain from sharing the information with anyone else as this may get to the abusive cousin who may retaliate violently towards Summer and/or her friend. Additionally, he may also flee justice if word got to him about his abuse to Summer being exposed.

Legal Obligations

As a stakeholder in the life of Summer for being her teacher, it is my obligation as it is any other person's to report to authorities the chance of a minor being abused. Regardless if whether Summer has consent about this or not, her age is denies her to have options or to make decisions of he own and this projects the responsibilities of taking care of her to the stakeholders who have access to her. In this case, I am obligated to report the matter to

the school manager in order to take note of the any developments that may present themselves in the future. Child protective services or agents should be notified of the developments in order to provide any necessary protection from the perpetrator.

Talking to Summer

Talking to Summer about the abuse by her cousin can be a task to be handled in a rather much professional setting. After inquiring from her the full scale of the issue, Summer can be enrolled for social therapy in order to prevent any future psychological trauma that she may go through in the future. In case her family is aware of the developments and they have neglected her, I can accompany her to the social therapy sessions so that she gets the support that her family have failed to provide According to Prevent Child Abuse New York (2011), adults should provide advocacy to children as the children need people who can represent and speak on their behalf.

Impact of Child Abuse

The fact that Summer has been exposed to abuse, her future is likely to be a difficulty one as the current issue could develop traumatic episodes in the future. Education wise, Summer may not be able to concentrate with her education as any other normal student. Socially, she may start to withdraw from her family following Family Systems Theory that defines the interaction among members of a family and how they relate emotionally with each other. In this case, Summer may develop the feeling of being out of place. If Summer is traumatized from her abuse, she is likely to face a hard financial future as she will not be able to focus on her career with her child traumatic

history bothering her (Kirk, 2007).

Impacts on the extended family

Assuming that none other than Summer and her cousin know of the abuse in this case besides any other family members. When the extended family learns about the abuse, two families will develop sour relations as Summer's parents would press charges against the adult cousin. The strong bonds that may exist between the two families would be destroyed as legal matters would take that place (Reppucci, Britner, & Woolard, 1997). The extended family would also incriminate the cousin in question thus pushing female cousins from their male counterparts. The incident shades light and fear to every member of the extended family. Worst case scenario is the fact that some members may pick sides to support or defend the victim or the culprit worsening the situation.

References

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- Reppucci, D., Britner, A., & Woolard, J. (1997). Preventing child abuse and neglect through parent education. Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company Prevent Child Abuse New York. (2011). Retrieved May 21, 2014 from <http://www.preventchildabuseny.org>