

Innovations in FAMILY THERAPY for EATING DISORDERS

Novel Treatment Developments, Patient Insights, and the Role of Carers

Edited by STUART B. MURRAY LESLIE KARWOSKI ANDERSON LEIGH COHN

Innovations in Family Therapy for Eating Disorders

Innovations in Family Therapy for Eating Disorders brings together prominent voices of the most esteemed international experts to present conceptual advances, preliminary data, and patient perspectives on family-based treatments for eating disorders. This innovative volume is based partly on a special issue of *Eating Disorders: The Journal of Treatment and Prevention* and includes a section on the needs of carers and couples, "Tales from the Trenches," and qualitative studies of patient, parent, and carer experiences. Cutting edge and practical, this compendium will appeal to clinicians and researchers involved in the treatment of eating disorders.

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"This groundbreaking volume brings together some of the most creative voices to continue the development of family-based treatments, which are founded on the invaluable insight that families are part of the solution, instead of merely part of the problem. In addition, the authors provide an experience-near view of the trials and triumphs the whole family faces in this complex endeavor. Highly recommended, and sure to be referenced for many years to come."

> Tom Wooldridge, PsyD, assistant professor at Golden Gate University

"Innovations in Family Therapy for Eating Disorders is a tour de force that advances the field in the treatment of anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa. It brings together major theoretical frameworks in one volume and provides novel treatment methods. This book is an invaluable addition for all eating disorder practitioners."

Ray Lemberg, PhD, private practice, Prescott, AZ

"This book is exactly what I have been waiting for. The expert team of editors and authors offers compelling treatment innovations and novel clinical perspectives. This text delivers the wisdom of years of clinical practice in an accessible and academically rigorous format. The editors have artfully crafted an integrated work from both cutting edge, data-based research and the enlightening perspectives of patients, parents, and carers. Those working in the field will find this book to be a valuable resource."

Catherine Cook-Cottone, PhD, associate editor of Eating Disorders: The Journal of Treatment & Prevention and associate professor of counseling and school psychology at the University at Buffalo—SUNY

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Foreword

This volume is part of a gathering body of work in the field of family therapy for eating disorders. It is gratifying to see that the work that started at the Maudsley Hospital in London in the 1980s has brought about a cadre of new clinicians and researchers who all are building on those early foundations. Most notable from this work, perhaps, is that the Maudsley team has elevated the family to being part of the solution as opposed to part of the problem. And now, this volume has put together 25 chapters that discuss different formats of family therapy and in a variety of contexts – each taking a page from that early work that was started in London.

Families with a teen diagnosed with an eating disorder did not always have such great advocates as they might have today. While the role of the family in the context of eating disorders has been acknowledged in the earliest writings (cf. Gull, 1997), the family was seen as a hindrance rather than a resource in treatment. In fact, Gull and his contemporaries, such as Charcot, advocated for patients with anorexia nervosa to be separated from their families, as the influence of the latter was "particularly pernicious." This stance toward families has persisted through much of the twentieth century. In fact, today, well after Gull and others' condemnation of families, many clinicians in our field still resolutely consider the families' involvement in treatment as detrimental to the adolescent and ultimately not helpful in securing a good outcome. It is in this climate that the sea change brought about by the Maudsley pioneers is so significant. Instead of blaming parents for their child's eating disorder, Ivan Eisler and his colleagues (a) saw no evidence for such causality and instead (b) held parents in high esteem *and* elevated them as a resource and as part of the solution. This particular stance built on Salvador Minuchin's and Mara Selvini Palazzoli's earlier work, and solidified a specific family therapy for adolescent anorexia nervosa, i.e. a treatment that purposefully engages parents to support their child through this illness, and in so doing brought about a radical departure from decades of excluding parents from treatment.

