BEHAVIORAL ACTIVATION: An Effective Intervention for Late Life DEPRESSION

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April 12 2012

This project is/was supported by funds from the Bureau of Health Professions (BHPr), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) under UB4HP19049, grant title: Geriatric Education Centers, total award amount: \$384,525. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by the BHPr, HRSA, DHHS or the U.S. Government.

> Applying Best Practices to Diverse Older Adults April, 2012 - WEBINAR SERVES

"Behavioral Activation:

An Effective Intervention for Late Life Depression"

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As part of our commercial guidelines, we are required to disclose if faculty have any affiliations or financial arrangements with any corporate organization relating to this presentation. Dr. Gallagher Thompson and Dr. Bullock have indicated they have no conflicts of interest to disclose to the learners, relative to this topic.

Dr. Gallagher Thompson and Dr. Bullock will inform you if they discuss anything off-label or currently under scientific research



Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, Ph.D

• **Dolores Gallagher-Thompson, PhD, ABPP** received her doctorate in clinical psychology with a concentration in adult development and aging from the University of Southern California in 1979. Since that time, she has been a funded researcher in the areas of late-life depression, stress and family caregiving, and ethnicity and dementia caregiving.

Currently she is professor of research in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University School of Medicine, and director of the Stanford Geriatric Education Center.

She is a licensed psychologist and sees patients at the Geropsychiatry Outpatient Clinic at Stanford.

She also serves in several volunteer positions with the Alzheimer's Association in northern California and is currently developing online intervention programs for caregivers of older persons with significant memory loss.

She has published numerous books and peer-reviewed journal articles in her areas of expertise.

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Behavioral Activation: An Effective Intervention for Late Life Depression

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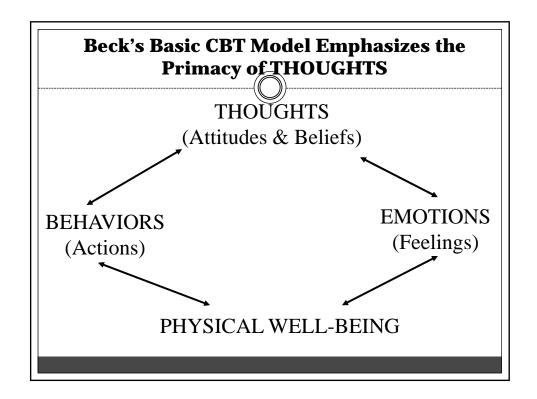
Outline of What This Webinar Will Cover

- Theoretical Background on CBT and Behavioral Activation (BA)
- Evidence-base for BA and its use with Ethnic Minority Clients
- Steps in the BA process
- Case Examples
- Questions/ Discussion Time

WHAT IS CBT?



- Clients are taught the "CBT APPROACH": how they can feel less depressed by changing their negative thinking patterns, as well changing their behaviors & their emotional responses.
- CBT is an **evidence- based program (EBP)** its found effective in over 400 outcome studies for numerous disorders including; depression, anxiety disorders, substance abuse, and depression associated with common medical problems (e.g. irritable bowel syndrome, chronic fatigue, hypertension, fibromyalgia, cancer, diabetes, & chronic pain disorders).



Lewinsohn's Model Emphasizes The Relative Importance of Behavior

• Two behavioral patterns are commonly associated with depression:

- 1. Low rate of response-contingent **positive reinforcement**, especially from others:
 - Depressed individuals do not get enough **pleasure** from their interactions with their environment and with other people.
- 2. High rate of **punishment**:
 - Depressed individuals may have excessive or persistent involvement with aversive or noxious events or people.

