

# Primary Care Consultation Psychiatry

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# AIMS CENTER

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**Building on 25 years of Research and Practice  
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# Primary Care Consultation Psychiatry

This series of five modules is designed to introduce a psychiatrist to the practice of primary care psychiatry. There is a special focus on the developing role of a psychiatrist functioning as part of a collaborative care team. Each module has stated objectives and a content slide set. The core topics are:

- Module 1: Introduction to Primary Care Consultation Psychiatry
- Module 2: Building a collaborative Care Team
- Module 3: Psychiatric Consulting in Primary Care
- Module 4: Behavioral Interventions and Referrals in Primary Care
- Module 5: Medical Patients with Psychiatric Illness

# **Module 4: Behavioral Interventions and Referrals in Primary Care**

# Learning Objectives: Module 4

**By the end of this module, the participant will be able to:**

- Integrate health behavior change recommendations into treatment plans for primary care settings.
- List the basic principles of common brief psychotherapeutic interventions including motivational interviewing, behavioral activation and problem solving therapy.
- Triage patients to appropriate referrals for common primary care behavioral health presentations.
- Support primary care providers in functional assessments including assessing disability for primary care patients.

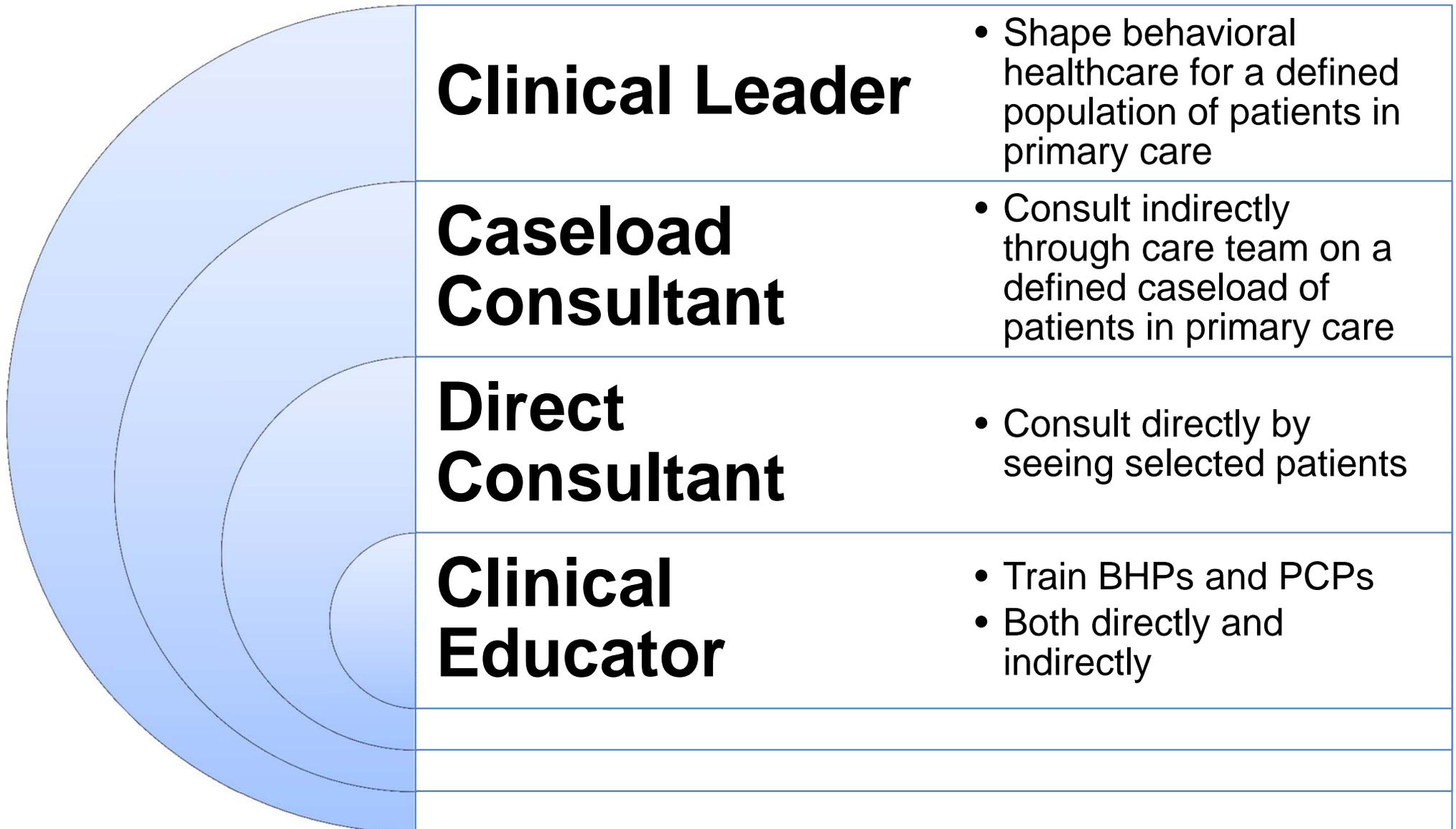
# Think Beyond Medications!

**Behavioral Medicine  
&  
Brief Psychotherapy**

**Referrals  
&  
Community Resources**

**Disability**

# Roles for Psychiatrists



# Role for the Consulting Psychiatrist

- **Support biopsychosocial assessment, case formulation and treatment planning**
- **Support training and coaching of primary care and behavioral health staff to provide**
  - **Behavioral health interventions**
  - **Brief psychotherapy**
  - **Referrals to community resources**
- **Support assessment for disability when appropriate**

# Role for the Consulting Psychiatrist

**“This isn’t as easy as making a medication recommendation or writing a prescription!”**

# Think Beyond Medications!

**Behavioral Medicine  
&  
Brief Psychotherapy**

**Referrals  
&  
Community Resources**

**Disability**

# Brief Psychotherapy Skills

- **Evidence based psychotherapies can be adapted to primary care**
- **Brief psychotherapy requires specific skills**
  - Takes time and Practice
  - Systematic feedback on performance / skill coaching
- **Strategies to improve skills:**
  - Need basic training in specific skills
  - Network with other clinicians with experience for skills coaching
  - Bring in expert trainer to strengthen practice
  - Pay attention to patients → when you are effective you will see results; if patients are not improving, revisit skills used and need for additional training

