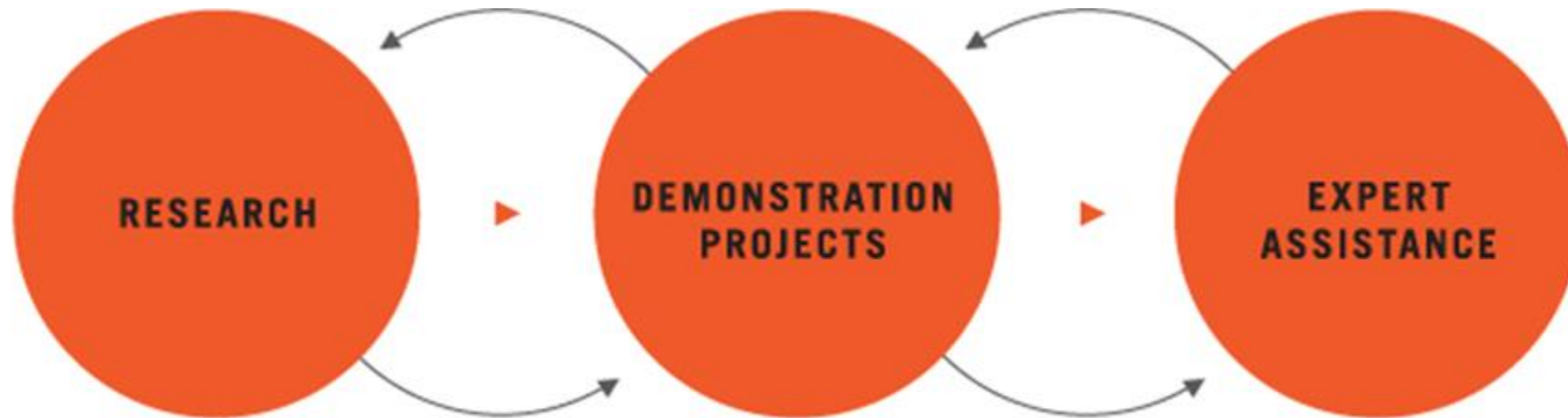


Juvenile Detention and Human Trafficking: Trauma-Informed Screening and Responses for Human Trafficking Victims

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The Center's Work



Opening Exercise

Let's get honest!

Please write down...

- ▶ What are the first words that come to mind?
- ▶ What behaviors do you find challenging/annoying/frustrating? Why?
- ▶ What are your immediate thoughts on how to handle this case?

What we are going to do today:

- ▶ Go over definitions
- ▶ Overview of sex trafficking
- ▶ Discuss trauma and trauma – informed response
- ▶ Putting it all together: how can we change/enhance our screening/response with victims?

Definitions: what's what?

Let's start with the law

- ▶ Many states have their own specific trafficking legislation, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines trafficking as:
 - ▶ The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
 - ▶ labor or services, through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
 - ▶ Coercion includes threats of physical or psychological harm to children and/or their families. Any child (under the age of 18) engaged in commercial sex is a victim of trafficking.

Three Key Elements

Force

- Physical Assault
- Sexual Assault
- Emotional Abuse
- Damage to property
- Branding

FEAR

Fraud

- Pretending to be a boyfriend
- Promise of making money for a future business that never happens
- Promise of money or earnings that never materialize
- Required to do things that were not originally planned

SECRECY

Coercion

- Exposing a secret
- Threats of violence to victim, family or friends
- Isolation
- Keeping control of documents
- Threatening to take custody
- Threatening to call authorities immigration and/or police

SHAME

Trauma: What is it and why does it matter?

- ▶ Results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual and/or communities as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's and/or communities functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being
- ▶ Micro (interpersonal trauma) and Macro (systemic trauma and oppression) experiences

Examples of interpersonal and systemic trauma and oppression

Interpersonal

- Childhood sexual abuse
- Childhood physical abuse
- Verbal/emotional abuse
- Domestic/sexual violence
- Rape
- Neglect

Systemic

- Court
- Foster care
- Education
- Incarceration
- Police/law enforcement
- Health care

Structural

- Racism
- Poverty
- Sexism
- Homophobia
- All other -isms

Interpersonal Trauma: Trauma Reactions

- ▶ Best understood as adaptations to survive and are logical in the context of trauma
- ▶ People will do whatever it takes to survive their experience and pain – RESILIENCY!
- ▶ Trauma reactions often misdiagnosed or overlooked as symptoms of other mental illness

