Outline

Truants or Refusers The importance of Assessing WHY They Aren't in School

The dynamic difference between school refusers and truants

Common characteristics of school refusers Completing a functional analysis of school refusers

Categorical-dimensional approach Reinforcement contingencies

Co-morbid DSM-5® disorders

Anxiety disorders

- Oppositional Defiant Disorder
- PostTraumatic Stress Disorder
- Depressive disorders

Phobias

Conduct disorders

Learning disorders

Factors to consider when assessing for school refusal

Standardized assessment measures to employ Critical questions to ask refusers and their parents

Strategic Interventions that Get Refusers Back in School, and Keep Them There

Factors that increase the likelihood of success Individual intervention/therapy Systematic Desensitization Exposure therapy Modeling Cognitive therapy Educational/supportive therapy Family intervention/therapy Parent training Structured family therapy Systemic family therapy Dialectical Behavior Therapy-School Refusal

Objectives

1. Recognize the behavioral and clinical features of school refusers to better inform clinical decision making.

- 2. Analyze the functional purpose of school refusal behavior to determine appropriate treatment strategies.
- 3. Identify co-morbid psychological disorders associated with school refusal to improve treatment outcomes.

Pharmacological intervention Tricyclics SSRI's Beta Blockers Benzodiazepines Interventions for refusers seeking to: Avoid negative effect Escape from aversive social and evaluative aspects of school Get attention Receive tangible reinforcers Craft an individualized intervention plan "School Makes Me Want to Throw Up" "Everybody There Hates Me"

"Can't I Stay at Home and Have You Teach Me?" "The School of Hard Knocks"

Getting School Personnel and Parents Involved

Forced school attendance Using school escorts 35 concrete tips for parents Suggestions for teachers and school counselors

Live Seminar Schedule

7:30 Registration/Morning Coffee & Tea**8:00** Program begins

11:50-1:00 Lunch (on your own)

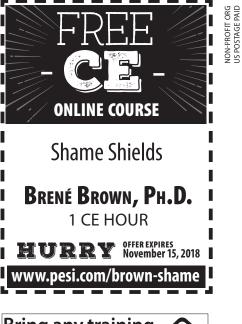
4:00 Program ends

There will be two 15-min breaks (mid-morning & mid-afternoon). Actual lunch and break start times are at the discretion of the speaker. A more detailed schedule is available upon request.

Target Audience

Counselors • Social Workers • Psychologists • Teachers School Guidance Counselors • Marriage and Family Therapists School Administrators • Educational Paraprofessionals Occupational Therapists & Occupational Therapy Assistants Speech Language Pathologists • Case Managers • Nurses Other Helping Professionals Who Work with Children

- 4. Evaluate individual, family, behavioral, and pharmacological approaches to the treatment of school refusers.
- 5. Design strategic school refusal plans that target the underlying motivation and reinforcement systems.
- 6. Explain to parents and school personnel how to incorporate numerous tips designed to remedy school refusal behavior.





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Effective Techniques for

School Refusal Behavior

Real Help for Children and Adolescents Who Can't or Won't Go to School



Buffalo, NY Wednesday, December 5, 2018

Rochester, NY Thursday, December 6, 2018

Syracuse, NY Friday, December 7, 2018

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Effective Techniques for School Refusal Behavior

Real Help for Children and Adolescents Who Can't or Won't Go to School

- Dig deep into the motivation behind this behavior-and how it's reinforced
- Uncover co-morbid psychological disorders that may be exacerbating the problem
- Gain concrete strategies for getting school personnel and parents involved
- Leave ready to write and implement strategic, individualized intervention plans



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Effective Techniques for School Refusal Behavior

Real Help for Children and Adolescents Who Can't or Won't Go to School

"I don't want to go to school!" Who hasn't heard that phrase before? While we may chuckle remembering the lengths we might have taken to avoid school, there are many children and adolescents whose struggles with school are much deeper and demand more urgent attention. They are exhibiting school refusal behavior, and their actions signal that something is very wrong. School refusal behavior is often associated with co-morbid disorders such as anxiety or depression and has far-reaching and long-term consequences. School refusers may have serious problems with nightmares, temper outbursts, poor academic performance, stunted social skill development, and even physical ailments.

In this unique slant on an often-misunderstood phenomenon, Dr. George Haarman will show you how to simultaneously address two competing demands when treating school refusalimmediately meeting attendance expectations set by the schools while also digging deeper to uncover and treat underlying problems. You will be able to more quickly differentiate school refusal from common phobic reactions by recognizing and addressing the presence of anxiety, depressive, and other disorders that may be co-morbid or causing school refusal. Armed with a better understanding of the particular motivation and reinforcement systems related to the school refusal behavior, you can then offer strategic, individualized intervention plans that have a much greater chance of success.

Speaker

GEORGE B. HAARMAN, PsyD, LMFT, is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist with over 30 years of experience. A member of the American Psychological Association and Kentucky Psychological Association, Dr. Haarman is in private practice in Louisville, Kentucky and serves as a consultant to several school systems regarding the assessment of children. For 24 years, Dr. Haarman worked in the Department of Human Services in Louisville, serving as the deputy director for the last 12 years of his tenure there. His prior experience with DHS included working with youth detention centers, juvenile group homes, child protective services, and juvenile probation. Dr. Haarman received his doctorate in clinical psychology from Spalding University and has been an instructor at Jefferson Community College, Bellarmine University, and Spalding University. He has presented seminars regionally and nationally on psychopathology, depression, and emotional disorders in children and adolescents. He is also the author of three books: School *Refusal: Children Who Can't or Won't Go to School, Mastering DSM-5*[®], and *Clinical Supervision:* Legal, Ethical, and Risk Management Issues.

Speaker Disclosure

Financial: George Haarman is in private practice. He receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc.

Non-financial: George Haarman is a member of the American Psychological Association; and the Kentucky Psychological Association.



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Peaceful Parent, Happy Kids Workbook

Using Mindfulness and Connection to Raise Resilient, Joyful Children and *Rediscover Your Love of Parenting*

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Behavior Management Skills Guide:

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