# Mood, Health, & Emotional Well-Being

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## Confidentiality

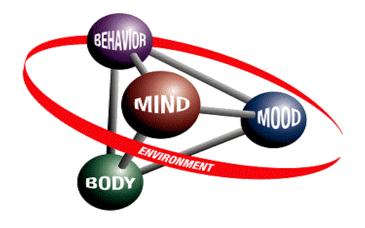
- \* Treatment is confidential
  - \* Patient privacy protected under the law
  - \* Providers are professionals and will not use what patients share for gossip

## Expertise

- \* Providers are experts in their fields
  - \* Talk with your Primary Care Physicians (PCPs) and ask for a referral for emotional health expert
  - Troubles with mood and/or feelings often times show up physically

## Different layers within a Person

- \* People are made up of:
  - \* Physical
  - \* Emotional
  - \* Spiritual/religious, etc.



\* When one factor is affected, the effects are felt in the different areas too

## **Anxiety & Depression**

- \* Are the 2 most common disorders
- \* Affect men and women of all ethnicities, sexual orientation, religiosity, etc.
- \* Are not a result of a personal failure or character flaw
- Significantly affect quality of life
- \* Are treatable

# What is Depression?

- More than the occasional feeling low or reaction to a life event
- Interferes with daily life functioning
- \* Described at times as like "living in a black hole"



## **Depression Symptoms**

- \* Hopelessness & helplessness
- \* Worthlessness
- \* Fatigue
- \* Unexplained aches & pains
- Suicidal thoughts and/or plan

- Loss of interest in previously pleasurable activities, friends
- Changes in sleep
- Changes in appetite
- Decreased concentration
- \* Increased irritability

## What is Anxiety?

- \* Anxiety is a normal reaction to stress and not all anxiety is bad
  - \* Good anxiety
  - \* Bad anxiety
- \* Continuous worry
- \* Interfere with quality of life



## Anxiety symptoms

- \* Feelings of panic, fear, & uneasiness
- \* Shortness of breath
- Heart palpitations
- \* Dry mouth
- Numbness or tingling in hands &/or feet
- \* Dizziness

- \* Problems sleeping
- Cold or sweaty hands%/or feet
- \* Inability to be still & calm
- \* Muscle tension
- \* Nausea

# Where Do I Find Help?

#### Treatment



- \* Several options exist
  - \* Life adjustment
    - \* Job switch
    - \* Socializing
  - \* Therapy
  - \* Spirituality
  - \* Medication

# Therapy

- \* Source of support
  - \* Short-term
  - \* Long-term



\* Doesn't mean weakness or defectiveness

# Challenge Negative Thinking

- \* Some types of negative thinking:
  - \* All-or-none thinking
  - \* Mental filter
  - Diminishing the positive
  - \* Jumping to conclusions
  - \* "Shoulds" & "shouldnots"

- \* Catch it, check it, & change it technique
  - Notice the thought
  - \* Test ABCs:
    - \* Accurate
    - \* Balanced
    - \* Complete
  - Replace with a more balanced thought

## Create a worry period

- \* Set a time & place for worrying
- \* Postpone your worry for that set time
- \* Review your list of worries during that period



## Social relationships

- Use existing supportive relationships or create new ones
- \* Ask for the help & support you need
- \* Try to engage in social activities
- \* Join a support group
- Spend less time with people who upset you

#### Move around!

- \* Exercise is a great tool for combating depression
- Reduces stress
- \* Relieves muscle tension



## Eat a healthy, mood-boosting diet

- \* Don't skip meals
- \* Cut down on refined carbs & sugar
- Focus on complex carbs
- \* Eat more B vitamins
- Try super foods



## Do things that make you feel good

- Improve sleep
- \* Get some sun
- \* Do things you enjoy (or used to)
- \* Practice relaxation techniques
- Develop a wellness toolbox

# Let's practice

- \* Sample Wellness toolbox
- \* Deep breathing exercise



If you try these techniques and need more help, consider seeking treatment.