Engaging parents in the treatment of their child: clinicians views on parent work

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Kim E. Monson
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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this exploratory study was to investigate how clinicians engage
parents in their child’s therapy. The study attempts to learn from a clinicians’ perspective
about their parent work. Participants were asked to discuss their experiences, thoughts,
and feelings about parent work especially about engaging parents in the treatment of their
child.

The sample included twelve clinicians who had at least two years of experience
working with children, adolescents, their parents and/or families. Seven of the
participants were licensed clinical social workers, two were licensed marriage and family
therapists, one was a licensed mental health counselor, one was a licensed independent
clinical social worker and one had a Masters degree in Social Work. The participants’
years of experience range from two to twenty-five years.

The study explored clinicians’ experiences of engaging parents by asking about a
case that was successful and one that was difficult. One of the major findings was that the
difference between whether a case was successful or not depended on the characteristics
of the parents. Each participant attempted to engage the parent and some of the parents
were able to respond and some were not. The study also found that participants seemed to
enjoy the aspect of parent work.
ENGAGING PARENTS IN THE TREATMENT OF THEIR CHILD:

CLINICIANS VIEWS ON PARENT WORK

A project based upon an independent investigation, submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Social Work.

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I would like to thank my mother, father, sister and friends for always supporting me on whatever journey I choose to take. I would have never come this far if it wasn’t for you guys. I love you!

To my GEMF’S…you will forever be in my heart! My smith experience would have not been the same without each and every one of you. SCROD 😊
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