Since this work started at the Maudsley Hospital, much has happened regarding family therapy for adolescents with eating disorders. Among the most prominent developments, perhaps, is the publication of two family therapy manuals, one for anorexia nervosa and another for bulimia nervosa (Le Grange & Lock,

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2007; Lock & Le Grange, 2013). These manuals have been helpful in promoting training in this approach while at the same time providing opportunities for replicable treatment outcomes research. Several randomized clinical trials have now been published, mostly utilizing these clinician manuals. It must be especially gratifying for our colleagues in London, and equally gratifying for many of the rest of us working in this field, to see this treatment modality with families being implemented in such a systematic way in so many different parts of the world. Numerous families and their adolescent offspring have benefitted from this collective body of work. That said, though, we have much more work to do.

And with that, allow me to turn to the current volume. No treatment is a panacea, and family therapy for adolescent eating disorders is no exception. Therefore, as a field, we need to continue to challenge ourselves, bemoan the modest rates of remission achieved by our best-known treatments, and be prepared to confront the "holy cows" of such treatments. And this volume does that. For instance: should family therapy be restricted to the outpatient setting, should this approach only be conducted in conjoint format, is the family meal necessary, what about convening multiple families instead of single families, and why not test whether incorporating strategies from other evidence-based treatments into family therapy would stand to ultimately improve outcomes for this patient population? These are just some of the many questions that we should ask ourselves and that this volume attempts to address. It does more than just that, though. It also turns to the "trenches," to borrow a phrase from the editors. While we do a lot of talking to the patients and families we work with, this volume reminds us to pay close attention to what the families and their offspring have to say, how they experience treatment and recovery, and what they can teach us, not just about their therapy needs, but also how we may go about our work in more effective ways. The final "voice" of this volume comes from the therapists themselves. After all, we are in the trenches with our patients, and we can all benefit from listening and learning from one another.

We have come a long way since those early pessimistic days that bemoaned the "pernicious" families of patients with anorexia nervosa. Many pioneers of family therapy bravely changed that outlook, and since then, numerous clinicians and researchers have collectively contributed to promoting *and* practicing that positive message. Countless sufferers have benefitted from this family therapy approach, and, although more work needs to be done, this volume contributes in a significant way toward a better understanding of this treatment for youth with eating disorders. The messages to question what we think we know, to think outside the box, and to listen to our families and patients, all come across loud and clear!

Daniel Le Grange, PhD

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Introduction

Stuart B. Murray, Leslie Karwoski Anderson, and Leigh Cohn

A cursory glance back over the history of eating disorders illustrates the central role that families have purportedly occupied in illness presentations, since the very first depicted reports of anorexia nervosa (AN). Indeed, the early historical landscape was littered with rich clinical descriptions of how the pernicious influence of one's family both underpinned and maintained AN psychopathology. As such, the prevailing treatment for many years advocated a "parentectomy" to extricate those with AN from their pathogenic parents and family members. However, the late 1970s marked the start of an important shift in our approach to the treatment of eating disorders. During this time, pioneering family therapists Salvador Minuchin and Mara Selvini Palazzoli, despite still retaining the notion that family structure and dynamics were implicated in the pathogenesis of AN, debunked the notion that families were toxic to the recovery process, and instead illustrated how families may drive a series of changes which may ultimately arrive at symptom remission. Subsequent to this, more groundbreaking work by Michael White, and Gerard Russell and colleagues at the Maudsley Hospital in London, actively rejected the notion that families were implicated in the pathogenesis of eating disorders, and, instead, were the greatest allies to the recovery process. This conceptual standpoint forms the basis of contemporary family therapy-based approaches to the treatment of eating disorders.

The last 20 years has witnessed rapid growth in the family therapy-based treatment of eating disorders, and equally rapid progress has been made. To date, the evidence-base for family therapy in the context of eating disorders eclipses that of family therapy for any other psychiatric ailment, and the deeply-seated roots of family therapy for eating disorders continue to spring new crops. Indeed, the precise configuration of family therapy-based approaches for the treatment of eating disorders is becoming increasingly diverse, and the existing evidence-base spans a multitude of data ranging from case studies through to multi-site, randomized controlled trials and manualized treatment manuals.