# Overview of Sample Skills

Motivational Interviewing

Distress Tolerance

Behavioral Activation

Problem Solving Therapy

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Motivational Interviewing

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# Motivational Interviewing for Health Behavior Change

## Definition

- ***“client-centered, directive method for enhancing intrinsic motivation to change by exploring and resolving ambivalence”*** (Miller and Rollnick, 2002)

## Evidence

- **Demonstrated intervention for health behavior change:**
  - **Substance Use/Abuse**
  - **Dual Diagnosis**
  - **Eating Disorders/Obesity**
  - **Medical Co-morbidity** (Cardiovascular health, Diabetes, Asthma, HIV treatment and more)
  - **Health Promotion/Exercise Fitness**
  - **Medical Adherence**
  - **Depression and Anxiety**
  - **Smoking Cessation**
  - **Pain**

# MI cowboy

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*"No one is making you do anything you don't want. I'm just saying we're all headed for Dodge City and we think you should come along."*

*"Of course"*

*want*

*and we'd like you to join us.*

# Spirit of MI

## DO

### Draw out Motivation

*“What would you would like to change about your drinking?”*

### Honor Autonomy: Allow the freedom not to change

*“How ready are you to change?”*

### Collaborate

*“What do you think you’ll do?”*

## AVOID

### Implant the right ideas

*“You really need to stop drinking.”*

### Push for commitment

*“If you delay getting sober, you could die.”*

### Dictate

*“I would urge you to quit drinking.”*

# MI: Four Guiding Principles

Resist the  
Righting  
Reflex

Take up  
the  
argument  
NOT to  
change so  
the patient  
can argue  
FOR  
change

Understand  
Patient  
Motivation

Ask the  
patient  
why they  
would  
want to  
change  
and how  
they would  
do it

Listen to  
Your  
Patient

This is a  
COMPLEX  
SKILL that  
requires  
empathic  
interest  
and  
practice

Empower  
Your  
Patient

Help the  
patient  
explore  
how they  
can make  
a  
difference  
in their  
own health

# MI Roadmap

Agree on a *target behavior* to talk about

Draw out client's *story* about that target behavior

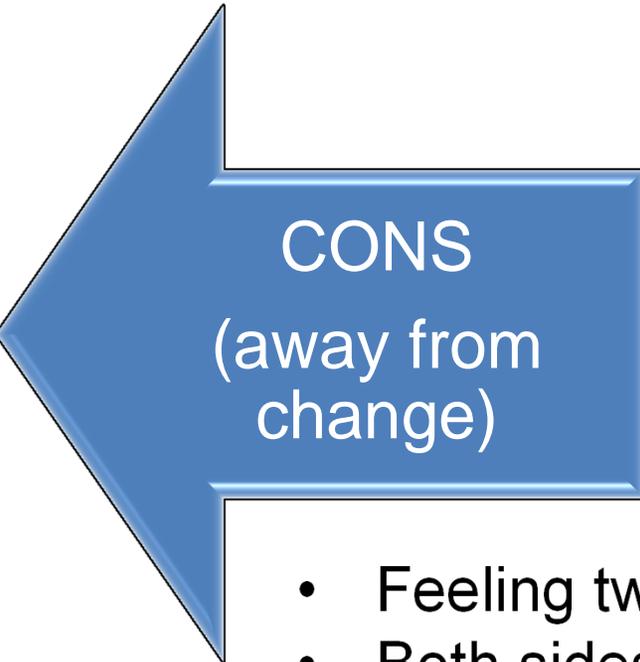
Ask for *change talk* and highlight it

Share *assessment results* relevant to target behavior

Explore *options* for changing target behavior

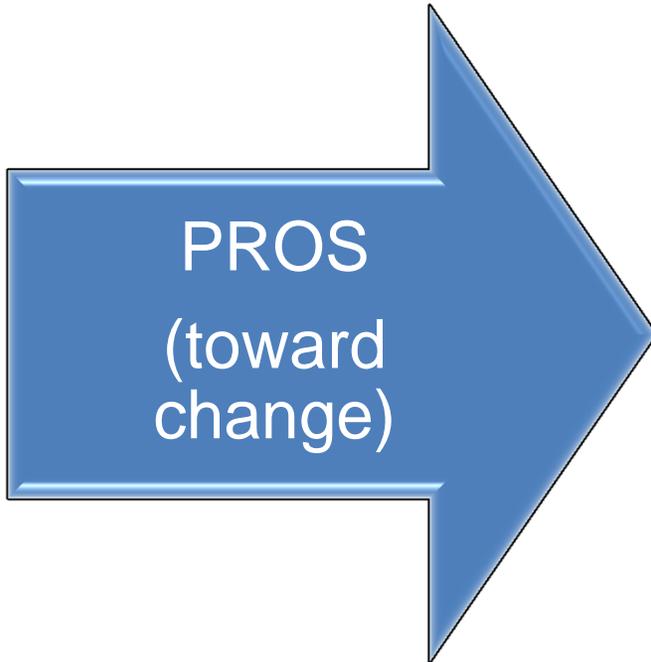
Try for a *commitment* to do something about target behavior

# Change Talk: Exploring Ambivalence



CONS  
(away from  
change)

**STATUS QUO =**  
Stuck in Ambivalence



PROS  
(toward  
change)

- Feeling two ways about something
- Both sides already there
- Common prior to habit change (common *during* habit change). Common with respect to alcohol.
- A communication trap! – Argue one side, person defends the other
- Defense of status quo makes *change less likely*

# Assessment: Reflections Examples

MI  
Spirit

*It sounds like you are feeling...*

*It sounds like you are not happy with...*

*It sounds like you are a bit uncomfortable about...*

*So you are saying that you are having trouble...*

*So you are saying that you are not so sure about ...*

*You're not ready to...*

*You're having a problem with...*

*You're feeling that...*

*It's been difficult for you...*

*You're struggling with...*

*What a pisser!*

# Menu of Options: Drinking Example

MI  
Spirit

Make no change whatsoever

Cut down

Don't cut down but never drive after

Quit entirely

See a counselor

(Others that the client thinks of?)

