Lessening the Risk of Vicarious Trauma among Staffs

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Lessening the Risk of Vicarious Trauma among Staffs: Case Study

Mrs. White, a trauma social worker at a local healthcare setting narrated the challenging encounters that she experiences while offering psychological, emotional, medical, and social assistance to victims of traumatic situations. White revealed that her activities revolve around working closely with emergency personnel, medical staffs, therapist, clients, and client families to develop recovery goals and ensure that the organization meets the needs of the patient. On a daily basis, the social worker helps in assessing the client, working with the interdisciplinary team to create a treatment plan, and assisting clients and their families to develop effective coping skills that are essential to the client's recovery and ability to put up with traumatic events in the future.

Notably, the social worker revealed that the organization had implemented several measures aimed at reducing the risk of vicarious trauma among its staffs. In accordance with Pearlman and McKay (2008), the organization offers time offs and adequate salary packages to lessen the risk. The organization also acknowledges the difficulties that staffs encounter when dealing with trauma patients by ensuring that all workers are sufficiently oriented to their roles through professional training and management supervision. Moreover, the organization ensures the safety of staffs through security briefing and training on the appropriate security protocols. Concerning the workplace culture, the organization encourages relationships, morale, and connections through peer support networks and working in teams.

From the findings, it is evident that the organization has devoted its efforts towards lessening the risk of vicarious trauma among its staffs. However, the organization would lessen the risk further by expressing concern for the overall wellbeing of the staffs, hearing and valuing staff feedback and suggestions about their jobs, as well as avoiding statements and actions that would stigmatize staffs that are fighting vicarious trauma.

References

Pearlman, L.A., & McKay, L. (2008). Vicarious Trauma: What Can Managers And

Organizations Do? *Understanding and Addressing Vicarious Trauma.* Headington

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