

Strategies for Overcoming Gender Differences when Working with Male Clients

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Similarities and Differences

	Prison/Institutional Setting	Outpatient/Community Setting
Safety Issues	Complacency; mental health hat on first at expense of safety	Not prioritized from the start; different expectations for males and females
Boundaries	Dual roles (i.e. shower monitor) Harsher consequences	Boundary Transgressions/Violations; more opportunities to process, more opportunities for harm?
Staff Dynamics	Male-oriented system	Less patriarchal however perhaps more nuanced
Aesthetics (dress code/office décor)	Safety issues; more standardized	Varied responses among clinician comfort level
Treatment Alliance	Client confidentiality issues can interfere	Transference/countertransference Issues can interfere more readily?
Clinician Disclosure	-staff/clients will out female -more standardized	-staff/clients will out female Disclosures/engagement/marriage
Ways females are unprepared	Females are not trained	Females are not trained
Male support for gender differences	Anxiety over how to support Ignorance that there are differences	Anxiety over how to support Ignorance that there are differences
How can males be of support	Discussing in staff meetings/supervision; checking in on equality in treatment	Discussing in staff meetings/supervision; checking in on equality in treatment
Trauma informed treatment	Ability to ask how experiences with females have helped shape current attitude.	Ability to ask how experiences with females have helped shape current attitude.
Empathy Demonstration	Firmer boundaries	Perhaps easier, more accessible