







## Relevance of trauma-informed care in health/behavioral health care

Traumatic experiences have a direct impact on patients' health and on how they engage in health care. If a patient discloses current or past trauma, you need to know how to respond.

Knowing about the impact of trauma can improve patient outcomes.

Understanding trauma can help you better manage risk. SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solutions

#### Ways medical care can re-traumatize

Invasive procedures Removal of clothing Physical touch Personal questions that may be embarrassing/ distressing Power dynamics of relationship Gender of healthcare provider Vulnerable physical position Loss of privacy

# How trauma can affect patients' engagement in health care

Repeatedly missed or cancelled appointments

Avoiding preventive care

Poor adherence to treatment recommendations

Chronic unexplained pain

Anxiety about certain medical procedures

SAMHSA-HRSA Center for Integrated Health Solution

# Why a trauma-informed approach matters for patients and staff

Patients receive better services and care

Staff able to cope more effectively with their work and is associated with greater resilience among workers

Promotes staff retention and reduces turnover

Reduces levels of vicarious trauma experienced by staff



Traumaawareness: Entering the shadows

# How might survivors of long-term trauma complete this stem?

The world is... They always think that I... I will never be... Because of me... I am... If they really cared...





The Japanese art of mending pottery using gold or silver lacquer. The broken and mended pot becomes even more beautiful than the original. A compelling metaphor for how pain, grief, and trauma in our lives can transform us in positive, even beautiful ways.



"Trauma is the most avoided, ignored, denied, misunderstood, and untreated cause of human suffering."

eter A. Levine in Healing Trauma

"No one any longer denies the fact that wars can ruin the lives of soldiers and their families. But when it comes to physical and emotional violence within the family...society continues to avoid the grim evidence."

Mary Sykes Wylie in The Long Shadow of Trauma

"The ordinary response to atrocities is to banish them from consciousness." Judih Lewis Herman in *Trauma and Recovery* 



"A jackhammer, sledgehammer, vacuum sweeper, lawn mower" Under Construction

Heidi I

I used to have no trespassing signs all over my body Some people don't know the meaning of boundaries One day they came busted down my door they came in violating code they tore up my floors and gutted my soul they put a jackhammer through my walls and a sledgehammer to my head. I have enough yellow police tape to hang myself.



Trying to get close to my mother was like getting close with a vacuum sweeper; And being close with my father has been

being close with a lawn mower.

"Trauma disconnects people from their bodies. In love we are 'swept off our feet.' In trauma, our legs are pulled out from under us."



"I was taken from my mother when I was five years old. Every day I looked after the herd. Every night I was raped by my master. Jalways thought, without understanding, that this was normal.

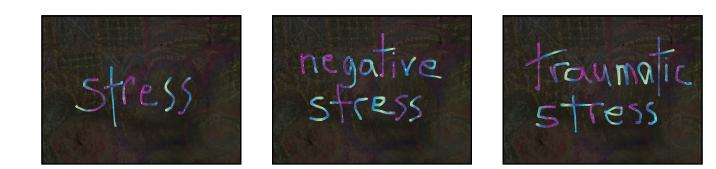
In Mauritania, where I'm from, hundreds of thousands of people are still held this way today. But I was lucky. My brother escaped his masters and found an organization working to stop slavery. He asked them to help free me."

But when they came to take me away, at first I completely refused. I couldn't imagine a life away from my masters... This was the only life I had ever known." Haty min Ribbak, Awaz Sept 2015





## What gets stolen?





Overwhelming demands placed upon the physiological system that result in a profound felt sense of vulnerability and/or loss of control. - Robert D. Macy

## Trauma

"Being traumatized means continuing to organize your life as if the trauma were still going on – unchanged and immutable – as every new encounter or event is contaminated by the past."

Trauma

Definitions, sources, types, prevalence

Bessel van der Kolk, The Body Keeps the Score

"Long after the actual event has passed, the brain may keep sending signals to the body to escape a threat

Bessel van der Kolk, The Body Keeps the Score

that no longer exists."



not being seen, not being mirrored, and not being taken into account."

