

February 15, 2013

09:15	Opening Remarks and Keynote Introduction		
9:30-11:00	"Between New Authority and NVR - Introduction to the New Authority concept" Idan Amiel		
	Parallel session I	Parallel session II	Parallel session III
11:15-12:15	"New Authority in Residential Settings" Idan Amiel	"Anxiety disorder and NVR adaptations" Michal Herbsman	Maximizing Adherence to Medical Regimen - children with diabetes Galit Siegman
12:15-13:15	Lunch		
	Parallel session I	Parallel session II	Parallel session III
13:15-14:15	"Applying NVR & NA in Schools" Tal Maimon	"Applying NVR to Younger Children" Michal Herbsman	"Reparation acts - dealing with vandalism and violent behavior" Ishai Mazaki
14:30-15:45	"The art of parenting together - new ways for mothers and fathers to act effectively" Dr. Uri Weinblatt		
16:00-16:30	Summation and Closing remarks		

Conference Abstracts

● **Between New Authority and NVR**

In western culture the absolute values of individualism and unchecked privacy given to our children carry a price. They may lead to alienation, leaving children vulnerable and alone, without effective adult presence in their lives. The concept of the New Authority (NA) sets a guiding strategy for positive adult presence that addresses the western cultural gap between the need for individualism and autonomy for children, as well as addressing the importance of vigilant care. In the lecture we will learn about the differences between NVR and the NA concept and how combining them leads to a comprehensive theoretical approach, side by side with detailed therapeutic actions to fulfill it.

● **New Authority in Residential Settings**

In this presentation we will demonstrate how the concept of the New Authority can be implemented in residential settings. Through case examples and introduction of practical tools for acting we will learn how to implement a New Authority plan. We will learn how special adaptations of NVR tools help a closed and semi-closed team to act and serve as authority figure.

The guiding concept for those tools stems from a state of mind that views residential settings as communities. The principles of the new authority help to renew the community spirit, creating a legitimate basis for its positive and protective involvement and in that way bolsters the feeling of belonging of children and adults alike.

● **Anxiety Disorder and NVR adaptations**

Parents/caregivers are the natural, if often reluctant, partners in a child's anxiety disorder. A child is dependent on his/her parents for reassurances, for protection; the child looks to the parent to provide shelter from anxiety provoking situations, and as such, **parents help define the terms for the anxiety's existence.**

The most significant consequence of anxiety is avoidant behavior and the child often needs the parent to make that avoidance possible. NVR offers a helpful approach for recognizing the anxious child's suffering, while empowering the parents to gradually leave their accommodating stand. Parents learn to conduct a constructive fight against destructive behavior and gain tools that help them resist giving in to a child's anxious or compulsive demands.

● **Maximizing Adherence to Medical Regimen - children with diabetes**

The struggles and challenges of parents' today are often discussed and addressed in NVR treatment. Within the arena of parenting, however, there exists a specific group with their own unique parenting challenges. Parents of children with chronic diseases face and cope with a complex set of emotional, physical and behavioral issues. Within the scope of parental authority, these parents often have to struggle with the difficulty of "making" their children adhere to a medical regimen. As non-compliance is highly prevalent, especially among adolescents, parents of children who do not adhere to their medical regimen experience distress and helplessness. These experiences are caused by the complicated treatment, the anxiety regarding their children's health, the quarrels with the child about the treatment and the need to encourage the child to independently treat him/herself and create for him/her a supportive environment. In our training we will suggest principles and practical tools for parents of children who have chronic diseases, in order to create a new authority and maximize their children's adherence to the medical regimen. We will focus on the parents of children with diabetes and adaptations for other diseases will be briefly discussed.

● **Applying NVR and NA in Schools**

The principles of the new authority define legitimate guidelines for actions initiated by authority figures in front of youth violence. The positive and protective involvement of authority figures in schools creates a safe community and bolsters feeling of belonging to the student. When authority figures in schools (i.e. teachers, parents and school principals) use NVR as their main stance in front of students' violence; their legitimacy for those actions is widely accepted. Their legitimate actions also enable them to recruit support and enhance building their authority as a net instead of using sheer power as in the old authority.

In this lecture through case examples and introduction of practical NVR tools for teachers and principals alike, we will learn how a New Authority program can be implemented in schools. We will demonstrate how to create a parent-teacher alliance and will learn the importance of using reparation acts in assimilating the new authority concept in school.

● **Reparation acts - dealing with vandalism and violent behavior**

The communal nature of the new authority is particularly salient in the treatment of acts of violence or vandalism, which cause damage not only to the victimized child or the destroyed property, but to the whole community. The practice of treating the violent child individually and sometimes "privately" deprives others of the right to open protection and the child of the right to repair his/her shattered relationship with the community.

Reparation measures are a valuable alternative to reliance on punishment. Unlike punishments, where the offender is pushed aside, with reparation measures the offender undergoes a process of reintegration in the community from which he separated himself by his violent act.

