

Health and Human Services

Kids without conscience: Identifying a child with behavioral problems

There are many words and labels used to describe children and adolescents with severe behavior problems. Attention-Deficit Hyperactive Disorder can present with impulsive behavior. Oppositional Defiant Disorder involves frequent loss of temper and arguing. Parents say the children just don't listen. Teachers find them distracting. The criminal justice system finds them all too often. Therapists sometimes throw up their hands, not knowing what to do.

The important question may be how to differentiate such problems as Attention-Deficit Hyperactive Disorder and true Conduct Disorder. It is the truly Conduct Disordered kids and adolescents whose repetitive and persistent patterns of behavior cause the greatest concern. The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders defines this disorder as a disturbance of conduct lasting six months, during which at least three elements on the following list have been present. The child has:

1. Stolen without confrontation of the victim.
2. Run away from home overnight.
3. Often lied.
4. Engaged in fire setting.
5. Often been truant from school.
6. Broken into someone's house, building, or car.
7. Deliberately destroyed property.
8. Been physically cruel to animals.
9. Forced someone into sexual activity.
10. Used a weapon in a fight.
11. Often initiated physical fights.
12. Stolen with confrontation of the victim.
13. Been physically cruel to people.

Use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs is often present and problematic. However, the above barriers often existed before the onset of alcohol and drug use. Alcohol and drug use brings these children and adolescents to the attention of criminal justice, school, and treatment professionals.

With these individuals, there is a theme of lack of remorse and inability to learn from their experiences. This is not to say they lack intelligence; just the opposite is often the case. These children, adolescents, and adults can be quite intelligent and charming. As a matter of fact, they may act "too good" or "too smooth" and may be spellbinding. However, their long-term pattern of behavior tells a different story.

Stanton Samenow, in "Inside the Criminal Mind" (1984), states, "As

the personality of the criminally inclined child unfolds, his parents are gripped by the gnawing fear that something terrible is going to happen. Their nerves are constantly on edge. Every time the phone rings, their hearts sink. What is it this time---a distraught neighbor, a teacher reporting a fight, the police, or worst of all, a hospital informing them that their child is injured or dead?"

How to manage or survive this disorder troubles the minds of many. It is believed that a combination of genetics and environment plays a large part in the development of these children, adolescents, and adults. Talking therapies don't seem to help. Punishment does not seem to be effective. They typically don't wish to change. They only want to escape punishment. Serial killer Ted Bundy said, "There are people far more successful than I." He was talking about those antisocial individuals who had not been caught for their crimes.

Teens can get out of hand...

When does a teenager cross the line from "normal" rebellion to troubling or problem behavior? This chart, from "You and the Adolescent," by Anne Levine, offers guidelines.

"NORMAL" MISBEHAVIOR:

- One or two minor, non-violent violations of the law or school regulations.

- Occasional arguing with parents and other adults.

- Leaving home for a day, or running away to a familiar home, once.

- Skipping school, or cutting class, once.

- Experimentation with alcohol or other drugs.

"TROUBLE" BEHAVIOR

- Repeated or premeditated violations of the law or school regulations, however petty.

- Aggressive outbursts; contrariness for the sake of being contrary.

- Sexual provocativeness. (When a teen flaunts his or her sexuality in ways designed to provoke parents.)

- Regular use of drugs or alcohol.

- Running away from home more than once in three months.

- Skipping school regularly.

"REAL PROBLEM" BEHAVIOR

- Any violent act or crime; solitary delinquent acts.

- Opposition that leads to violence at home, suspension from school, or results in contact with law enforcement.

- Addiction to drugs.

Oregon Indian women help kick off president's health care plan at big Portland rally

On July 22, Grand Ronde tribal member Rosetta Manangan of Portland, and five other Oregon Native American women, were invited by Hillary Rodham Clinton to be part of the Pioneer Courthouse Square rally that kicked off the president's proposed health reforms.

Hillary Clinton's appearance inspired an enthusiastic, noisy crowd estimated by police officials to be more than 10,000 people.

Manangan and her companions travelled on the bus caravan from as far as Pendleton to be there.

"It was a thrilling experience," she said. "I'm so glad I was invited and could participate."



Hillary Rodham Clinton spoke to a crowd in Portland about the president's proposed health reforms.

SPIRITUALITY AND RECOVERY ENCAMPMENT

Mamook Kloshe Tahmahawis
(The Healing Spirit)

Spirituality and Recovery Encampment

Sponsored by the Grand Ronde Tribal Chemical Dependency Program, this encampment will be held September 2, 3, and 4 and the Chemical Dependency program building.

TIME: It will begin Friday, September 2, and 7:30 a.m. with an opening prayer and ceremony. It will end Sunday, September 4 at 12 noon.

ACTIVITIES: "Talking Circles", sweat lodge, evening storytelling and drumming, Indian baseball, volleyball, fishing, and reservation trail hikes. ALL DRUMS WELCOME.

For more information and registration call (503) 879-2026.

Medical Clinic changes

The tribal medical clinic in the month of August has the following office hour changes. Thank you for your cooperation and have a safe summer.

Aug 5 Clinic Open 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Aug 12 Clinic Open 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Aug 17 Clinic Closed All Day

Aug 19 Clinic Closed All Day

Nanitch Sahallie's Client Corner

Nanitch Sahallie is a residential youth treatment facility located in Keizer, Oregon. As part of their recovery program, all clients at Nanitch write an essay about themselves and their heritage. To protect client confidentiality, all printed biographies will be anonymous.

Hello. I am writing my story about my life and my stay here at Nanitch Sahallie because I would like to tell you a little bit about me. I am a male alcoholic/addict. I am on probation for an accident where I was the driver of a car in which a person was fatally injured. When I came here in March, I had just come from a juvenile detention hall. I had violated my probation, and was looking at a year to five years at MacClaren School. I was blessed by the grace of God and sent here for treatment.

The first week I was here I had a real difficult time. The main problem was I was scared to look at myself.

I ran away from Nanitch, and was looking at getting kicked out of here too. About the third week I was here I started looking at myself. I started looking at what I had done and why I was doing the things I was doing.

The fourth week I was here we had family week. My parents came, but I was scared to face them; even though I had a lot of support here, I didn't know if I could face them for what I had done. But through praying, AA and NA meetings, I started getting into treatment a lot more, and I had a more positive attitude after I knew I had my family's support. I had been living a life of total destruction, not even knowing there were people out there who cared about me.

I found I had a lot of shame and guilt over what happened in my life, and to cover up my feelings, I used alcohol and drugs. For a while, they were my best friends. Or so I thought. All they were doing was killing me day by day, and I had been too scared to tell people I had

a problem. I know now I don't have to rely on drugs or alcohol to help me. I found out through my stay here that there is a power greater than myself to help me through my problems.

Today I am one more day sober, and in two weeks I will be graduating. I will still be looking at a lot of court cases where I might do some time, but I know I don't have to face them all alone. I know today, by working the Twelve Steps and by putting my love and trust into God, that I can live day by day and talk my feelings out with others. By doing that, I can keep an open mind and also help others to recognize that when you use alcohol and drugs, all you are doing is hurting your families and throwing your lives down the drain. Know that later on you will hit bottom, and may have nothing left by the clothes on your back, and that's the truth.

So my suggestion to everyone who does drugs or alcohol is stop. But if you can't, ask for help---there are people out there who do care.