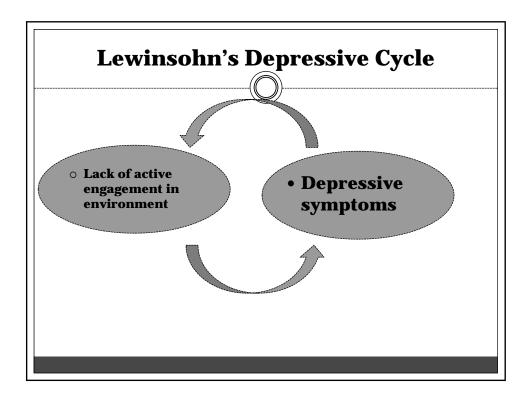
Reasons for Low Rates of Positive Reinforcement

- Depressed older adults often lack the social skills needed to engage in positive interactions with others and obtain positive feedback from others – e.g., they may be overly passive or overly aggressive in interpersonal situations.
- 2. The potency of former positive reinforcers may be diminished e.g., things that used to bring pleasure, no longer do. This is a very common complaint of older depressed individuals.

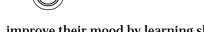
High Rates of Punishing Experiences

• Depressive feelings are reinforced when:

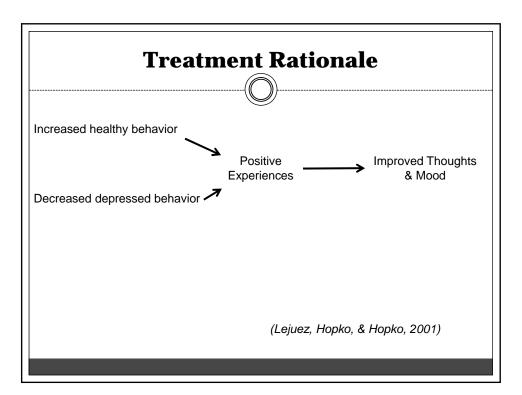
- There are many "punishers" in the environment (people who are aversive to be around, environmental stress, negative situations that can't be changed —e.g. significant chronic health problems).
- Also, the older client may lack needed social skills to cope with negative events, people, or experiences that re-occur – e.g., having long standing stress with adult children and years of "conflict" in these relationships. Such clients often feel that they are unable to modify the environment – in this case, improve their interpersonal relationships with family members –although this may be crucial to maintaining their depression.



Simply Put: What is Behavioral Activation?



- BA helps depressed people improve their mood by learning skills to help them change their everyday behaviors & institute new patterns.
- By doing so, patterns of **avoidance**, **withdrawal**, **and inactivity** are challenged and changed. This helps to reduce feelings of depression at any age.
- The goal of BA is to learn specific skills to increase engagement in everyday positive activities. This in turn will lead to more positive reinforcement for the client and less depression. BA may also impact clients' negative thinking processes (since now they are doing more than they thought they could) and that in turn may improve their sense of physical well-being as suggested in the basic CBT model.



The EVIDENCE BASE for BA

- Robust effects have been found in reviews of behavioral activation for depression. (see Dimidjian et al., 2011 for most recent review)
- For example, large-scale treatment studies with younger persons found BA to be more effective than cognitive therapy and equivalent to medication for treating depression. (Spates, Pagoto, & Kalata, 2006; Dimidjian et al., 2006)
- A well-validated treatment manual for a brief form of BA is available from Lejuez, Hopko, & Hopko (2001).
- Research with older adults found similar results, indicating that older individuals respond well to BA when it is modified to meet their needs. (Gallagher-Thompson, Hanley-Peterson, & Thompson, 1990; Scogin et al., 2005; Scogin et al., 2012; Thompson, Gallagher, & Breckenridge, 1987; Thompson, Coon, & Gallagher-Thompson, 2001)

Research with Ethnic Minority Individuals: Hispanic/Latino Clients

BA-Latino/a or BAL

- Several adapted versions of BA in Spanish have been developed and some are available in manual form from the authors (Kanter et al., 2008; Kanter et al., 2010; Martell et al., 2001; Munoz & Miranda, 1986; Munoz et al., 1996; Munoz & Mendelson, 2005; Munoz et al., 2005; Organista et al., 1994; Santiago-Rivera et al., 2008)
- Most of the controlled studies with Spanish-speaking clients from a variety of countries and cultures have been done by Munoz and associates and Kanter and associates. The most recent one (by Kanter et al, 2010, was done with predominantly women clients, mean age = 40, seen for an average of 12 sessions) found a clinically significant 50% drop in depression scores on both the BDI-II and Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression. (Kanter et al., 2010). This again supports the efficacy of this approach with Hispanic/Latino clients.