# Overview of Sample Skills

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Distress Tolerance

Behavioral Activation

Problem Solving Therapy

# Distress tolerance skills are for getting through stress without making things WORSE!

## Clients face many stressors

- Housing
- Money
- Drugs and alcohol
- Dangerous neighborhoods or bus lines
- Trouble finding and keeping work
- Long waits for social services
- Medical problems and chronic pain

## Clinicians face many stressors

- Large caseloads
- Difficult clients
- Hearing many traumatic stories
- Inability to help their clients
- Lack of time or resources to help their clients
- Frustrating interactions with social services
- Unhelpful rules or regulations
- Paperwork

→ Evidence-informed crisis management skills  
→ Adapted from Dialectical Behavior Therapy

# Distress tolerance skills are for an unsolved crisis!

## Can you solve the problem?

If yes, **SOLVE IT**

- Stick with it, don't take your eye off the ball, and do what it takes.

If no (or not right now), **STOP** trying to solve it

- Trying to solve something you can't will often make it worse and send your emotions through the roof.
- Focus on distress tolerance skills during an unsolved crisis.

These skills taught just for an *unsolved* crisis.

# Distress Tolerance skills

Distract: ACCEPTS

Self-Soothe

IMPROVE the moment

Pros and Cons

# Distraction: deliberately turning your attention away from the crisis

Remember,  
wise mind  
**ACCEPTS**

**A**ctivities

**C**ontributing

**C**omparisons

opposite **E**motions

**P**ushing away

**T**houghts

**S**ensations

# Distracting with Sensations

This is  
***THE BEST***  
strategy to  
get unstuck  
when you  
are very  
distressed

Mobilize your body and it will  
bring your mind and emotions  
with it

- Put your face in ice water or hold ice
- Run up and down stairs
- Take cold shower
- If you are inside go outside or if you are outside go inside

# Distress Tolerance skills

Distract: ACCEPTS

Self-Soothe

IMPROVE the moment

Pros and Cons

# Self-Soothe with Five Senses

Vision

Decorate your space, go somewhere inspiring

Sound

Music, soothing voices, nature sounds

Smell

Cooking, lavender, the beach

Touch

Comfortable clothes, pet animal, foot massage

Taste

Favorite food, hard candy or mint, good cup of coffee

# Distress Tolerance skills

Distract: ACCEPTS

Self-Soothe

IMPROVE the moment

Pros and Cons

# IMPROVE the moment



Skills to  
accept pain  
and reduce  
suffering

Imagery

Meaning

Prayer

Relaxation

One thing in the moment

Vacation

Encouragement

# Relaxation

The goal is to reduce suffering by removing physical stress from the body

## Progressive relaxation

- Tighten each part of your body fully for 5 seconds and then completely relax it
- Start at toes and work through full body

**Walk, yoga, other exercise that relaxes your muscles**

# Distress Tolerance skills

Distract: ACCEPTS

Self-Soothe

IMPROVE the moment

Pros and Cons

# Pros and Cons

	Pros	Cons
Making it worse by: _____		
Tolerating distress by: _____		

# Scenario: 10pm Sun night and you found an eviction notice on your door

	Pros	Cons
Making it worse by: <i>getting drunk</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-get to relax</li><li>-won't have to think about it</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-won't be able to function tomorrow when have to call guy back</li></ul>
Tolerating distress by: <i>self-soothing</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-get some relaxation</li><li>-will be clear minded tomorrow</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-will be worried all night</li><li>-probably won't sleep</li></ul>

# Overview of Sample Skills

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# Behavioral Activation

## Principles

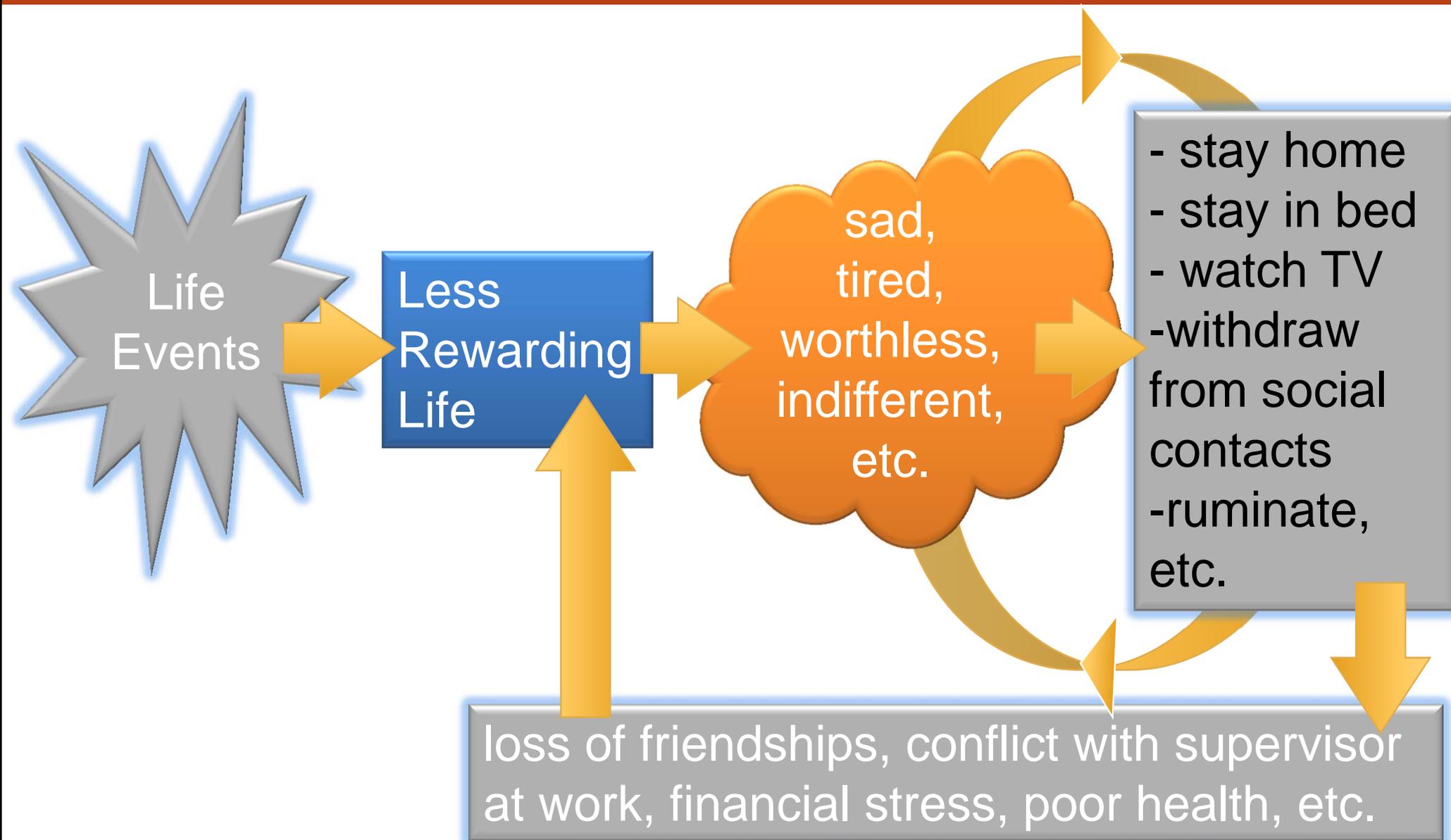
- Structured, brief psychosocial approach
- Problems in vulnerable individuals' lives + behavioral responses = reduce ability to experience positive reward
- Three Goals:
  - Increase adaptive activities
  - Reduce behaviors that maintain depression or make it worse
  - Problem solve around what is “getting in the way” of a rewarding life

