Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre
Health Services

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Department Human Services
MALMSBURY JUVENILE JUSTICE

Introduction

- 100 Kilometers from Melbourne on the Calder Highway-half way to Bendigo

- Victoria is the only state with a dual track system

- The institution accommodates for up to 92 young men (known to the workers as clients)

- Aged Between 17 to 21
MALMSBURY JUVENILE JUSTICE

Introduction

- Sentence by the Supreme, Magistrates Or County Court
- Sentences are generally from 2 months, but under three years
- Melbourne YJC care for young men between the ages of 14-18
- Young Women are held at Parkville with the 12 to 14 year old young boys
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre

Introduction

- Discussion topics:
  - The structure of Malmsbury Youth Justice,
  - The various roles of health service professionals within the Youth Justice system,
  - The complexities of working with young offenders.

- This workshop will provide insight into effective treatment approaches for working with young offenders with complex forensic and clinical issues.
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Process

- Dual Track System:
  - Youth Justice Centre (YJC) Order
  - Adult Sentence

Occasionally, clients are transferred from Adult Prison to Malmsbury YJC
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Process

- Suitability Assessment (prior to court)
  - Pre-Sentence Report completed by the Regional Worker
  - Suitability Assessment-ACAS Worker in consultation with Unit Manager and Regional Worker.
  - Age Specific (18-20 year old males)
  - Criteria of suitability: Vulnerable, Impressionable and Rehabilitative
Client arrives at Malmsbury

- Observations
- Random if Non Indigenous, 4 minutes if Indigenous
  - Indigenous client assessed in 12 hours (due to aboriginal deaths in custody)
  - Non Indigenous assessed in 24 hours
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Process

- Initial assessment by a mental health practitioner
  - MMSE
  - Forensic Assessment (LSI)
  - Detailed Client History (including medical, education, family etc)
  - Medical Check
  - Psychiatric Assessment
  - Substance Use Assessment
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre

Process

- Admissions Unit (4-6 weeks)
  - Monitor and assess (patterns of behaviour and psychological/psychiatric issues).
    - Individual Behaviour Plans
    - ABC charts
  - Forensic Mental Health Meeting (Senior Psychologist, TL health services, Admissions Psychiatric Nurse)
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Process

- Classification meeting
  - Unit managers,
  - TL health services,
  - Operations manager,
  - Unit coordinators,
  - Programs / TAFE manager and PRP coordinator.
  - Ulabara (secure unit)
  - Campaspe, Lauriston and Coliban (open units)
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Process

- Unit Structure
  - Unit manager, unit coordinator, unit supervisor, youth justice staff
  - Unit Health Coordinator
  - Single and double rooms
  - Unit television and games area
  - Supervisors office
  - Managers / coordinators office
  - Key workers office
  - Quiet / interview room
  - Kitchen
  - Medication Room
  - Stores Room
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Process

❖ Day-to-day

➢ TAFE and YMCA programs
➢ Open Units Health Programs (Individual and group)
  ▪ Peer Education (6 days, 4 x yearly)
  ▪ Parenting (6 days, 4 x yearly)
  ▪ Addictions (4 days, 8 x yearly)
  ▪ Violence Awareness (8 week block – 1 day a week, 4 x yearly)
  ▪ Health Promotion Days (ongoing and varies)
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Process

► Admissions Unit
  • Coping Skills (3 sessions, 1 hour per week)
  • Welcoming Group (1 hour monthly)
  • YRO Presentation (1 hour monthly)
  • Drug and Alcohol Inventory and Education (1.5 hours per week, 4 sessions)
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Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Process

Ulabara Unit

- Health Hygiene (1 session weekly)
- Health Program (1 session weekly)
  - Violence Awareness and Addictions modules
- Parenting and Peer Education (3 sessions)
  - Takes into account clients’ attention and cognitive deficits
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Health Services Roles

- Psychologist
- Health Coordinator
- Programs Nurse
- Nurse
- Psychiatric Nurses (x3)
- Psychiatrist (Contracted through Forensicare)
- General Practitioner (contracted)
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre
Health Service Roles

