



**Acquired
Brain Injury
Network**

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Hilton Toronto • Toronto

Conference Presentation Abstract ~ Podium Presentation

Date/Time/Room: Monday, November 3, 2008 2:25 pm – 3:10 pm Carmichael / Jackson

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Title:

Love in a Fishbowl: Sexuality and Collaboration in a Long-Term ABI Residence

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Summary:

In an agency that provides residential and community support services to individuals with moderate to severe brain injury, the issue of sexuality has been a challenging one. Our policies and mission statement reflect a culture where individual rights and responsibilities in expressing their sexuality are respected and supported; however, in practical terms this can present many issues.

Using case examples, this presentation will explore some of the practical, ethical, and staff training needs in a long-term residential setting. Some issues that will be discussed include balancing the wishes of the client vs. the family, issues of consent and capacity, managing risk, identifying and addressing support needs, sexuality within a group-living environment, and staff comfort and values. We will talk about some of the strategies and approaches that we have found helpful in working with staff, families, and the individuals that we support, such as a team collaborative approach, staff training, and individual support strategies.

Outcomes/Objectives:

Participants will develop an understanding of some of the practical, ethical and staff training needs that may be encountered in a long-term residential setting while providing client support in the area of sexuality and relationships

Participants will learn about and have the opportunity to discuss strategies and approaches for addressing client and staff needs in this support area.