In this lecture, we will present reparation acts as a prominent example of the uniqueness of the new authority concept. We will examine the theoretical rationale which is based on mutual reliance and tightening the relationships within the community. We will provide case examples which highlight the application and uses of reparation act. Specifically, we will show that through the process of reparation, the parents or caregivers are able to convey their strength and leadership, and gain a sense of empowerment.

● **Applying NVR to Younger Children**

Most violence prevention programs are focused on school-aged children, and there is a shortage of such programs for younger ages. But as we know, violence, as a phenomenon, is becoming more prevalent and may begin at a very young age. Parents, teachers and caregivers often find themselves at a loss when trying to cope with the increase of frequency and severity of negative behavior. Applying an NVR approach with younger children (7 and younger) can be an effective way of coping with negative behavior in younger children. It does, however, raise certain questions and requires certain adaptations. For example, does an NVR approach with younger children, negate the possibility of using behavioral techniques (such as rewards and punishments), or can we use behavioral techniques in an NVR way? Our training will focus on examining those issues related to resisting negative behavior in preschoolers and provide an NVR approach for coping with these issues. Included in this training are adaptations of NVR tools such announcement, sit-ins, reparation acts and use of supporters with younger children. We will present a model for parents, teachers or caregivers of younger children, and tools to help build alliances for helping the different authority figures in the child's life work together.

● **The art of parenting together – new ways for mother and father to act effectively**

In the professional parenting literature one can't find many ways for parents to work together as a team. Usually parents are instructed in being a "unified front", at other times not to get involved when one parent is doing the parental work. Conflicts between parents are seen as something which disrupts the therapeutic process and turns the attention from the child to the couple. In the lecture a number of different models for working together will be presented, the power of each constellation will be discussed and it will be demonstrate how conflicts can be used to increase the presence of each parent and turn the parents into a better team.

About the lecturers

(by alphabetic order)

Idan Amiel

Idan is a clinical psychologist and director of the Parents' Counseling Clinic in Schneider Medical Center. Over the last 12 years he has been a key professional in developing the concepts of NVR and New Authority. He established, together with Professor Omer, the New Authority Center in order to promote and expand the principles of the New Authority. Idan now serves as the NAC director and guides the professional NVR team at the Parents' Counseling Clinic.

Michal Herbsman

Michal serves as the New Authority Center International Training Coordinator. She has worked at the Parents' Counseling Clinic in Schneider Medical Center since 2006, both as a therapist and as a supervisor. She has previous experience as a child psychologist in state-run boarding schools, working with disadvantaged and immigrant youth. As part of her work with the New Authority Center, Michal has given lectures to teachers, psychologists, as well as other professionals in the different aspects of NVR both in Israel and in Europe. Her focus includes counseling parents of children with behavioral problems or suffering from anxiety as well as implementations of NVR in residential settings.

Tal Maimon

Tal is a clinical social worker (MSW) specializing in children and youth. Tal's master's thesis dealt with the study of escalation in the confrontation between teenagers. Tal has worked with the Israeli national program "A City without Violence" since 2008. In his work, he guides both parents and the educational staff in dealing with discipline problems and violence among youth.

Tal has been an active member of the New Authority Center team since 2010 and was one of the keynote lecturers in the 2nd National conference about NVR & NA that took place at Schneider Hospital on February 2012. Tal lectures frequently about NVR & NA in front of diverse audiences; his emphasis is NVR work in schools' settings.

Ishay Mazaki

Ishay is a clinical psychologist. For the last 9 years he has worked with multiple populations including patients suffering from psychosis, anxieties, depression, eating disorders, and personality disorders. He specializes in dynamic psychotherapy using a variety of approaches. Ishay has been an active member of the Parents' Counseling Clinic at Schneider's Hospital for more than 4 years. Together with Idan Amiel, he supervises the NVR professional team at the parents counseling Clinic.

Galit Siegman

Galit started her NVR work 7 years ago as a telephone supporter in the Parents' Counseling Clinic. She finished 4 years of internship in clinical psychology and serves as a leading psychologist in the Parents' Counseling Clinic at Schneider hospital. She received her Master's degree in clinical psychology from Tel Aviv University and as part of her thesis, with Prof. Haim Omer, developed a theoretical and practical model for parents of children with Diabetes Mellitus. Galit also works in a psychiatric department for youth suffering from eating disorders, conducting both individual and family treatments.

Dr. Uri Weinblatt

Uri is a clinical psychologist and the Director of Mar'ot Institute, Israel. He has contributed chapters in Prof. Omer's books on Parental Presence and Non Violent Resistance and is one of the leading professional in NVR worldwide. He has worked for six years as a senior therapist in the Council for Relationships, the oldest couple therapy institute in the U.S. and is now head of the Wile Center for Couple Change in Mar'ot Institute. Uri presents his work internationally, both on Couple therapy and NVR.