## Evidence

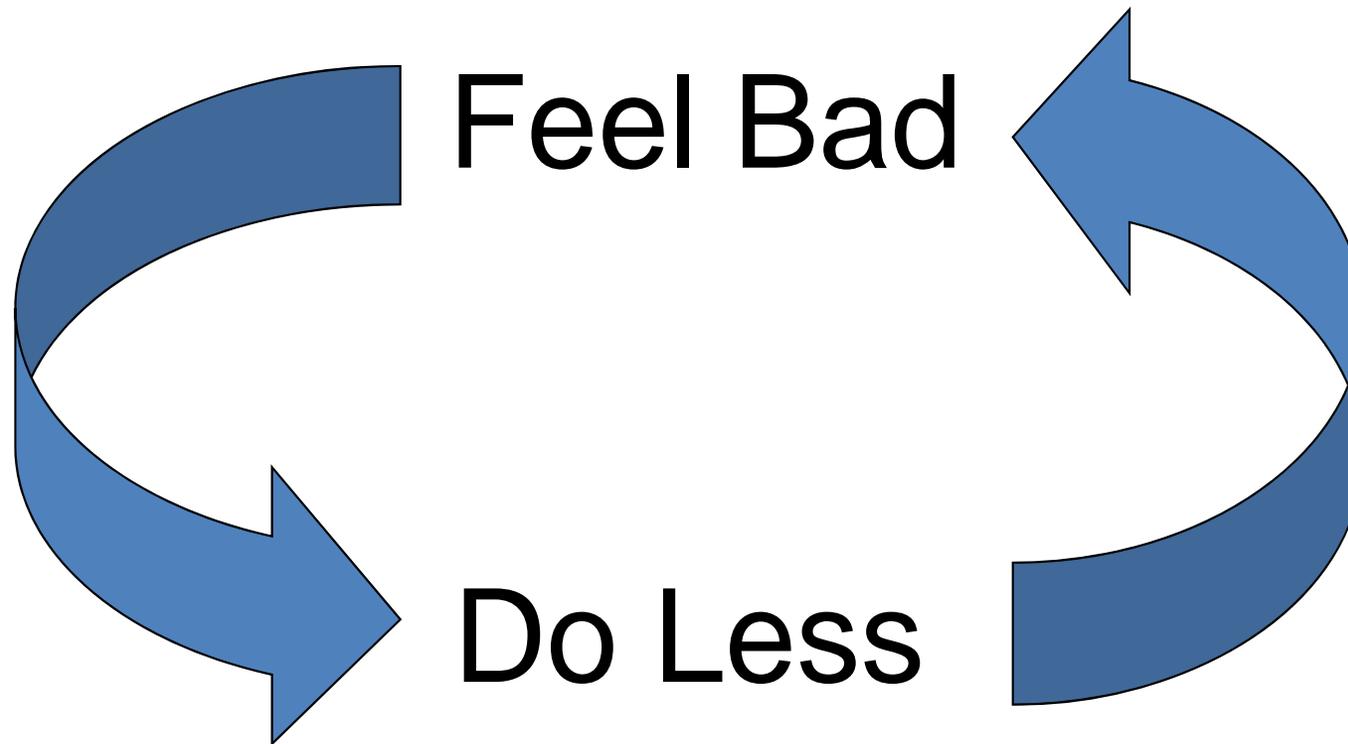
### Reduces depression:

- Behavioral activation therapy for depression: Returning to contextual roots. Jacobson, N.S., Martell, C. R., & Dimidjian, S. (2001). *Clinical Psychology: Science and Practice*, 8 (3), 255-270.
- Behavioural activation delivered by the non-specialist: phase II randomised controlled trial. Ekers D, Richards D, McMillan D, Bland JM, Gilbody S. *Br J Psychiatry*. 2011 Jan;198(1):66-72.