Why does BA work with Latino Clients?

- Presenting BA as an educational learning tool fosters empowerment and treatment engagement, and enables the therapist to be seen as "teacher and helper" and as a guide to help the client become aware of new choices and options.
- BA-L pays attention to Latino cultural values and how they influence activation e.g., activating a client who does not wish to confront her husband about his aggressive behavior towards her while respecting the values of *marianismo* and *machismo*; or activating another client to go to church who feels she is being followed by a *presencia negative*. These can be challenging cases requiring cultural knowledge & sensitivity.
- BA-L recommends free or low-cost, and culturally sensitive activities (e.g., walking, attending local festivals, going to church, going to the park with family), which is consistent with the cultural value of *familismo*.

(Alegria et al., 2004; Bein, Torres, & Kurilla, 2000; Kanter et al., 2010)

BA-L (continued)

- It is recommended that in early sessions, basic information about depression is presented to the client. This minimizes potential for early dropout.
- Explain depression as an understandable response to life's difficulties — particularly when one is passive and avoidant, rather than active. Thus, the key in treating depression is to overcome avoidance and passivity, take action to solve problems, and schedule activities that bring meaning and pleasure to one's life.

Research with Ethnic Minority Individuals: Chinese Clients

- Similarly to what was just reported for Hispanic/Latino clients, numerous studies have demonstrated the effectiveness of CBT in treating depression and self-esteem issues among Chinese clients.
- With a few modifications, BA appears to be a viable model to help depressed Chinese American clients in a short-term therapy setting or in the beginning phase of therapy. (Dai et al., 1999, Lin, 2002; Miller & Yang, 1997; Yang, 1992)

Why does BA work with Chinese clients?

It is noteworthy that there are many parallels between Chinese cultural norms and the philosophy of CBT: (Chen & Davenport, 2005)

- (1) Importance of logical thinking: As goes a well-known Chinese proverb. "Originally there is no disturbance in the world, but people make themselves feel worried."
- (2) Therapeutic relationship: seeing the therapist as a "teacher" (who is highly respected) who has the knowledge and expertise
- (3) Chinese American clients "tend to have lower tolerance for ambiguity, and tend to prefer structured situations and practical, immediate solutions to problems". Some researchers have also indicated that Chinese clients prefer therapists who apply a directive, rather than a nondirective, approach.

Suggested Modifications for Working with Chinese Clients

- a) Therapist-client relationship: Educate Chinese clients about the therapy process to help them be less anxious & have realistic expectations; set up a warm, supportive but also directive, atmosphere for therapy. This is consistent with Chinese cultural values of respect for authority, and the norm of "hard work leads to a better life."
- b) BA often involves some assertiveness training: Help Chinese clients recognize that they can be assertive in some situations and not in others – particularly interpersonal ones, where there is considerable current conflict.
- c) Recognize and respect the "Somatization tendency": Acknowledge their physical complaints but also explain how improving physical well-being may result after depressed mood improves.
- d) Respect Chinese cultural values of collectivism and interpersonal harmony. This means that BA may involve developing a list of SHARED positive activities that the family can do together, as well as learning skills to obtain positive reinforcement outside the family, if that will enhance harmony.

(Chen & Davenport, 2005)

Research Specifically with Ethnic Minority Older Adults

Healthy IDEAS (Identifying Depression Empowering Activities for Seniors)

- A successful community based program that incorporates 4 evidence-based components into the ongoing delivery of care-management. These are 1) screening and assessment; 2) education about depression; 3) referral and linkages; 4) behavioral activation.
- Evaluation of the program (with approx.100 low-income, predominantly
 Hispanic and African-American women, mean age =72, cognitively-intact
 clients) found that Geriatric Depression Scale scores significantly reduced over
 time, clients reported that increased activities helped them feel better, and they
 experienced less pain. There was also an increased knowledge of how to get
 continued help. (Quijano et al., 2007)
- More information (program and intervention manual and technical assistance)
 can be found at: www.careforelders.org/healthyideas

 More than 30 agencies
 in 15 states have adopted and implemented this program, as of May 2010.

