Group Scenario-Jake

Jake is a 30 year old biracial male who was assessed after receiving a DUI and placed in intensive outpatient treatment. During check-ins Jake states this is his first DUI and he is here because he is court ordered but doesn’t have a big problem with drinking and can quit if he wants. Jake is the youngest of four children. His siblings range in age from 35-39. He is the baby at 30 years old. His parents are divorced due to his father’s drinking. He has always lived with his mother but she recently kicked him out because he would not get a job or stop using. He is currently homeless and living between friend’s homes or in his car. At his first group he cried while talking about his mother and how he is a disappointment to her. He states he wants to do better and not be a disappointment but he lost his job because his boss didn’t like him and he felt targeted. He shared that he is in a lot of pain all the time. His back and neck hurt constantly and he sometimes gets headaches. He knows he should get a job but now with the DUI he doesn’t know how he can do that. The group was supportive and caring. A month in to the group process Jake is still getting advice from group members on what he needs to do to get housing, a job, and medical care for his constant pain. Jake is likeable and always thankful for the advice but the group is becoming agitated with his responses except for Jake who always comes to his defense. He makes excuses for why nothing will work. “Yes, but I have the DUI to deal with and can’t commit to a work schedule.” “I don’t have any money so I can’t go to the clinic.” “My siblings are angry with me so they won’t help.” “Yes, I would ask my mom or a friend to give me a ride to the free clinic but it is 20 miles away and I don’t have any money for gas.” “I can’t stand being such a disappointment and always asking for things.”

1. Discuss how you would therapeutically respond to Jake’s difficulties experienced in the group setting.
2. What theory from week one would you feel is appropriate for this intervention and explain why?
3. What do you think are the core issues around Jake’s behavior?
4. What issue(s) if any would you add to a treatment plan as a result of Jake’s difficulties in group?
5. What feedback would you give Jake the next time he stops someone from experiencing their pain?