# BA Case Conceptualization

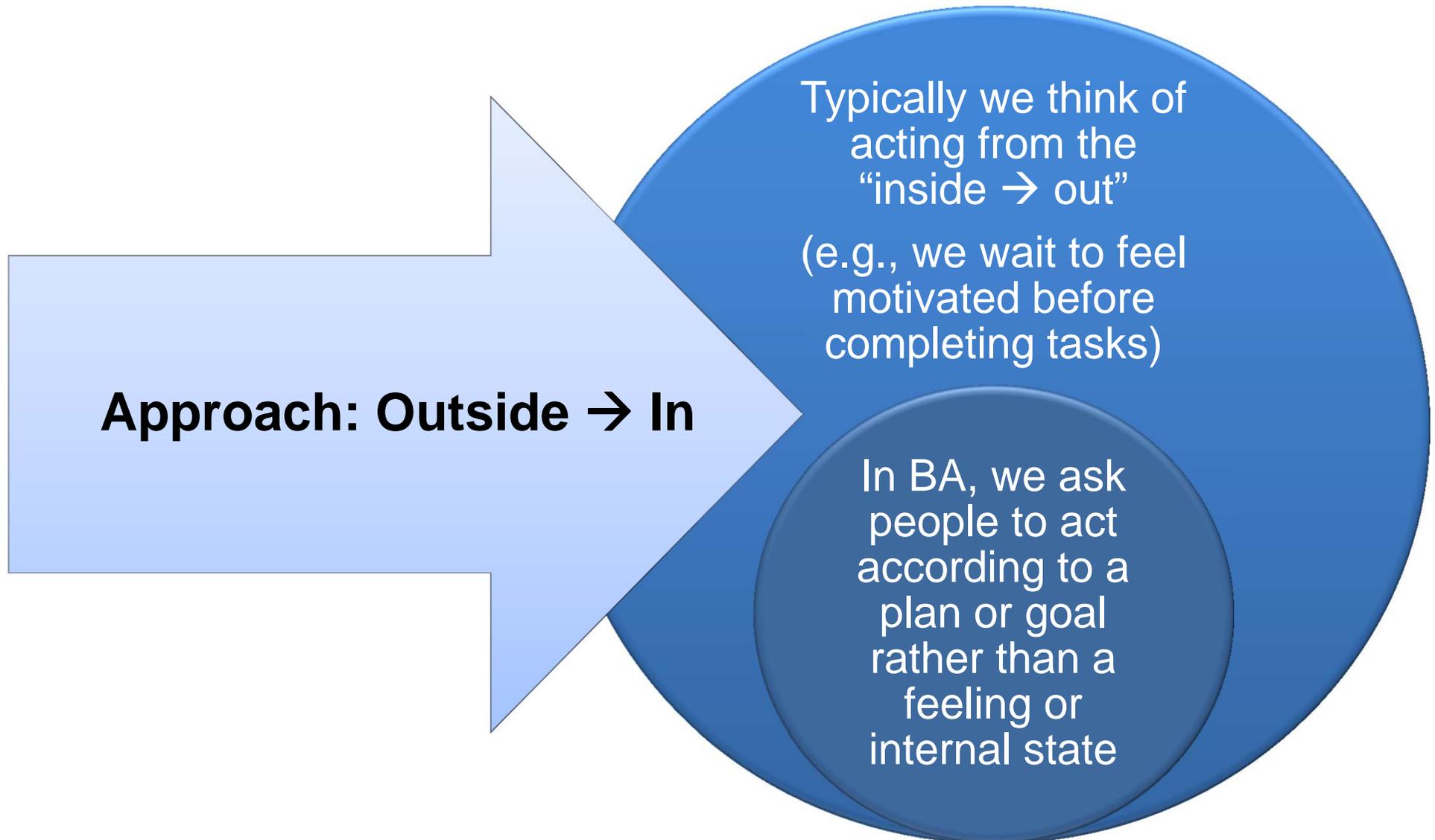


# Activity Scheduling



- **Pick limited targets (1-3) and check on assigned homework**
- **Social / physical activities tend to be most potent mood boosters**
- **Treatment will also focus on increasing daily pleasant events**

# Maximizing Activation



# ACTION Strategy

Assess

- How will my behavior affect my depression? Am I avoiding? What are my goals in this situation?

Choose

- At times I may choose not to self-activate, I am choosing to take a break.

Try

- Try the behavior I have chosen.

Integrate

- Integrate any new activity into my daily routine.

Observe

- Observe the result. Do I feel better or worse??

Never

- Never give up.

# Full Course of BA

Establish good therapeutic relationship

Present model of BA

Goal setting

Monitor relationship between situation/action and mood using activity logs and functional analysis

Apply new coping strategies to “larger-life issues”

Treatment review and relapse prevention

# Overview of Sample Skills

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# Problem Solving Therapy

## Three Broad Goals

- A. Help client understand the link between current life problems and current symptoms
- B. Develop a systematic problem solving strategy
- C. Engage in pleasant social and physical activities

## Evidence

- 1991: UK researchers (Catalan, Gath et al.) design a Problem-Solving Therapy for use in Primary Care better than usual care
- 1995: Laurence Mynors-Wallis, Gath et al. apply PST in primary care for major depression versus amitriptyline and placebo control.
- 1997: Mynors-Wallis et al. test PST, provided by Community Health Nurses, for persons with persistent emotional distress.
- 2000: Mynors-Wallis et al. test PST for major depression in primary care with SRI and SRI + PST comparison.
- 2001: Barrett, Williams et al. adapted PST for U.S. studies (PST-PC), comparing PST-PC with SRI and placebo control.