Steps in the Behavioral Activation Process

1. Activity Monitoring – (Step 1)

How is client spending their time now? (**Activity Log**) What positive activities could be ADDED IN to their days, to boost mood?

2. Activity Scheduling – (Step 2)

Get positive activities scheduled in. Track progress. (**Tracking Form**)

3. Modify-(Step 3)

Modify the list based on feedback, barriers, and culture. Schedule new activities. (Activity Schedule Log)

** Continue Tracking and Doing for as long as necessary! **

Activity Monitoring (Step 1)

- Self-reports are not as accurate as a log of activities kept for a week between sessions.
 Depressed persons tend to underreport positive experiences, emphasize negative perceptions, and focus more on failures than on successes.
- The weekly (Activity Log) form is typically assigned as homework <u>but</u> should be started in session to ensure that the patient understands the concepts & knows what is expected.

Activity Log I

Write in each box: (1) Activity, (2) Mood rating (0-10). Mood I am rating:_

Time:	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6-7 A.M.							
7-8 A.M.							
8-9 A.M.							
9-10 A.M.							
10-11 A.M.							
11-12 P.M.							
12-1 P.M							
1-2 P.M.							
2-3 P.M.							

Worksheet 10.4: Tracking Activities - Weekly Activity Schedule

Activity Monitoring (Step 1)

How to do it?

- 1) START IN SESSSION: Bring out a copy of the form, and ask the client to fill in her activities for each time block before the treatment session beginning with the day of therapy.
- Encourage client to write in activities that actually occurred, no matter how mundane. e.g. bathing, dressing, eating, traveling, talking with others watching TV, and sleeping.
- 3) Ask them to **rate (simple 1 -10 scale)** the degree of *enjoyment* experienced for each, **or** the sense of *mastery* or *accomplishment* that was associated with the activity. We do this to understand which activities are associated with positive mood for that person.

Activity Monitoring (Step 1)



- 4) Some simple tasks might receive high ratings for mastery. Clients should try to give themselves credit for small accomplishments, because progress is generally made in small, incremental steps.
- 5) Low ratings of pleasure should be expected for two reasons:
- a. If there is little involvement in activities that most people would consider highly pleasurable and
- b. If the capacity for experiencing joy or pleasure is blunted
- * Encourage the client to at least give a rating of 1-3 if minimal pleasant feelings were experienced.

Suggested Questions to Stimulate Thinking

Are there specific periods of time when the person experiences enjoyment or pleasure?

- * *What kinds of activities seem to give the person pleasure?
- * * Can these pleasurable activities be repeated on another day?

What activities appear to give the person a sense of accomplishment?

Can these types of activities be scheduled for other days?

Are there certain times of day that appear to be ${f low}$ on mastery or pleasure?

What can be done to improve activity patterns during those times of day?

- * * * Do the ratings tend to be higher for activities that involve other people? If so, can social contact be increased?
- **** What activities did the patient do in the past that have been stopped or reduced? Are there opportunities for rekindling interest in these (or similar) activities?
- **** Are there **any** types of activities (e.g., exercise, music, spiritual involvement, art, crafts, reading, volunteer work, cooking) that the patient is ignoring but that may be of interest? Is he/she open to considering adding new or different activities to their weekly schedule?

