

7: MAINTAINING SAFETY, OFFERING RESPECT

Time:	45 min.
Format:	Video, discussion, activity
Materials:	PowerPoint, Video: "Raymond Smith: 'Maintaining Safety by Offering Respect,'" flip chart and markers
Competencies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Value one's own role in maintaining the safety of the facility for all involved.• Value a respectful and effective response to mental disorders.

Description

The module will help participants examine their choices about how they treat people in their charge. It will also offer a chance to explore small ways COs can offer respect to people who are incarcerated for better and safer outcomes.

During Training

What is a Safe Correctional Facility?



Set Up

Say:

You're there for everyone's safety. So let's talk about a safe day.

Discussion

Facilitate discussion with the following questions:

- What does a safe correctional facility look like? Describe a day on the job when everyone was safe.
- What are some ways that you maintain safety while on duty?



Maintaining Appropriate Boundaries

Set Up

Set up the topic by saying:

Every day, you make choices about how to interact with incarcerated people. Every day you make decisions about the boundaries you set between them and yourself.



However, we don't always talk about exactly how we define what appropriate boundaries are. Let's take a minute to talk those out so we can shed light on how we make our decisions.

Discussion

Facilitate discussion with the following questions:

- What are appropriate boundaries in prison between a correctional officer and someone who is incarcerated? Give examples.
- What does professionalism look like at work? Give examples.
- What might poor boundaries between a correctional officer and someone incarcerated look like?
- What are some risks in having poor boundaries?

Transition by saying:

Let's see what Raymond Smith can offer us as we think through the relationship between correctional officers and those who are incarcerated.

Video: Raymond Smith

Play video "Raymond Smith: Maintaining Safety by Offering Respect."

Facilitate discussion with the following questions:

- What did you think of Mr. Smith's suggestions?
- What did you think of his suggestion to be respectful to those who are incarcerated?
- Have you seen respectful behavior or a professional demeanor work well? Work poorly?
- Can you think of a situation where you see an advantage to being respectful? Give an example.



Transition by saying:

Let's try considering a situation when you might offer respect in a stressful circumstance.

Activity: Small Gestures

1. Tell them that you'll give them a brief scenario and they should offer suggestions about how they might respond by offering respect to a person who is incarcerated.
2. Read the following scenario:

Melinda, who is incarcerated, is talking on the phone during her allotted time. From a distance, you see that she's agitated and is hunched over the phone.

She finally hangs up the phone. Then she picks up the receiver again and bangs it



sharply back into the cradle. She sits still, staring blindly at the phone.

3. Ask them, "Typically, if you saw this behavior, how would you respond?" (Hint: You might hear, "I would ignore it," "I would warn her about being rough with equipment.")
4. Ask, "Based on our conversation about offering respect, how might we interact with Melinda at this moment?" (Hint: Look for and pull out responses that include speaking gently to her, asking if she's ok, making small talk, using her name.)
5. Whoever gives the best response, tell them that when they talk to her in this way, Melinda relaxes a little and says that she was talking on the phone to her brother about their sick mother. She worries he's not taking care of her that well and is frustrated that she can't do anything about it.
6. Tell them that after this interaction, Melinda doesn't seem as tightly wound and goes off to the next part of her day without incident.

Activity Debrief

Facilitate a discussion about the activity by asking:

- How common is it to see little signs of stress in incarcerated people?
- Were our suggestions and solutions complicated or simple?
- Would you feel comfortable beginning to make small changes to your interactions with people who are incarcerated like this?
- Is there a moment you've had recently that you could "redo" by speaking respectfully to a person?



SOURCES

Module 7

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