This book represents a panoramic view from the crest of this growing wave of family therapy treatment for eating disorders, and a look towards the horizon. The conceptual origin of this collected body of works stems, in part, from our liaison with pioneering family therapy groups during a conference on innovative treatment approaches held at the University of California, San Diego in October, 2014. Additionally, the opportunity to edit a Special Edition of *Eating Disorders: The Journal of Treatment & Prevention*, which was entirely devoted to novel family therapy approaches to eating disorders, further galvanized our resolve in bringing this book to fruition. To this end, we've included the original journal articles and have added 15 more chapters to this volume. Its 70 contributors come from several countries and include many of the most prolific voices in this field.

As it stands, *Innovations in Family Therapy for Eating Disorders: Novel Treatment Developments, Patient Insights, and the Role of Carers* aims to address the most recent advances in the field of family therapy for eating disorders, illustrating an array of theoretical models of treatment across a transdiagnostic spectrum of eating disorders in both adolescents and adults alike. Further, we aim to illustrate the patient voice, which conveys a unique "insider knowledge" and expertise, which must be factored in to future clinical treatment developments. Additionally, we address the role of carers, including the parents, spouses, and partners of patients with an array of disordered eating ranging from AN to emotional overeating.

A broad, collected body of works like this naturally lends itself to division into distinct categories. Part I, Innovations in Family Therapy for Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa, relates specifically to novel treatment innovations in the context of AN and bulimia nervosa (BN). The opening chapter, by Stuart Murray and colleagues, outlines the adaptation of family-based treatment (FBT) for adolescent AN across higher levels of patient care. Next, Elizabeth Hughes and colleagues explore the mechanics of delivering parentonly FBT, without the adolescent being present, which was developed in Melbourne, Australia. In the third chapter, Stephanie Knatz Peck and colleagues provide a clinician's overview of a novel multi-family, intensive familv therapy program, which was developed for transdiagnostic eating disorder treatment at the University of California, San Diego. The fourth chapter, by Murray and colleagues, revisits the historical roots of family therapy for the eating disorders and proposes an integration of several broader family therapy interventions into the delivery of FBT. Two chapters relating to adolescent BN conclude this section. Leslie Karwoski Anderson and colleagues outline the novel integration of the treatment philosophies underpinning FBT and dialectical behavior therapy (DBT), which is important when considering the emerging evidence for FBT in the context of BN, and the broader evidence supporting the efficacy of DBT in curtailing emotionally dysregulated behaviors. Lastly, Catherine Stewart and colleagues from Maudsley Hospital in London provide a clinical overview of the development of a novel multi-family program for the treatment of adolescent BN.

Part II, Special Topics in Family Therapy for Eating Disorders, includes chapters on diverse topics related to dissemination and implementation of FT. James Lock from Stanford University reviews treatment specificity within the realm of family therapy for eating disorders, noting how specialized family therapy-based treatment offers more potent results than non-specific family therapy treatments. Dovetailing nicely with this chapter, Jennifer Couturier and Melissa Kimber from McMaster University in Ontario, Canada offer a carefully constructed systematic review of the factors implicated in the dissemination and implementation of specialized family therapy treatment. Next, Katherine Loeb and Leslie Sanders explore the roles of multidisciplinary treatment team members, focusing on how the therapist and physician can complement and enhance each other's work. The final two chapters in this part focus on ways to augment treatment response in family therapy for eating disorders. Murray and Scott Griffiths explore the integration of general family therapy techniques into family therapy for eating disorders, with detailed case examples to illustrate how this could be effective. Mima Simic and colleagues, including esteemed professors Ivan Eisler and Walter Kaye, examine ways to augment family therapy with a variety of other evidence-based approaches, including DBT, parent training, and cognitive behavioral therapy.