Bessel van der Kolk, The Body Keeps the Score

"In short, trauma is about loss of connection - to ourselves, to our bodies, to our families, to others, and to the world around us... It is often hard to recognize, because it doesn't happen all at once. It can happen slowly, over time ... "

- Peter Levine

## Sources of Trauma

"Natural" disasters Human events Insidious trauma

Historic trauma

## **Types of Trauma**

Acute Trauma from a one-time event Chronic Multiple traumatic experiences that occur over

Complex Trauma that starts in early childhood and impacts learning, developing, coping, and relationships into adulthood

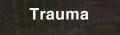
#### Trauma

Monica is a 35 year old woman who was living in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. She had to leave her dog behind and relocate to another state where solve be did not know anyone. In the intervening years she has struggled to secure regular employment and maintain housing. She was

Acute? Chronic? Complex?

#### Trauma

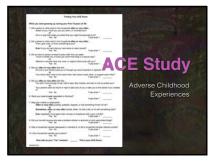
to move back home temporarily to support his



Jane grew up in a violent household. She was sexually abused and witnessed domestic violence at a young age. While in the military, she was sexually assaulted. Since her discharge, she has struggled with depression and substance misuse.

Acute? Chronic? Complex?





## ACE study participants

17,337 Kaiser Permanente members
Recruited between 1995-97
Nearly half female, half male
74.8% white
Average age = 57
75.2 had attended college
All had jobs and good health care (Kaiser HMO)

# Questions asked

Physical abuse	Mother treated violently
Sexual abuse	Household substance abuse
Emotional abuse	Household mental illness
Physical neglect	Parental separation or divorce
Emotional neglect	Incarcerated household member

#### What's missing?

Explicit and implicit bias/racism, witnessing violence outside the home, bullying, losing a parent to deportation, living in an unsafe neighborhood, involvement with the foster care system, experiencing homelessness, living in a war zone, moving many times, witnessing a sibling being abused, witnessing a father/caregiver/extended family member being abused, involvement with the criminal justice system, attending a school that enforces a zerotolerance discipline policy...

### ACE study findings

ACEs are much more common than anticipated or recognized

#### ACE study findings

About two-thirds reported at least one ACE 87% with one ACE reported at least one additional ACE

Prevalence of

- emotional abuse 10.6%
- physical abuse 28.3%
- sexual abuse 20.7%
- emotional neglect 14.8%physical neglect 9.9%

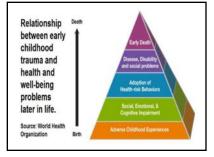
## ACE study findings

ACEs have a powerful correlation to health outcomes later in life

## ACE study findings

#### Impact of Trauma Increases the risk of neurological, biological,

- Psychological and/or social difficulties such as:
  Changes in brain neurobiology;
- Social, emotional & cognitive impair
- Adoption of health risk behaviors as coping
- mechanisms (eating disorders, smoking, substance abuse, self harm, sexual promiscuity, violence); and
- Severe and persistent behavioral health, physical
- health and social problems, early death



#### Correlation of ACEs to health outcomes

ACEs have a strong influence on adolescent health, teen pregnancy, smoking, substance abuse, sexual behavior, the risk of revictimization, performance in the work force, and the stability of relationships, among other health determinants.

#### Correlation of ACEs to health outcomes

The higher the ACE score, the greater the risk of heart disease, lung disease, liver disease, suicide, HIV and STDs, and other risks for the leading causes of death.