Activity Log for 331										
Time of Day	Day 1 Date:	Day 2 Date:	Day 3 Date: 10/12	Day 4 Date: 10/13	Day 5 Date: 10/14	Day 6 Date: 10/15	Day 7 Date: 10/16			
6 to 7 AM				Woke up/ felt "so so" (5)		Walked dog (7)	Got up (5)			
7 to 8 AM			Got up, picked up Alice my niece & we had breakfast (6)	Stayed in bed (6)	Got up, got ready (6)	Back to bed (3)/ not much to get up for today (3)	Took a shower (6)			
8 to 9 AM				Got up (6)	Took shower & made coffee (8)	couldn't sleep, got up, took a shower, started to feel better (6)	Made coffee (6)			
9 to 10 AM			Dentist appt (5)	Took shower (7)	Took off to art class at Moss Landing studio (9)	Made breakfast for myself (6)	Made healthy breakfast for myself & my neighbor (9)			
10 to 11 AM				Made coffee (7)	Very enjoyable! (9)	Stayed home all morning/ not much to do (4)				
11 to 12 Noon			Watched TV with Alice at home (some good moments) (4 – 6)	Saw a movie by myself (6)	(illegible)(10)	Nice call from	Stayed home / not much to do (3)			

Time of Day	Ac		Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7	
			Date: 10/12	Date: 10/13			Date: 10/16	
12 to 1PM	Date:	Date:	Cooked for Alice (8)	Got ready to come to	Date: 10/14	Date: 10/15 cousin in Fresno,	Watched	
12 10 11 11			Cooked for Affice (b)	appt		we talked about	favorite show on	
						an hour (6)	TV. (7)	
1 to 2 PM			Watched movies	Drove to appt			-	
			again on TV at home					
			for the afternoon (5)					
2 to 3 PM				Had my meeting (8)	Left to go to see	Went to cemetery		
			same		Helen at the	as its anniversary		
					hospital (3; sad re how sick she is)	of my mother's death (30 years)		
3 to 4 PM				Drove home, felt pretty	Saw Helen's	Took Vicky	Staved home &	
				good, hopeful (8)	family & MD	flowers for her	did chores (5)	
						son & my		
4 to 5 PM			Took Alice home/ sad	Had a bite to eat		mother (4)	Made Dinner	
			she had to leave (4)				(6)	
5 to 6 PM			Back home, fixed	Went back to	at hospital / glad		Went for walk	
			dinner for myself,		to see them (7)		(7)	
6 to 7 PM			lonely (5)	hospital to see	C4 104 11 1	Went to	TV news (5)	
6 to 7 PM			Started painting the cross / art project (7)		Stayed & talked	went to	I v news (5)	
				my friend Helen.	(6)			
7 to 8 PM			Same	She seems to be getting	Got upset though	eat out, alone, in	Saw TV,	
8 to 9 PM		1	Watched TV: it was	worse (3)	because Helen	Seaside (4), Food	disappointed (5 Called a friend	
o to 9 rWl			OK (5-6)	Stayed & tried to comfort her (4)	Stanford by	was good! (8)	to talk (7)	
9 to 10 PM			Went to bed / asleep	Went home (4)	helicopter; she's	Home/ saw movie	TV was OK (8)	
					sicker than I	(8) I liked on TV	011 (0)	
					thought (2)			
10 to 11 PM				Went to bed (4)	Went home, went	Went to bed	Went to bed	
					4-1-1(2)			

Activity Scheduling (Step 2)

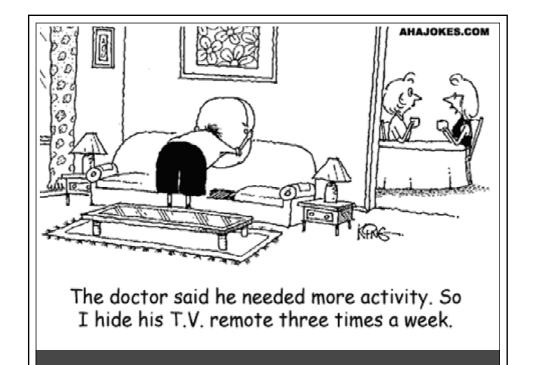
- First, it's necessary to **identify activities** that, in the past, gave the client a sense of pleasure or mastery. It is a very individualized process.
- Then it's necessary to **discuss the barriers** to doing any of these things & to problem solve with the client so that a plan can be made.