Part III, Carers, explores the role of family members and loved ones, who are much relied upon in treatment but often overlooked in empirical research. The first two chapters in this section, by Jennifer Kirby and colleagues, present a novel program, "Uniting Couples in the Treatment of Anorexia Nervosa" developed by Cindy Bulik's group at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. They first provide an overview of the approach and then focus more specifically on strategies to engage carers in supporting their loved one in higher levels of care. Next, Janet Treasure and colleagues outline a conceptual overview of their novel treatment, the New Maudsley Method, which relates to the carers of adult patients. Elizabeth Easton and colleagues describe how Craig Johnson and Ovidio Bermudez's group at the Eating Recovery Center in Denver has made family involvement an integral part of their residential treatment program, despite the logistical barriers. Peck and colleagues outline a parent-driven treatment of adolescent emotional overeating, focusing specifically on parent coaching. Lastly, doctoral student Amanda Stillar, Professor Adele Lafrance Robinson and 11 Canadian colleagues review several important potential barriers that may stymie the role of carers throughout treatment, namely, fear and self-blame.

Part IV, Tales From the Trenches: Personal Accounts, gives voice to people who have had eating disorders or cared for someone in recovery. First, Harriet Brown, who wrote an inspiring memoir in 2011, and her daughter Anna Young, look back at their experiences doing family therapy for Anna's eating disorder. In the second chapter, Erin Parks and colleagues use a mixed methods design to explore how teenagers feel about having been through family therapy for their eating disorder, once the treatment has concluded. Next are two chapters from Karin Nilsson's Swedish collaborators. Sofie Engman-Bredvik and colleagues share a qualitative study of parental experiences in multi-family therapy in AN; Elin Svensson and colleagues explore the experiences of parents of children with an eating disorder, as well as their experiences caring for the child. Finally, Jessica Bezance and Joanna Holliday examine the mother's perspective on delivering treatment for their adolescents with AN at home, through interpretive phenomenological analysis.

Finally, Part V, How I Practice, has instructional pieces by clinicians on how they use advanced techniques to enhance their family therapy work with eating disorder patients. Laura Hill and Marjorie Scott describe how they use metaphors and experiential exercises to bring the research on neurobiology of eating disorders to life for patients and their families. Next, Peck outlines how to design and implement behavioral contracts to encourage and support eating disorder recovery within families. Finally, Murray expands upon the classic family technique of circular questioning, including concrete examples of ways to rephrase linear questions into circular questions.

As we pause and take stock to survey the current landscape of family therapy approaches in the treatment of eating disorders, the horizon is broader, brighter, and more diverse than ever before. Our field has come a long way from the days of blaming parents and extricating families from treatment, and the multitude of evidence-based options available to clinicians working with families ought to inspire optimism among both practitioners and families alike. It is our hope that this collection of works may guide clinicians in forging new ways of working with families to overcome eating disorders, and encourage the evolution of emerging clinical practices while retaining the roots of family therapy. As one of the pioneers of family therapy, Salvador Minuchin (1974, p. 47), wrote, "It is only the family, society's smallest unit, that can change and yet maintain enough continuity to rear children who will not be 'strangers in a strange land,' who will be rooted firmly enough to grow and adapt."

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Part I

Innovations in Family Therapy for Anorexia Nervosa and Bulimia Nervosa



1 Adapting Family-Based Treatment for Adolescent Anorexia Nervosa across Higher Levels of Patient Care

Stuart B. Murray, Leslie Karwoski Anderson, Roxanne Rockwell, Scott Griffiths, Daniel Le Grange, and Walter H. Kaye

