

Group Crisis Intervention Process – School Aged Children



Introduction (Safety & Security)

Logistics: Silence/put away phones, offer bathroom break before starting

"I am here to talk about _____. I am sorry that...(name event) happened.

Introduce team members/local caregivers

Explain role of scribe. Establish team credibility

Define ground rules:

Confidentiality: Ask for agreement (Give permission for child to share what he/she talked about with others)

No mean/hurtful words or actions

Not required to share

Describe agenda: explore how people/families reacted, are reacting, cope in the future

Length of session: 30-45 minutes

Session Procedure (Ventilation & Validation)

Facilitator should summarize in general terms what has happened, recognizing the nature and extent of the tragedy. The focus is **resilience**.

Question 1: What about (name event) would you like to talk about?

How did you or your loved ones react to (name event)?

What was the hardest thing about (name event)?

What things were done by others that was not helpful after (name event)?

Question 2: What was done by you or others that was helpful?

Prediction and Preparation

Question 3: After all you've been through, what do you think will happen in the next few days or weeks (...at home, ... at school)?

What worries or concerns do you have about what will happen next?

What is different about your family now? What changes may happen in the future?

Question 4: How do you think you will deal with the worries and concerns you have shared? (Explore coping strategies, information seeking, problem solving) Suggest referrals, provide information on follow-up support.

Conclusion/Education

Review notes made by the scribe - educate group about crisis reactions as needed

Draw connections between what they said and what we know about crisis

Remind of confidentiality agreement and tear up notes

Again, "I am sorry..."

Thank you for letting me visit with you & if you need to talk again, please let a teacher, parent, or school counselor know

Make contact with individuals you might have concerns about, notify parent or school counselor

Offer children the option to make cards or draw pictures to give to first responders, a peer, a child's family, or keep for themselves.