- Psychiatric Nurse (3)
  - Completes Assessment, gathers appropriate information and corroborates information from client with information from previous reports / professionals – e.g., court reports, previous assessments.
  - Case manages client RE health needs / issues while the client is in the Admissions Unit.
  - Psychiatric Nurses start Client Assessment document.
  - Referrals (i.e., to Psychological Services or Psychiatric Services).
  - Present clients to forensic mental health meeting.
  - Risk assessment.
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Process

- Health Coordinator (4)
  - 1 coordinator per unit.
  - Completes Client Assessment document (secondary assessment to identify risk and needs, dictates sentence and exit planning).
  - Case manage clients in allocated unit.
  - Custodial Progress Reports for the Youth Parole Board.
  - Risk Assessment Plans (for leaves).
  - Makes appropriate referrals (to Malmsbury and community services / interventions).
  - Consultations with unit staff, health professionals, regional workers and external service providers.
  - Undertake health promotion.
  - Supportive and general counselling (for general unit stressors, relationship issues, anxiety, grief and loss).
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre
Health Service Roles

- Health Coordinator (continued)…
  - Involvement in behaviour management (weekly behavioural management system, risk assessments, Individual Behaviour Plans).
  - Facilitate Addictions Programs.
  - Facilitate individual offence-specific intervention (e.g., for intellectually disabled clients).
  - Facilitate professionals meeting.
  - Risk Assessment Reports for the Temporary Leave Program.
  - Custodial Progress Reports for the Youth Parole Board.
  - Program Assessment Tools.
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Health Service Roles

❖ Psychiatrist
  ➢ 1 day a week.
  ➢ Coordinated by Psychiatric Nurses.
  ➢ Treatment for major mental illness.
  ➢ Forensic Assessments.
  ➢ Secondary Consultations.
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre
Health Service Roles

- Psychologists
  - 2 EFT
  - 1 Full Time.
  - Facilitate Violence Awareness Program and Coping Skills Program.
  - Provide individual intervention (forensic and clinical).
  - Cognitive Assessments/Screening
    - Intellectual Disability
    - ABI
    - Language/Learning Disorder
  - Risk / crisis assessments (e.g., risk to self and others).
    - HCR20
    - LSI
    - PCL
  - Write reports to the Youth Parole Board (CPR, Special Awareness and Request to Transfer to Prison).
  - Coordinate Psychological reports for Court
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Health Service Roles

- General Practitioner
  - 3 days a week.
  - Coordinated by Nurse.
  - Specialist in ORT and sexual health.
Nurse (1 general)

- Triage Client Health Issues
- Coordinates clients to be seen by health services (via referral from unit staff or the unit health coordinator).
- Organises ordering, collecting and distribution of medication for clients.
- Organises external appointments (e.g., dental, neurosurgical, surgical).
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Health Service Roles

- Programs Coordinator
  - Coordinator for Health Awareness Days.
  - Facilitation of Parenting and Peer Education Programs.
  - Coordination of Peer Education facilitations.
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre

- **Overview**
  - Significant number of Intellectually disabled clients
  - Some clients with Asperger’s Syndrome
  - Violent crime (specifically assault and knife related) on the rise
  - Motor Vehicle theft
  - Drug related property offences
  - Culpable Drivers
  - Murder/Manslaughter
  - Sex Offences
  - Arsonists
  - In general, the clients have literacy and numeracy issues (due to broken education histories and significant substance abuse issues).
  - Issue = sentence length
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre
Hypothetical Cases

- Acute and Chronic Mental Health (Schizophrenia)
- Disability Client
- Complex Client (refer to checklist)
  - Mixture of Intellectual Disability, Psychiatric Needs, Clinical and Forensic Issues, Substance Abuse.
- Personality Disorders
- Complex Trauma

We will discuss the difficult part in our role of
(i) distinguishing the aetiology of offending, and then
(ii) determining appropriate treatment planning.
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre
Psychiatric Clients