Anorexia nervosa (AN) typically demonstrates poor treatment outcomes, high rates of relapse and treatment dropout (Keel & Brown, 2010), elevated rates of premature death related to both medical complications (Steinhausen, 2002) and suicidality (Pompili, Mancinelli, Girardi, Ruberto, & Tatarelli, 2004), and reduced quality of life (Mond, Hay, Rodgers, Owen, & Beumont, 2005). However, when treated during adolescence, favorable treatment outcomes appear somewhat more attainable (Treasure & Russell, 2011). Thus, recent efforts have focused on treatments targeted at adolescent presentations, with family-based treatment (FBT) showing particular promise (Lock & Le Grange, 2013). However, while efforts to disseminate FBT have largely focused on outpatient settings (Couturier, Kimber, & Szatmari, 2013), there is a dearth of evidence detailing the application of FBT to more intensive levels of patient care.

AN is typically treated across a range of treatment contexts based on illness severity, with some arguing that presentations of AN ought to be delineated by stages of severity in order to allow for the most effective and appropriate treatment (Maguire et al., 2009). Indeed, the continuum of care model ensures that treatment dosage can be matched with illness severity, while significantly reducing the overall cost of treatment (Kaye, Enright, & Lesser, 1998; Wiseman, Sunday, Klapper, Harris, & Halmi, 2001).

A patient's transition through levels of care is typically determined by symptom severity, medical status, motivational status, treatment history, and logistical concerns, although with fluctuating levels of motivation for change (Geller, Zaitsoff, & Srikameswaran, 2005) and relapsing symptom severity (Strober, Freeman, & Morell, 1997), movement through the levels of care can be bidirectional. The significance of this multi-tiered level of care system is underscored when considering (a) the medically necessary need for urgent weight restoration in severe AN, (b) the management of clinical complexity and comorbidity, and (c) the need to ensure progress sustainability in the context of the high rates of relapse in AN (Strober et al., 1997). However, few treatment settings currently offer all levels of care within the same setting, and the integration of evidence-based treatment throughout varying levels of care in the treatment of

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AN poses many challenges. This may be particularly important as it pertains to the role of families in treatment, given the differing beliefs as to the optimal role of families in the treatment of adolescent AN (Le Grange, Lock, Loeb, & Nicholls, 2010; Murray, Thornton, & Wallis, 2012a).

FBT is characterized by an agnostic stance towards the origin of AN and a conceptualization of parents as the primary resource in restoring their adolescent back to health. The focus of the treatment is orchestrating a parent-driven intervention to restore healthy eating patterns in the adolescent and then grad-ually transitioning the adolescent back to eating autonomy (Lock & Le Grange, 2013). Empirical evidence suggests that 50–70 percent of adolescents with AN undergoing FBT are weight-restored within a year of commencing treatment, and up to 40 percent being remitted of cognitive symptomatology (Lock et al., 2010). Follow-up studies and meta-analyses further support the efficacy of FBT, suggesting robust symptom remission over time (Couturier et al., 2013; Eisler, Simic, Russell, & Dare, 2007).

The Application of Family-Based Treatment across the Continuum of Care

The lack of clinical research on the efficacy and feasibility of FBT across the continuum of care is particularly important when considering (a) the volume of adolescents with AN who require non-outpatient-based treatment at some stage of their treatment trajectory (Katzman, 2005), and (b) recent findings underscoring the importance of theoretical consistency across treatment providers and levels of care (Murray et al., 2012a; Murray, Griffiths, & Le Grange, 2014). With recent findings documenting that (a) rapid intervention and early treatment mechanisms are indicative of overall treatment outcome (Doyle, Le Grange, Loeb, Doyle, & Crosby, 2010; Le Grange, Accurso, Lock, Agras, & Bryson, 2014), and (b) those with more severe AN psychopathology typically report greater benefit from FBT than those with less marked symptomatology (Le Grange, Lock, Agras, Bryson, & Kraemer, 2012), there appears to be a clear rationale for applying FBT to intensive treatment settings.

