Debriefing: You can do this! IMSH 2022

Difficult Debriefing Tool

Definitions Purpose Sample Phrases Strategy "You seem to be [insert emotion]... what's on your mind?" Name the Introducing a 'hot Focusing discussion, "It seems like the key issue here is (insert hot topic), and that is causing some (insert Dynamic topic' by naming it addressing hot topic emotion]..." Recognition that Reaffirming "You're totally right, I agree that [insert perspective here]..." behaviors, feelings Validation importance of "I agree ... in this situation [insert perspective here] is/can be (insert emotion here)..." or thoughts are learner perspective understandable Relating behaviors, Build trust, calm "The feelings you've expressed are common in this situation..." feelings or Normalization fear, defuse "Your feelings are normal in this situation... in fact, I had a situation once when linsert attitudes to a relevant story here]..." emotions societal norm "Have you ever had a situation when [insert concept here] was applicable to [insert Application of a Enable learner to related context here]..." Generalization concept in a see broader "Sometimes (insert concept here) can be applied to a different context, such as (insert different context relevance context here] ... what do you think?" Clarify and/or Restating Paraphrasing "What I'm hearing you say is [insert paraphrase here]..." something in your confirm "So what [insert name here] is saying is [insert paraphrase here]..." own words understanding Widening Engaging other **Broadening** "I'm wondering what others think of [insert topic here]..." discussion to learners to share "I'd love it other others could share their perspective related to [insert topic here]..." involve others perspectives Introducing a new Guide and refocus "At this point, I'm wondering if we can switch gears and talk about [insert topic here] Previewing topic of discussion topic of discussion because [insert rationale here]"...

Silence should be purposefully used between strategies.

Periods of silence allow for active listening, reading learner body language, and to help determine if learners are "ready to learn"

V. J. Grant, T. Robinson, H. Catena, W. Eppich & A. Cheng (2018) Difficult debriefing situations: A toolbox for simulation educators, Medical Teacher, 40:7, 703-712, DOI:

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Phase	Goal	Actions	Sample Questions	Time
Gather	Listen to participants to understand what they think & how they feel about session	 Request narrative from team leader Request clarifying or supplemental information from team 	All: How do you feel? Team Leader: Can you tell us what happened? Team members: Can you add to the account?	25%
A nalyze	Facilitate participants reflection on & analysis of their actions	 Review of accurate record of events Report observations (correct & incorrect steps) Ask a series of question to reveal participants' thinking processes Assist participants to reflect on their performance Direct/redirect participants to assure continuous focus on session objectives 	I noticed Tell me more about How did you feel about What were you thinking when I understand, however, tell me about "X"_aspect of the scenario Conflict resolution: Let's refocus- "what's important is not who is right but what is right for the patient"	50%
Summarize	Facilitate identification & review of lessons learned	Participants identify positive aspects of team or individual behaviors & behaviors that require change Summary of comments or statements	List two actions or events that you felt were effective or well done Describe two areas that you think you/team need to work on	25%

Adapted from: O'Donnell, J.M., Rodgers, D.L., Lee, W, W., Edelson, D. P., Haag, J., Hamilton, M. F., Hoadley, T., McCullough, A., Meeks, R., (2009), Structured and Supported Debriefing [Computer Software]. American Heart Association, Dallas, TX.

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