Activity Scheduling (Step 2)

- After the client <u>sees</u> relationships between activities and mood, then we want to increase those activities likely to have the most positive impact on mood.
- How do we do this?
 - 1. Generate a list of pleasurable activities. Include the ones from the monitoring exercise (**Activity Log**) that had the highest ratings for pleasure.
 - 2. Brainstorm with the patient to list some *new* ideas that may be worth trying (**Tracking Form**).
 - 3. Collaboratively determine which activities to add to the person's daily routine.
 - 4. Select specific times and write them on the schedule as a plan for the following week (Activity Schedule Log).

Name:		Days							
Pleasant Events		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.									
2.									
3.									
4.									
5.									
6.									
7.									
8.									
9.									
10.									
Total									
* Mood Score	ı r		i						
	4	5	6	7	,	8	。 。 じ		

Plea	sant	Activ	ities l	Log fo	or 33	81	
	Mon 17 th	Tues 18 th	Wed 19 th	Thurs 20 th	Fri 21 st	Sat 22 nd	Sun 23 rd
Pleasant Events				Days			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Seeing smelling flowers/plants		х	х			х	
2. Being loved							
Getting out of the city Visiting a museum		х	х		х	Х	
5. Watching a horror movie		X	X	x	х	Х	
6. Thinking about pleasant		x	x		X	x	
memories		×	*		X		
7. Thinking positive about myself		х	х		х	х	
8. Teaching Alice crocheting							
9. Saying something clean		х		х	Х		
10. Thinking something good in the future			x	x		х	
Total	0	6	6	3	5	6	0
Mood Score* Extra painting		8	7	5	8	8	5
*Mood Score Rating Scale							
1 2	3	4	5 6	7	8	9	
very sad		"	o so"			v	ery happy



MODIFY (Step 3)

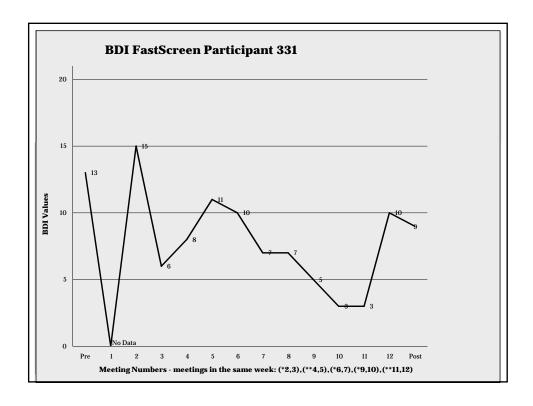
•Modify scheduling based on feedback, barriers, cultural considerations, and what was successful for the person (what activities actually improved their mood is the key question).

MODIFY (Step 3)

Common Obstacles with Older Adults

- There are many obstacles: "I don't feel well enough to do anything" "I'm too tired" "There's no one left of my old friends to play cards with". These negative thinking patterns need to be addressed before the person can really engage in BA.
- Some older depressed persons don't seem to want to increase their activities & often believe that there's NOTHING left that will bring them enjoyment. This means that BA will be challenging, but not impossible:
- You will have to start small & go slow in order to see change.

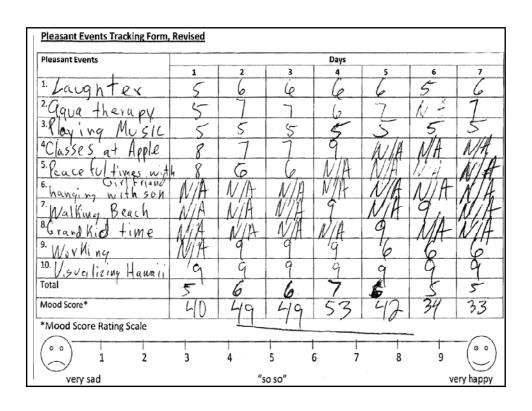
	Mon 24 th	Tues 25 th	Wed 26 th	Thurs 27 th	Fri 28 th	Sat 29 th	Sun 30 th
Pleasant Events				Days			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.Seeing/smelling flowers/plants	х						
2. Getting out of the house					х		х
3. Watching horror movies			х		х	х	х
4. Thinking about pleasant memories				х	x	х	х
5. Thinking positive about myself		х		х			
6. Crocheting	х		х		Х	х	
7. Saying something clear		х		х	х		
8.Thinking something good in the future							
9. Painting		х	х	х			
10. Baking	х						
Total will be seeing Andria today for Halloween	X, 4	3	3	4	5	3	3
Mood Score*	7	8	7	8	7	7	7
*Mood Score Rating Scale	•						