However, there are many challenges inherent in practicing FBT across levels of care while maintaining treatment fidelity. Given that higher levels of patient care warrant greater professional involvement, there is a risk of undermining the FBT treatment approach that centralizes parental involvement and decentralizes professional expertise. Indeed, while current clinical practice has advocated the use of FBT in higher levels of care (e.g. Girz, LaFrance Robinson, Foroughe, Jasper, & Boachie, 2013; Henderson et al., 2014; Hoste, 2015), little theoretical guidance exists in its application. We therefore aim to outline a theoretical framework of how FBT may be applied across higher levels of patient care, outlining several key challenges and explicating how the theoretical underpinning of FBT may be applied in a way that ensures treatment fidelity.

Establishing the Role of Parents and the Treatment Team Throughout the Continuum of Care

The central premise of FBT posits that parents ought to be the central architects of their child's recovery, providing a sustainable agent of change that persists beyond any treatment context (Lock & Le Grange, 2013). However, higher levels of care are typically characterized by reduced parental involvement in treatment, despite emerging evidence demonstrating that mechanisms of symptom remission in FBT appear to be driven by empowering parents to take control of their child's eating (Ellison et al., 2012). Thus, any adaptation of FBT to more intensive levels of patient care ought to carefully consider the dialectic of balancing the empowerment of parents while also ensuring thorough clinical management of medical instability.

Clinical Options

Restoring medical stability, offering respite for parents, and delaying the onset of FBT. The clinical reality in inpatient hospital settings is that urgent medical stabilization and caloric restoration take full priority. To this end, strict medical guidelines exist in expediently and safely curtailing the potential scope for medical complications in AN (Katzman, Peebles, Sawyer, Lock, & Le Grange, 2013). In this context, the time required to mobilize disempowered parents into active symptom resolution may likely contravene medical best practice, which urges the most immediate restoration of medical stability. Thus, greater illness severity often necessitates swift medical intervention at the expense of parent-driven symptom reduction.

However, a key distinction was recently drawn between hospital-based medical stabilization and hospital-based weight restoration, with current evidence supporting inpatient medical stabilization and an expedient stepdown into less intensive levels of care and parent-assisted weight restoration (Madden et al., 2014). Thus, *inpatient hospital settings* might be most suited to the urgent medical stabilization of acute AN that might preclude full parental involvement, followed by the commencement of FBT once the adolescent is medically stable and parents may play a more central role in treatment. However, with emerging evidence supporting shorter periods of inpatient hospitalization for adolescents with AN and swifter transitions into FBT (ibid), it is important to caution against offering respite for parents beyond a point when they could feasibly be involved in the feeding of their child. Indeed, parental respite beyond this point may alleviate the necessity for swift parental intervention, undermining subsequent treatment (ibid).

Increasing parental involvement as adolescents progress through levels of care. While keeping in mind the medical gravity of severe AN, exploring creative ways to involve the family as much as possible, even at higher levels of care, may be particularly congruent with FBT.

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Inpatient hospital settings. While inpatient settings are necessarily oriented towards urgent medical stabilization, these settings are also uniquely placed to orient families towards the early goals of FBT. For instance, FBT clinicians may work alongside medical teams in: (a) raising parental anxiety, which will further mobilize parental resources once FBT commences, and (b) working to create unity between the parents. Concurrently, the medical team may assume the role as expert on the patient's medical status and communicate that information to the parents, further assisting in generating parental anxiety. Similarly, while dietitian involvement is not typically prescribed in outpatient FBT, the imminent weight gain requirements in critically unwell adolescents, coupled with the risk of re-feeding syndrome, may necessitate dietitian involvement. However, integrating parental involvement within the context of dietetic assistance is plausible, for instance by having dietitians convey the calculated caloric requirements and consulting with parents as to how these calories are provided (Katzman et al., 2013).