# PST-PC Basics

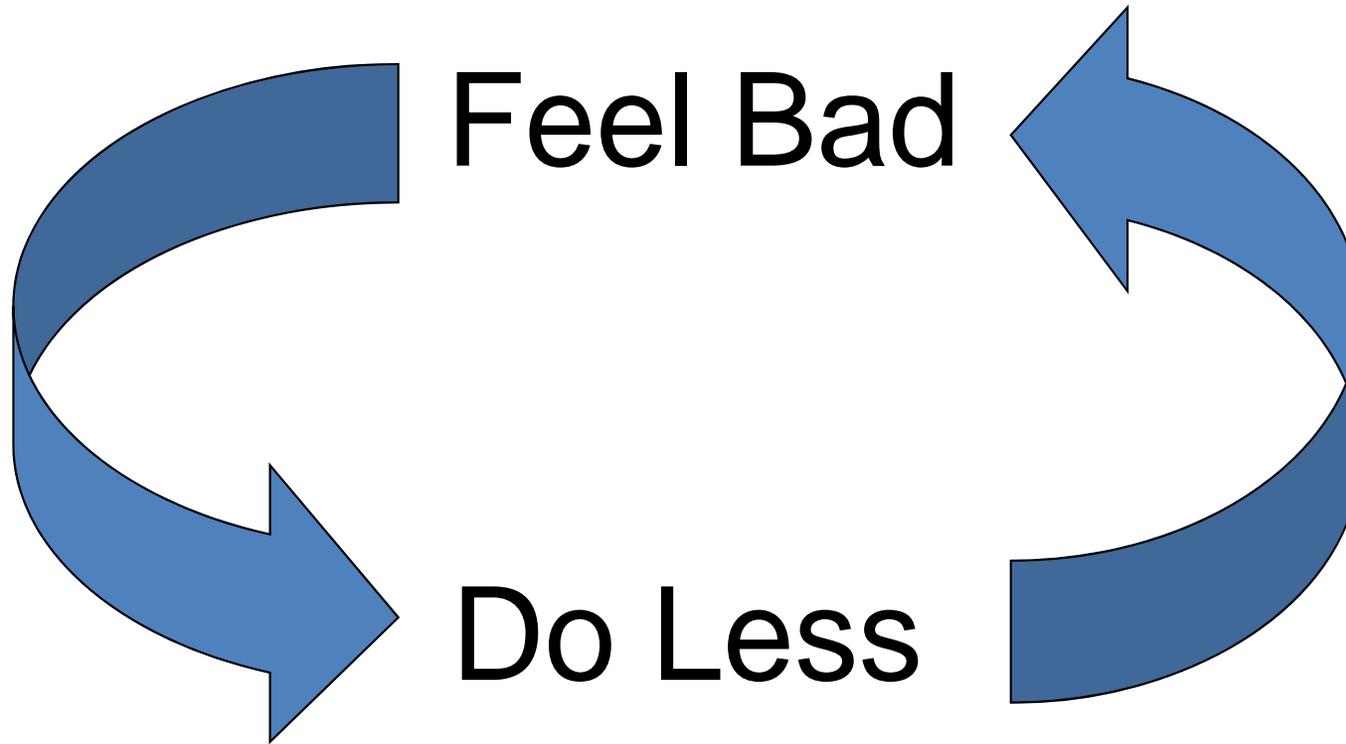
## Structure of PST-PC Treatment

- **Four to eight sessions:**  
**Weekly or biweekly**
- **Initial session: 1 Hour**
- **Subsequent sessions: 30 Minutes**
- **Work through at least one full problem per session**
- **Action between sessions**

## Seven Steps of PST-PC

- **1. Clarify and Define the Problem**
- 2. Set Realistic / Achievable Goal**
- 3. Generate Multiple Solutions**
- 4. Evaluate and Compare Solutions**
- 5. Select a Feasible Solution**
- 6. Implement the Solution**
- 7. Evaluate the Outcome**

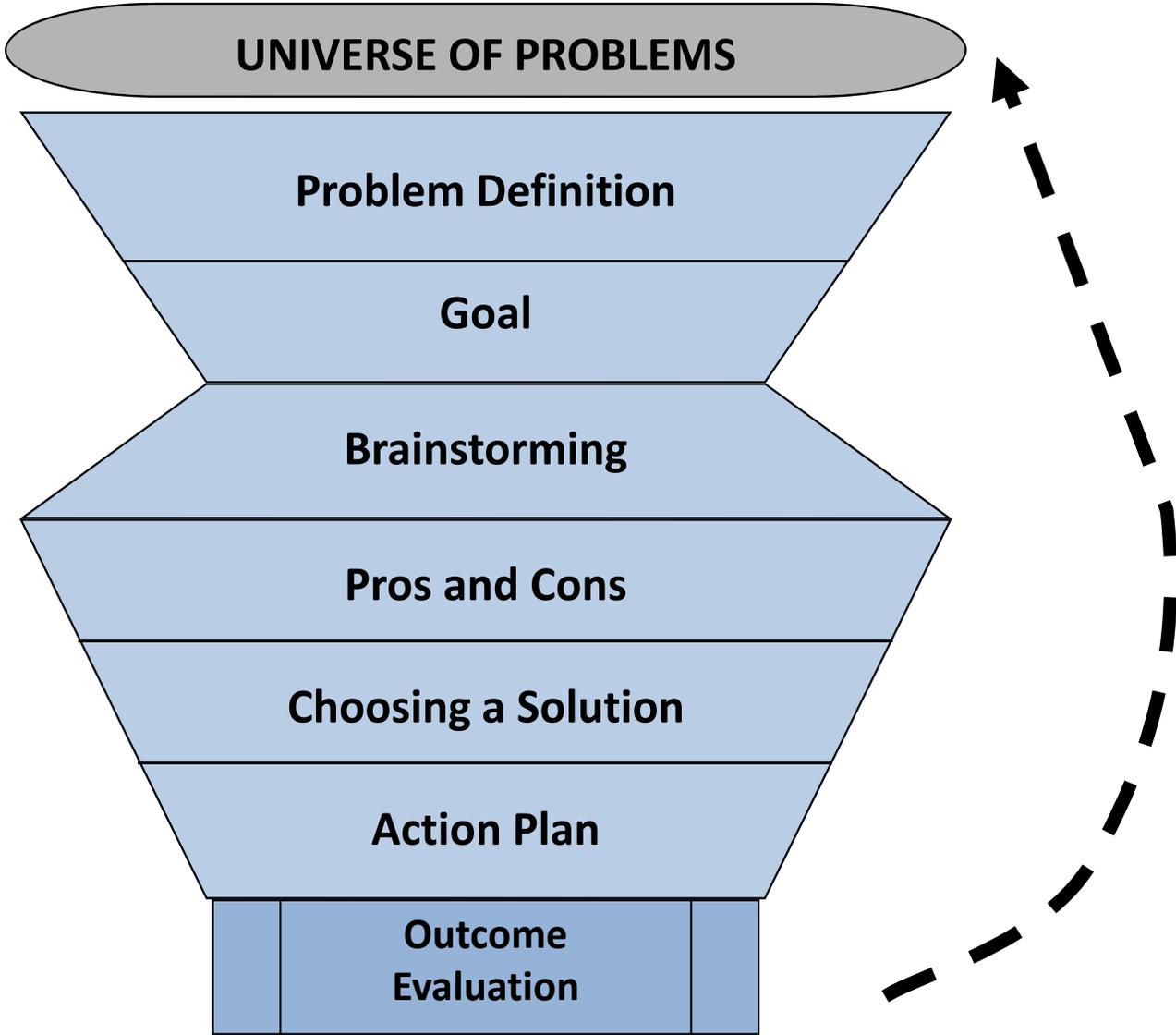
# Activity Scheduling



**Social / physical activities tend to be most potent mood boosters**

**Treatment will also focus on increasing daily pleasant events**

# Problem-Solving Process



# Common Issues in PST-PC: Difficulty Keeping on Track

- **Starting the session on focus**
- **Redirecting sidetracks back on focus**
- **Maintaining engagement & motivation**
- **Ending the session**

