Top 50 Topics

1. **Child Abuse and Neglect**
   - Signs of physical abuse
   - Signs of sexual abuse
   - Signs of neglect
   - Sex between minors
   - Reporting responsibilities

2. **Abuse and Neglect of Elderly and Dependent Clients**
   - Know examples of clinical mandates

3. **Domestic Violence**
   - Signs of abuse
   - Cycle of violence
   - Interventions, specifically safety planning
   - Legal and ethical implications

4. **Suicide and Self Harm**
   - Risk factors
   - Assessment
   - Interventions

5. **Danger to Others**
   - Tarasoff
   - Interventions
     - Clarifying a threat of harm to self or others
     - Involuntary hospitalization
   - Ensuring the therapist's safety (in the office and in the field)

6. **Crisis Intervention**
   - Indications for use
   - Common goals and interventions

7. **Substance Use and Substance Induced Disorders**
   - DSM 5 criteria
   - Must be addressed
   - Effects of different drugs/impact on mood
   - Withdrawal symptoms
   - Models of Recovery (AA in particular)
   - Motivational interviewing, stages of change
8. **Childhood Disorders**
   - Autism Spectrum Disorder
   - Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
   - Learning disabilities
   - Separation Anxiety Disorder vs. Adjustment Disorder vs. Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) vs. Generalized Anxiety Disorder (GAD)
   - Common interventions and modalities
   - Use of medication

9. **Psychotic Disorders**
   - Know differentials
   - Know medications
   - Treatment planning

10. **Mood Disorders – Depressive Disorders and Bipolar Disorders**
    - Know differentials
    - Know medications
    - Treatment planning
    - Expression across the lifespan

11. **Anxiety Disorders**
    - Know differentials
    - Know medications
    - Treatment planning
    - Expression across lifespan

12. **Bereavement/Grief**
    - Stages of grief
    - Expression across lifespan

13. **Disorders Related to Health**
    - Eating disorders
      - Importance of MD referral/involvement

14. **Sexual Disorders**
    - Know differentials
    - Common treatments/interventions

15. **Personality Disorders**
    - Know clinical examples of each
    - Treating borderline clients
    - Co-occurring disorders
16. **Trauma Related Disorders**
   - Symptoms of trauma in children and adults
   - Know differentials

17. **Medical Conditions**
   - Medical conditions that affect mental health
   - Ruling out a medical condition before mental health diagnosis
   - When to refer to a medical doctor

18. **Factors Affecting Mental Health**
   - Biological factors
   - Psychological factors
   - Social and environmental factors

19. **Stages of Development**
   - Erikson
   - Piaget

20. **Normal Childhood Development**
   - Infant and toddler development
   - Sexualized play
   - Psychoeducation with parents

21. **Adolescent Issues**
   - Developmental issues
   - Conduct Disorder vs. Oppositional Defiant Disorder

22. **Work Issues**
   - Working with EAP (Employee Assistance Program)
   - Vocational training

23. **Treating Couples**
   - Contact between sessions
   - No-secrets policy
   - Common interventions

24. **Treating Families**
   - Family dynamics
   - Who is the identified patient?
   - Common interventions
   - When to separate family members
25. Elderly Issues
   • Competency to make decisions
   • Life review
   • Change in roles
   • Depression vs. Dementia vs. Normal

26. Assessment
   • Mental Status Exam
   • Referral source
   • Psychological testing (types and indications)

27. Interventions
   • Treatment planning
   • Starting where the client is
   • Common interventions in each phase
   • Common problems/barriers

28. Termination
   • When to terminate
   • How to terminate
   • Common client response

29. Medication Management
   • Common medications
   • When to refer
   • Collaborating with psychiatrist

30. Therapy Theories
   • Indications for use of different modalities
   • Common interventions

31. Defense Mechanisms
   • Purpose of Defense Mechanisms
   • Examples of commonly tested defense mechanisms

32. Consent for Treatment
   • Legal/ethical importance
   • Risks of therapy

33. Confidentiality
   • Limits
   • Requests for information
34. **Fees**
   - Setting fee
   - Lowering fee
   - Bartering
   - Reducing co-payment

35. **Boundaries**
   - Importance of
   - Addressing issues
   - Avoid dual relationships

36. **Transference and Countertransference**
   - Value differences
   - How to manage it
   - Consultation

37. **Records**
   - What to document
   - What to release
   - Who owns the record?
   - Parents’ access to minors’ records
   - If a patient dies

38. **Releases and Referrals**
   - Who can sign a release
   - What to share
   - When to refer out
   - Accepting referrals

39. **Insurance**
   - Confidentiality
   - Your contract as provider
   - Advocating for services

40. **Privilege**
   - What it is?
   - Who holds it?
   - When it’s waived

41. **Group Treatment**
   - Stages of group formation
   - Common problems and barriers in group treatment
42. **School Social Work**
   - Common reasons for referral
   - Referring to an individual therapist
   - Commonly encountered diagnoses
   - Dealing with the family

43. **Medical and Hospital Social Work**
   - Working as a member of a treatment team
   - Knowing your role
   - Coordination of services
   - End of life issues
     - Advanced directives
     - Power of attorney
     - Competence

44. **Administrative Social Work**
   - Know your role
   - Decision making at an agency level

45. **Case Management**
   - Know your role
   - Care Plans
   - Coordination of services

46. **Research**
   - Importance of informed consent
   - Common terms used

47. **Community Social Work, Advocacy**
   - Client enrollment
   - Program development
   - Advocacy
   - Program evaluation

48. **Cultural Groups**
   - No set standard
   - Know treatment themes for different groups

49. **Consultation and Colleagues**
   - When to consult
   - Issues of confidentiality
   - Unethical behavior of peers

50. **Supervision**
• Intervening with supervisees
• Who holds responsibility