- Considerations for treatment
- 3 types of clients with mental illness:
  - No offending history, acute psychotic episode that results in commission of an offence (i.e., illness contributed to the offence).
  - Client becomes isolated due to ongoing / prolonged psychiatric concerns, leads to high risk behaviours (due to seeking acceptance from antisocial peers and / or taking substances), leads to a pattern of offending that becomes an ongoing issue.
  - Clients that have entrenched pro-offending attitudes and behaviours, who are then diagnosed with a mental illness.
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Psychiatric Clients

- Requires a lot of gathering and corroboration of information, regular consult with professional’s involved, and clear sentence and exit planning, e.g., accessing tertiary services such as Forensicare (who can at least act as a secondary consult) and MACNI.
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Intellectually Disabled Clients

- Considerations for treatment
- Level of disability (mild to moderate).
- Suitable for individual or group based intervention (e.g., Peer Education or Addictions).
- Other complexities of working with clients with a disability, i.e., impulsivity, concrete thinking, contextual learning, memory problems, length of time to consolidate leanings, short sentence lengths.
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Intellectually Disabled Clients

- Requires a lot of gathering and corroboration of information, regular consult with all professional’s involved (disability services, regional worker, other support services), and clear / realistic sentence and exit planning (which often involves more supports). Consistency of staff approaches is important, i.e., clear communication, clear roles and responsibilities.
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Complex Clients

- Complex as determined by the LSI:
  - Age
  - Significant clinical issues (e.g., depression, anxiety, psychosis).
  - Lack of supports in the community.
  - Entrenched and prolonged issues and history.
  - Behavioural issues identified in the Admissions Unit (e.g., aggression, self harm, harm to others).
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Complex Clients

- Considerations for treatment
  - Identifying the issues and which are priority (in terms of risk).
  - Stabilising client (in terms of mental health, behaviour, suicide / self harm risk) before focus on forensic issues (which is often difficult).

- Requires a lot of gathering and corroboration of information, regular consult with all professionals involved, and clear / realistic sentence and exit planning.
Considerations for treatment

- In our age set, no diagnosis is usually made because they are still developing,
- Clients are recorded as having traits of a mental illness.
- Clear and thorough assessment and understanding of personality disorder, which will dictate treatment approach.
- Taking into account the fact that different personality disorders require different treatment.
  - E.g., psychopathic clients = behavioural intervention = focus on how his behaviour impacts on him rather than how this impacts on others.
  - E.g., borderline personality disorder = focus on addressing the destabilising behaviours (such as self harm, splitting in the unit, limited coping strategies that often results in aggressive behaviour).
- Stabilising client (in terms of mental health, behaviour, suicide/self harm risk) before focus on forensic issues (which is often difficult).
- Reactive strategies to proactive strategies (communicate this to the unit).
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Personality Disorders

- Requires a lot of gathering and corroboration of information, regular consult with all professionals involved, providing consult to direct-care staff around how to manage destabilising behaviours,
- Encouraging staff to focus attention on operational safety planning rather than supportive counselling when dealing with self harm.
Malmsbury Youth Justice Centre Complex Trauma Clients

- Considerations for treatment
  - Identifying the issues and which are priority (in terms of risk).
  - Common presentations:
    - Highly impulsive and aggressive behaviours,
    - difficult to engage,
    - Self-fulfilling prophecy (i.e., looking to confirm that they cannot trust anybody and that they will be abandoned),
    - deliberately defiant,
    - anti-authority attitudes,
    - significant substance abuse,
    - highly vigilant and on guard.
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Complex Trauma Clients

- Type of treatment, i.e., individual intervention is often preferable (where they can work through specific issues) as compared to group based intervention (which they often sabotage and are unwilling to engage in).
- Trust and rapport.
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Complex Trauma Clients

- Requires a lot of gathering and corroboration of information, regular consult with all professionals involved (particularly direct care staff), and clear / realistic sentence and exit planning.

- In particular, behavioural management approaches should be focused on appropriate de-escalation strategies.
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- Open discussion / questions / cases.