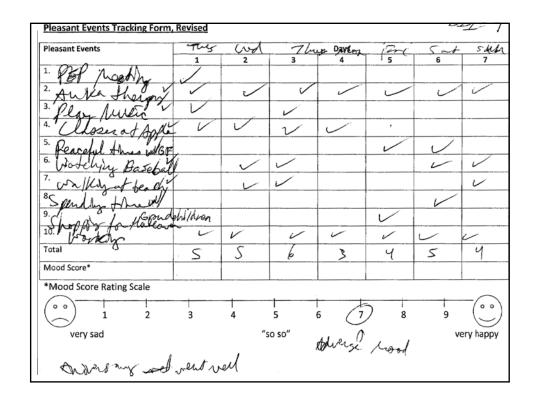


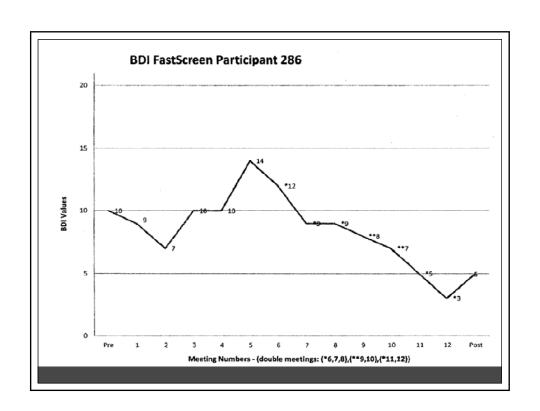
Detailed Case example: Mr. A.

72 year old widowed man; ancestry is part Latino and part Native American. He has 3 adult children who live nearby and many grandchildren. Although Spanish is his first language, he is fluent in English as well. Mr. A went to high school and worked in construction & landscaping earlier in life. He now is employed part time as a musician in his church. He has significant medical co-morbidities including severe arthritis, Type II diabetes that he has difficulty keeping under control, and history of heart disease. He has had to significantly reduce his activities due to his health problems and low income. He reports his annual income to be below \$20,000.

Time of Day	Day 1	Day 2		Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7
	1 . /	Date: G	2	Date: 425		Date:	Date:	Date:
6 to 7 AM		3		Visited Waldu	worked on tideo	Came		
7 to 8 AM		Wale of Cinana		ut mental Hospital	Vdeo			
8 to 9 AM	3	Work	C.	5	V			
9 to 10 AM	Ate break fut			Made love togistice	nd 1/3			
10 to 11 AM	Therage			10	aqua y			
11 to 12 Noon	Mulling 1 talks in	5		talking to sister				
1 to 2 PM	Aqua 5 therapy			sister	Apple			
2 to 3 PM	Pick S	V						







SUMMARY of BA

1. Activity Monitoring – (Step 1)

How is client spending their time now? (**Activity Log**) What positive activities could be ADDED IN to their days, to boost mood?

2. Activity Scheduling – (Step 2)

Get positive activities scheduled in. Track progress. (**Tracking Form**)

3. Modify-(Step 3)

Modify the list based on feedback, barriers, and culture. (Activity Schedule Form)

Take Away Message:

Four Pleasant Activities a Day Keeps the Blues Away

- They don't have to be huge
- Just **Consciously Chosen**, and **Deliberately Done** to experience control.
 - Events/ activities Control Mood.
 - 2. To some extent you can control activities & events.
 - 3. Therefore, to some extent, you can control (influence) your mood.
 - 4. By increasing this sense of control, you increase your sense of efficacy or mastery for reducing depression and improving your quality of life.

Discussion





THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!

 Please feel free to contact us if you would like to learn more about CBT – particularly how to incorporate Behavioral Activation into your practice with older adults:

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