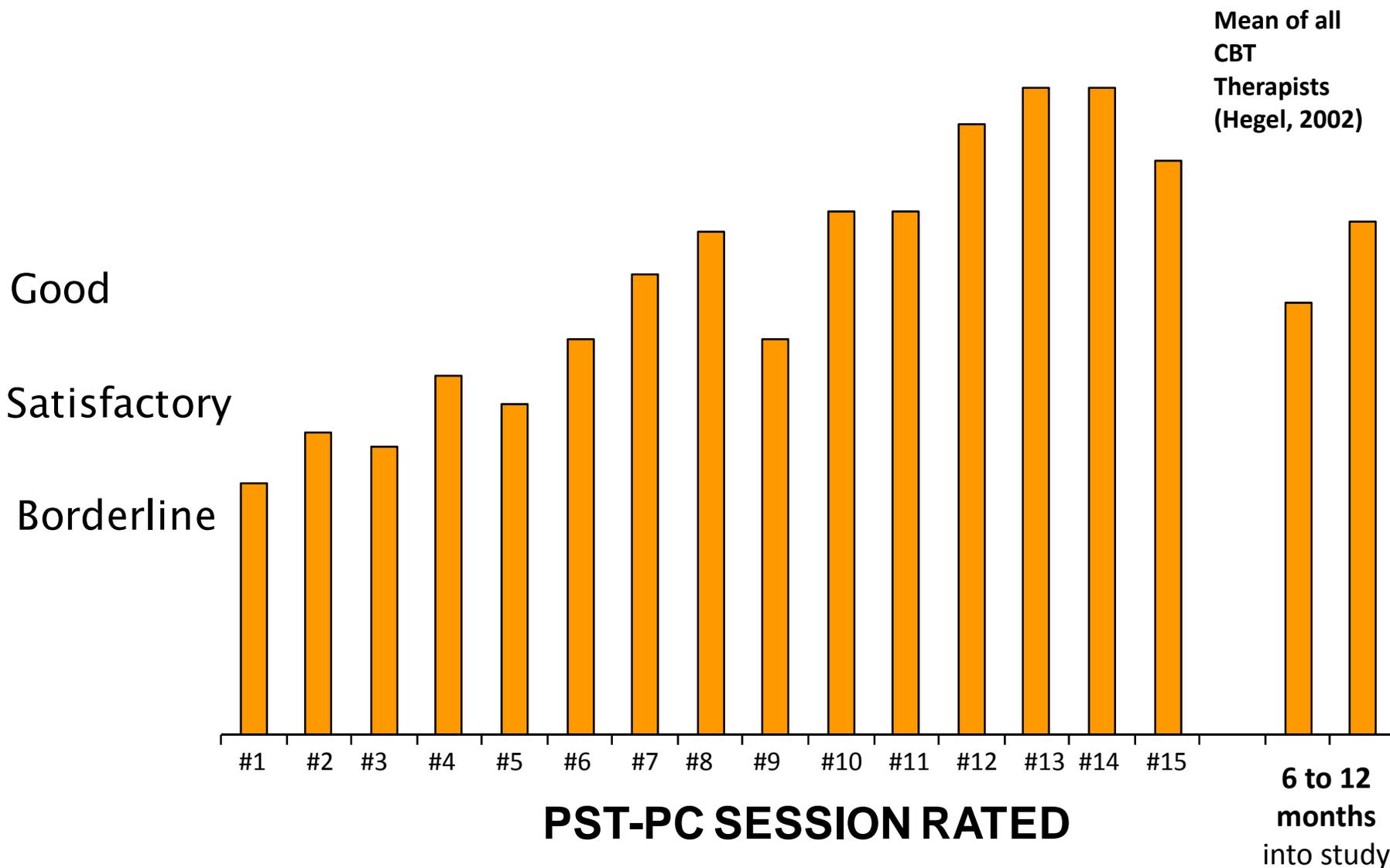
# PST Case Supervision

## **Suggested Format:**

- Tape record sessions / conference-call sessions**
- Review and feedback before next session**
- Case supervision with 1 – 3 patients, depending on prior experience with psychotherapy**
- Known to be effective for honing skills**

# IMPACT Depression Care Managers

PST-PC Competency Rating on PST-PAC (range 0 to 50) Across Five Learning Cases (15 consecutively rated sessions)