# Correlation of ACEs to health outcomes

Compared to ACE score of zero, *four* adverse childhood experiences associated with: • *seven-fold* increase in alcoholism

doubling of risk of being diagnosed with cancer

• four-fold increase in emphysema

#### Correlation of ACEs to health outcomes

People with an ACE score of *six or higher* die nearly 20 years earlier than those whose ACE score is zero

An ACE score *above six* was associated with a 30-fold increase in attempted suicide Understanding the pervasive Impact of trauma Trauma and the brain

#### Trauma and the brain

ntics/www.youtube.com/watch?v=T.BrwOSA1wateatura=youtu.bo

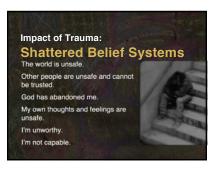


The bio-psycho-socialspiritual impact of trauma

#### Impact of Trauma: Ability to Function

High levels of distress, anxiety, sometimes panic Confusion, disorientation, loss of control Dissociation Intrusive thoughts, hyper-arousal, avoidance

Re-experiencing traumatic events (triggers)



#### Impact of Trauma: Physical Health

Chronic pain Gynecological difficulties Gastrointestinal (GI) problems Asthma Health palpitations Headaches Musculoskeletal difficulties







"The compassion we seek is that which stands in awe at what (people) have to carry, rather than stand in judgment about how they carry it." Fr. Gregory Boyle, Tattoca on the Heart





#### Trauma informed care broadly refers to a set of principles that guide and direct how we view the impact of severe harm on... people's mental, physical and emotional health.

Trauma informed care encourages support and treatment to the whole person, rather than focus on only treating individual symptoms or specific behaviors.

Shawn Ginwright (2018)





Hopper, Bassuk, & Olivet, 2010



Promoting post-traumatic growth New opportunities emerge Change in relationships Increased sense of inner strength Greater appreciation of life Deepened sense of spirituality/meaning



Befriending the emotional brain Dealing with hyperarousal Self-awareness, mindfulness Relationships Communal rhythms and synchrony Getting in touch Taking action The Body Keege the Skore, Bessel van der Kolk, 2014



"I am more than what happened to me, I'm not just my trauma."





Addressing secondary traumatization and promoting self-care

trinsted form O union Process Konneth Classil & Brownin 2000





**PARTNERSHIP** – a collaboration; demonstrating profound respect for the person; both parties have expertise; dancing rather than wrestling; best practices are not done *on* or *to* people, but *with* and *for* them

## What partnership looks like...



What partnership sounds like... Would it be all right if we took a look at...? How do you feel about...? What is your understanding of,..? I look forward to working together... How can I support you in this process?























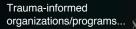


Characteristics of trauma-informed organizations



Trauma-informed organizations must provide services through the lens of trauma. This may involve modifying their values, principles, culture, and practices.

Various policies and procedures must be put in place—with input, feedback, and involvement of program participants.



- Decrease hierarchy; find ways to share power
- View negative patient/client behaviors as adaptive; a way of trying to get needs met
- Regard the helping relationship as a partnership; both parties have expertise

# Trauma-informed organizations/programs...

- Focus on patient's goals and hopes while promoting recovery and healing.
- Make proactive plans and decisions to avoid being crisisdriven
- Emphasize patient strengths, control, and choice

### Activity

"I have this manipulative, drugseeking patient who's always splitting staff. He goes to one person and asks for something, then goes to someone else and asks for the same thing when he's already heard "no." I don't even know why he keeps coming back to this clinic."



#### Convert to a more traumainformed version

"I have this manipulative, drugseeking patient who's always splitting staff. He goes to one person and asks for something, then goes to someone else and asks for the same thing when he's already heard "no." I don't even know why he keeps coming back to this clinic."



#### A word about words...

Manipulative Drug-seeking Frequent flyer Non-compliant Putting self at risk Unmotivated Attention-seeking Entitled



Implementing Trauma-Informed Approaches







Organizational **Trauma-Informed Care** for Supporting Staff **Practical Suggestions** 

Adapted from Organizational Prevention of Vicerious Trauma, 2003 and the second state of the second state

- Organizational culture
- Workload
- Work environment
- Supervision
- · Resources for self-care
- Education and training
- Group support

