INTRODUCTION

Victims of domestic violence experience a wide range of challenges as they leave their perpetrators and regain a sense of their own power (Candela, 2016). These can include engagement with the courts related to divorce and/or child custody, problems maintaining financial stability, and the need to manage other personal responsibilities (Campbell, 2017). The Morlock Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving quality of life by connecting individuals to resources. The Foundation offers crisis support and phone-based case management services to victims of domestic violence and others in need.

This poster highlights the Foundation’s work with Sally (name changed to protect confidentiality) to determine its success in helping her to secure her own home and rebuild her life. Using single subject design, this study will assess the effectiveness of staff interventions using task achievement and goal attainment scaling.

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

A single subject design is an experimental approach that enables the social worker to determine the effectiveness of an intervention at helping a client reach their identified goals.

Intervention

The social worker used phone-based case management and crisis support to assist Sally. Case managers assess client needs and work to secure resources to assist them in getting them met. Crisis support typically entails short-term interventions specifically designed to help clients express their immediate challenges, to have their concerns validated, and to help them take necessary and immediate next steps to move forward.

Hypothesis

H1: Phone-based case management will help Sally to secure own housing.

H2: Phone-based crisis support will help Sally to rebuild her life.

Measures

The Task Achievement Scale was developed specifically for Sally to determine her success in completing a variety of tasks associated with securing her own home.

The Goal Attainment Scale was created by the case manager to evaluate Sally's success in working towards her goal of rebuilding her life.

CASE DESCRIPTION

Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence, is a pattern of behaviors which can include intimidation, emotional abuse, physical assault, and sexual violence. It is used by the perpetrator as a means of maintaining power and control over his or her victim (Candela, 2016).

Domestic violence affects people of all social backgrounds, religions, and educational levels. It leads to fear, isolation, and economic deprivation (Campbell, 2017). Organizations that work with populations who have experienced domestic violence offer a variety of services from awareness-raising and education; to crisis intervention and emergency housing; to long-term interventions in getting them met. Crisis support typically entails short-term interventions specifically designed to help clients express their immediate challenges, to have their concerns validated, and to help them take necessary and immediate next steps to move forward.

CONCLUSIONS

As often occurs with crisis-based interventions, Sally decided to discontinue work towards her goal of securing her own home—preferring to stay with her uncle instead. She did, however, make progress on her goal of rebuilding her life by securing housing; reducing her contact with her husband; and considering job training. Sally may need additional support as she continues her efforts to rebuild her life following a traumatic and violent relationship with her ex-husband.

REFERENCES