# “Toolbox” of Skills

Motivational  
Interviewing

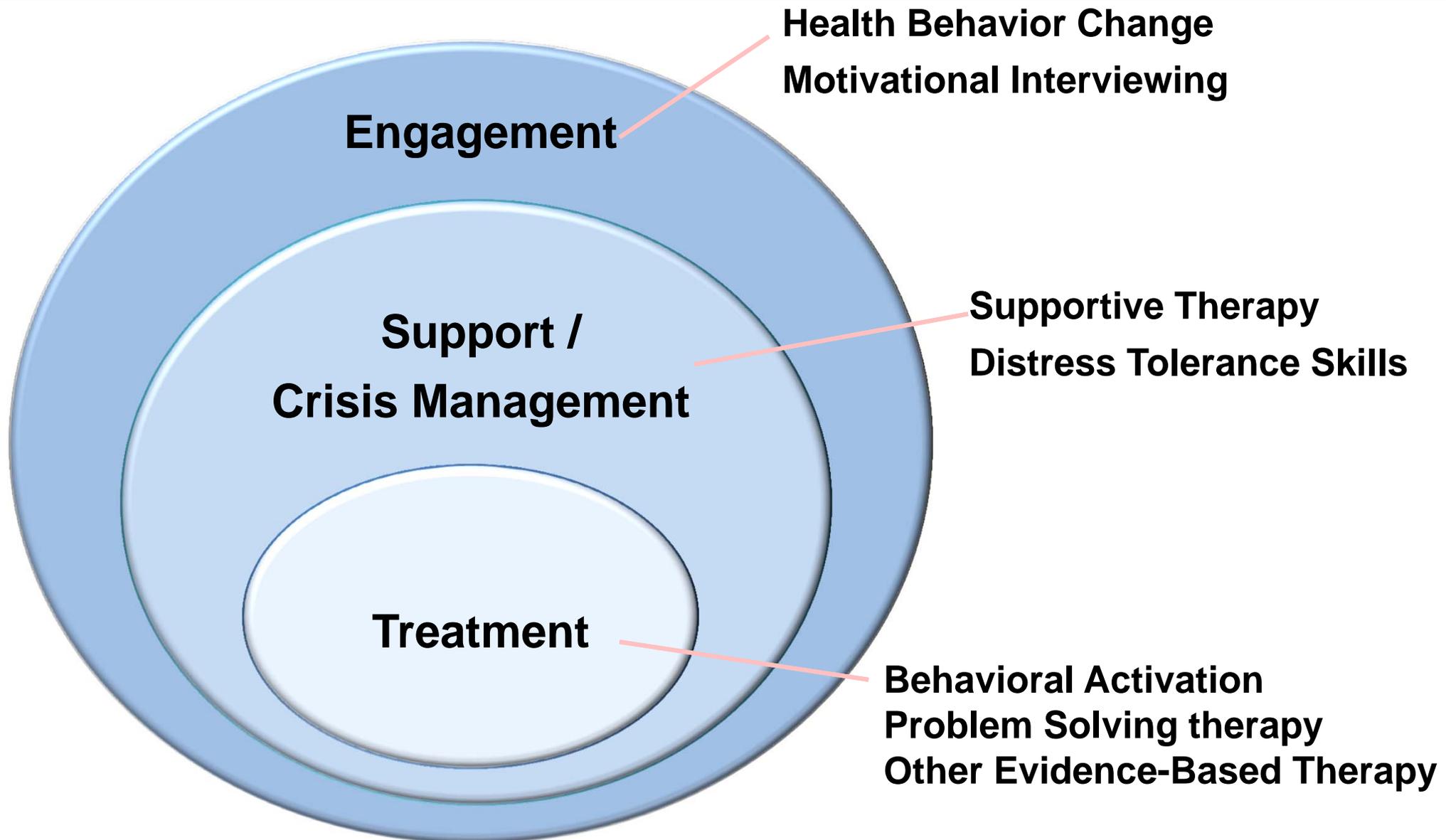
Distress  
Tolerance  
Skills

Problem  
Solving  
Therapy

Behavioral  
Activation

Other Brief  
Therapies

# Help BHP/CM Match Intervention with Patient Presentation



# Think Beyond Medications!

**Behavioral Medicine  
&  
Brief Psychotherapy**

**Referrals  
&  
Community Resources**

**Disability**

# When to Suggest Referrals

## Severe Mental Illness

- Patient needs case management
- May need to have CM support getting higher level of support (SSDI)

## Substance Use Disorders

- May need detox/inpatient treatment
- May need other services; opiate replacement etc...

## Social Services

- Housing, Food, Basic Needs
- CM often is the best resource for these
- Vary by community

# Successful Referrals = Building community connections



# Think Beyond Medications!

**Behavioral Medicine  
&  
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Community Resources**

**Assessing Disability**

# PCP Information: Assessing for Social Security Disability

## Disability:

- A condition which results in a “marked and severe” functional limitation that will last 12 months or result in death

## In other words

- The client’s condition must cause such severe limitations that we can prove, with MD or PhD records, that this individual can’t function in a workplace and/or the community.

# PCP Information: Disability Considerations

## Documented Medical Condition

- The condition must meet Social Security's definition of disability, as defined in the Blue Book listings
- What the condition prevents the client from doing
- Consider social and occupational functioning screener (SOFS)

## Severe Functional Impairment

- Concentration, persistence, and pace
- Social functioning
- Activities of Daily Living (Personal Care)
- Periods of decompensation

## Substance Use

- Is use a "contributing factor material to the determination of disability..."
- Would the client still be disabled if he/she stopped using drugs or alcohol

## Treatment Compliance

- "Need to Follow Prescribed Treatment,"
- "If [the client] do[es] not follow the prescribed treatment ..., [Social Security] will not find [the client] disabled or blind..."

# Coaching PCPs to Document Disability: Example Handout

- **How can you help if you think that a patient needs disability?** You do not need to make this determination but your documentation of what you see and hear from the patient will likely determine the outcome.
- **Assess and document the functional impairment you see**
  - Document a MSE: “ Pt presented with poor hygiene (clothes had food stains down the front and he smelled). Pt appeared to be responding to internal stimuli. Pt was agitated and unable to sit still with minimal eye contact. Pt speech was rapid. Pt thought process was loose and pt thought content was perseverating on government conspiracies. Denied overt AVH. Had IOR. Poor attention. Fair orientation. Limited insight and judgment.”
  - Ask about ADLs and other functional impairments: Does the patient have trouble tracking? Are there transportation or other social issues? Are there hygiene issues? Is there a history of decompensation? (like missed appointments for severe agoraphobia etc...)
  - Social Occupational Functioning Scale (SOFS):
- **Carefully word treatment responses**
  - If pt has responded to a medication, document what changed and how functioning was affected.
    - “ Pt reporting some improvement in his depression but continues to struggle to get out of bed for more than 2 hours at a time”
    - “ Pt reporting some improvement in his psychosis as his AH is less intense but still cannot ride the bus due to paranoia”
    - Document treatment adherence: Pt must be trying to engage in treatment to qualify
- **Assess and document substance use/sobriety**

# Think Beyond Medications!

**Behavioral Medicine  
&  
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**Referrals  
&  
Community Resources**

**Disability**

# Reflection Questions

## Reflective Thinking

- How do I integrate behavioral recommendations into my treatment planning?
- How do I feel about assessing for disability as part of a treating team?

## Adapt to Practice (including team building)

- Determine the skill level of team members to provide various behavioral interventions
- Develop a referral resource list
- Identify pathways for vocational rehabilitation in your community

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## **Behavioral Activation:**

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