Residential settings. A feature of residential programs is the temporary removal of adolescents from their home until symptom remission is indicated, which may impinge upon the prescribed and empirically supported role of parents throughout FBT (Ellison et al., 2012). As such, FBT in residential contexts may be inherently challenging, particularly when residential settings are not in the same geographical region as the family home. Endeavors towards this end may include encouraging parents' temporarily residing in the local area, including regular family meetings, the co-construction of treatment goals, and multiple family meals and parent coaching.

Patient hospitalization program/intensive outpatient program settings. Perhaps more amenable to an FBT framework, patient hospitalization program (PHP) and intensive outpatient program (IOP) settings feature day-based clinical treatment, coupled with home-based symptom management outside of program hours. Such settings allow for treatment goals to be oriented towards family psychoeducation and weight restoration in a manner consistent with outpatient FBT, although at a more intensive treatment dose and with more stringent medical monitoring. With respect to the broader treatment team, the physician (typically a pediatrician or psychiatrist), may not necessarily occupy the most central role at this level unless there are imminent medical concerns, instead serving as a consultant to the parents and FBT clinician while monitoring medical status (Katzman et al., 2013). Similarly, dietetic involvement may be downwardly adjusted in conjunction with increasing parental involvement over meal provision. For instance, dietitians at this level of care may serve primarily as a consultant to the family therapist as needed, especially in cases with complicated dietary features (e.g. diabetes, celiac disease, etc.), or in cases in which treatment is not progressing as expected (e.g. weight gain is not occurring, despite the family appearing to appropriately manage their child's behaviors). Furthermore, since patients in PHP/IOP typically attend most meals in program without the support of siblings, an individual therapist might play a role in a PHP/IOP setting by supporting the patient in the same way siblings are encouraged to support the patient in outpatient FBT. Additionally, due to the high level of psychiatric comorbidities in higher levels of care, the individual therapist may concurrently provide other types of evidence-based treatment to address these issues.

Mobilizing and Empowering Parents throughout Treatment in Hospital and Partial-Hospital Settings

Prior to beginning treatment, it is commonplace for many families to feel disempowered and ambivalent about the challenge of weight restoring their child with AN. Indeed, many families report inadvertently accommodating an array of AN-type behaviors in an attempt to allay their child's anxiety (Eisler, 2005). Thus, a crucial tenet of FBT posits that parents ought to be immediately ushered beyond any anxiety or avoidance and charged with the responsibility of urgent intervention in their child's behaviors.

To this end, a therapeutic "double-bind" at the outset of FBT aims to simultaneously elevate parental anxiety and implore parental intervention in reversing their child's symptoms (Dare et al., 1995; Lock & Le Grange, 2013). This is accomplished through a somber discussion of the medical complications of AN, which aims to render the anxiety parents feel about *not* confronting their child's AN greater than any anxiety around confronting their child's symptoms.

However, the timing of this therapeutic double-bind may need adaptation for clinical settings that foster greater staff than parental involvement and thus afford less scope for parental responsibility in symptom reduction. Raising parental anxiety and imploring them to intervene in these settings may contraindicate the empowerment FBT advocates. For instance, it is possible that elevated parental anxiety at the outset of treatment may be more allayed by the child's involvement with the intensive staff-driven program than by their own increasing sense of mastery in managing their child's symptoms. In this respect, therapeutically elevating parental anxiety, when coupled with reduced scope for parental involvement and staff-driven reductions in parental anxiety, may potentially deepen a sense of reliance on staff-driven symptom reduction, which contravenes the mechanism by which the therapeutic double-bind was intended to operate in outpatient settings. Thus it is important that this doublebind at higher levels of care is carefully planned.

Clinical Options

Create greater scope for parental involvement in hospital and partial-hospital settings. Many schools of family therapy posit that the most effective time to mobilize familial anxiety is during the peak of the most intense crisis (Haley, 1980), which for some families facing AN will inevitably fall during admissions to higher levels of care. However, FBT theory would posit that raising parental anxiety and empowerment ought to coincide with the opportunity