#### and the SPA and a start

#### Organizational culture Develop expectation of secondary trauma

- · Encourage time off illness, vacation
- · Include self-care and team-care in mission statement
- meetings

for the first of the state of the

#### Workload

- Diversify caseloads
- Provide opportunities for participating in social change activities
- Maintain "attitude of respect" for challenges of working with trauma survivors
- autities my

der binder einer anter beiter beiter beiter

#### Work environment

- · Provide safe, comfortable, private work environment
- Buddy systems for co-workers
- · Utilize security systems, guards as needed
- Encourage personally meaningful items in workspace
- In public areas, post welcoming images/signs, inspiring posters, scenic pictures in public areas (instead of rules and regulations)
- Provide space for taking breaks, resting

filling Proprietion of the later

#### Supervision

- Make sure everyone has a supervisor
- · Ensure that supervision happens on a regularly scheduled basis
- Equip supervisors to provide trauma-informed supervision (particular focus on supportive and educative functions of supervision)

# files my sources we have

#### Resources for self-care

- Model and encourage positive self-care
- Utilize self-care self-assessment tool
- Form peer support groups
- Provide structured opportunities for physical activity, yoga, meditation, play, music, writing, art

#### Make counseling/mental health resources available to staff

utilities apres -

#### Education and training

- Educate staff about secondary traumatic stress (starting in job interviews)
- Learn about trauma, its impact, and traumainformed care approaches (via books, e-books, videos, workshops, etc.)



#### Group support

- Encourage social support within the organization
   celebrations, grieving, team-building activities,
   staff retreats, etc. Debrief (both critical incidents
   and ongoing secondary impact of trauma)
- Peer support groups



#### Secondary Traumatic Stress and Self-Compassion



Laura van Dernoot Lipsky with Connie Burk



#### "...the entire conversation about how we come to do this work, how we are affected by it, and how we make sense of and learn from our experiences."



#### I can never do enough

No matter what I do or how well I do it, it won't be enough *vs.* It's a long road... I need to take good care of myself and my health

# Feeling helpless and hopeless

The world is plunging into greater chaos, despair Difficult to see positive changes, possibilities

#### **Diminished creativity**

Going through motions, bored

Energy spent just getting through the day

Playful spirit and creative energy missing in action

#### Chronic exhaustion

Bone tired Soul tired Heart tired Spirit tired



## Guilt

- How can I experience the joy of
- sleeping in a warm bed
  going out for a nice meal
  - traveling for fun
  - getting a massage
- when others are struggling to survive?

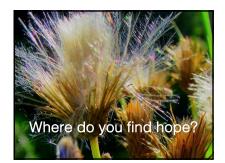
## Anger and sarcasm

While anger is a natural response, sarcasm is a coping mechanism for dealing with anger, or other feelings, that we may not be able to manage.



#### Addictions

What unhealthy attachments do I cling to? What am I most resistant to give up? What do I count on to help me numb out?









# Manage your energy, not your time



# Physical energy • Enhance sleep; earlier bedtime; less alcohol use • Cardiovascular exercise 3 x week

- Strength training 1 x week
- Eat small meals/light snacks every 3 hours
- Notice flagging energy yawns, restlessn
- Take brief, regular breaks at 90-120 min
- intervals

# Emotional energy

- Defuse negative emotions (e.g. irritability, impatience) through deep abdominal breathing
- Fuel positive emotions in yourself and others by expressing appreciation to others in specific ways through notes, emails, calls, conversations
- Look at upsetting situations through a ne
   reverse lens, long lens, wide lens

# Mental energy

- Reduce interruptions do high concentration tasks away from phones and email
- Respond to voicemails and emails at designated times throughout the day
- Every night, identify the most important challenge for the next day – make it your first priority when you arrive at work

# Spiritual energy

- Identify you "sweet spot" activities give you fulfillment. Find ways to do these.
  Allocate time and energy to what you consider
- most important.

   Live your core values with intentionality.







#### How often do you ...?

- Get away from technology such as phones, e-mail, social media



### How often do you ...?

- · Find things that make you laugh

- Have time when no one needs anything from you
- · Have awe-full experiences



## What can you do ...?

- In 5 minutesIn an hourIn the morning

- At noon
  In the evening
  For free
  With \$20
  With someone else