Interpersonal Trauma

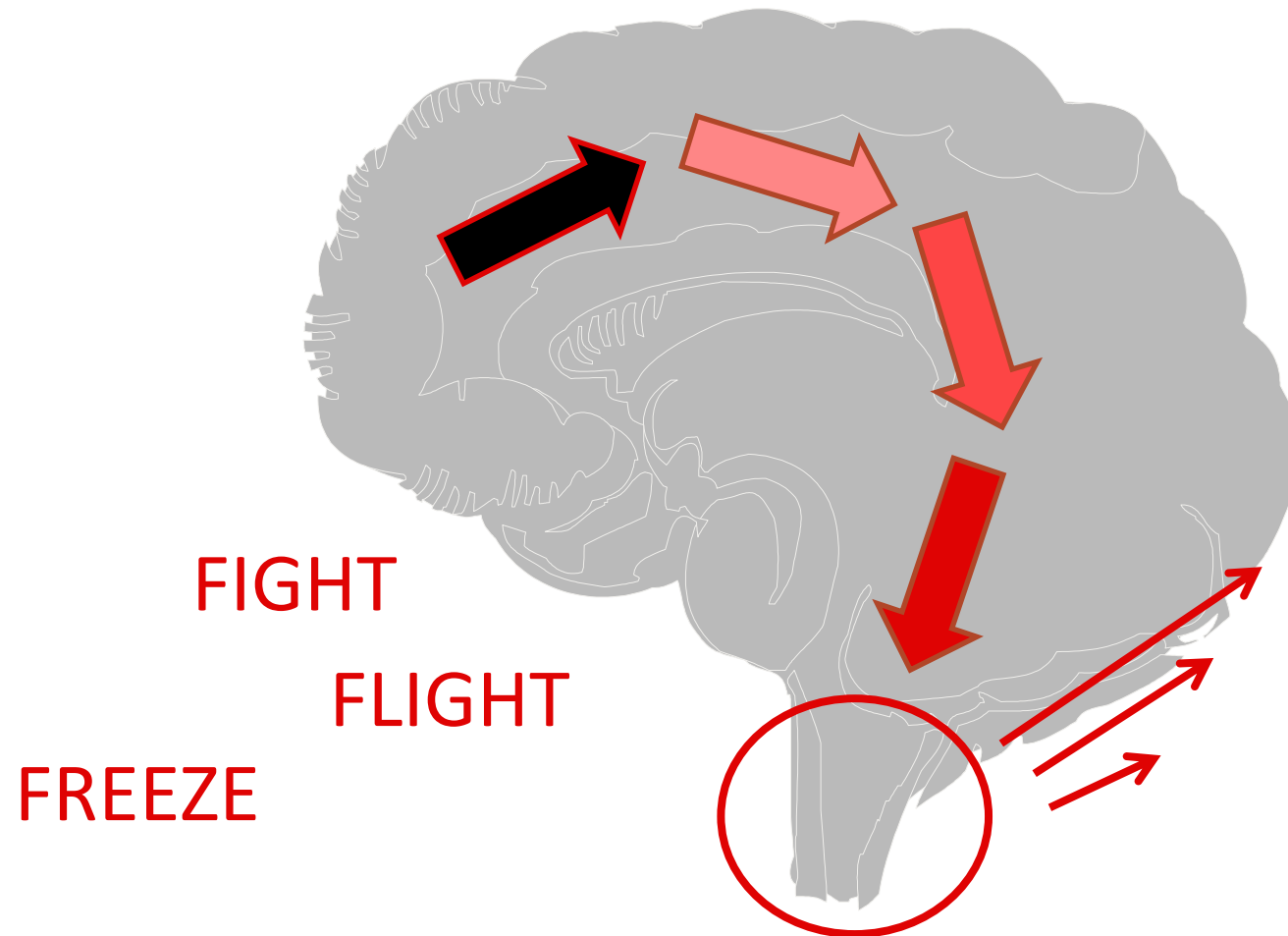
Immediate/Automatic Reactions

Fight

Flight

***Freeze**

Effects of trauma



Trauma Reactions:

A new lens to understand challenging behavior

▶ **Intrusive thoughts/feelings**

- ▶ Flashbacks
- ▶ Nightmares
- ▶ Intrusive thoughts
- ▶ Intrusive memories
- ▶ Physical pain

▶ **Avoidance**

- ▶ Behavioral or cognitive attempts to avoid trauma-reminiscent stimuli
- ▶ Emotional Numbing

▶ **Hyperarousal**

- ▶ Increased arousal
- ▶ Difficulty falling or staying asleep
- ▶ Difficulty concentrating
- ▶ Irritability
- ▶ Jumpiness
- ▶ Chronic hyperarousal makes it difficult to feel a range of emotion

Trauma Reactions:

A new lens to understand challenging behavior

▶ Reenactment

- ▶ Power and control struggle is often reenacted
- ▶ A traumatized participant has had their power and control taken away, often throughout their life
- ▶ Feeling powerless or as if someone is trying to control her can be intolerable
- ▶ When reenacting, the participant can play the victim OR the victimizer
- ▶ Often, this is what causes people to feel like participant is being “manipulative”

▶ Dissociation

- ▶ Intrapsychic defense
 - ▶ The separation of mental systems that would ordinarily be integrated
- ▶ Voluntary and Involuntary Reaction
- ▶ Protective
 - ▶ At first a conscious effort to block out the abuse, but when repeated over time, becomes a uncontrollable response to abuse or stimulus of abuse
- ▶ Common experience for survivors of rape, childhood sexual abuse, and witnessing DV



Secrecy

Examples of
trauma:

- Childhood Sexual Abuse
- Childhood Physical abuse
- Verbal/Emotional Abuse
- Domestic/Sexual Violence
- Poverty
- Rape
- Neglect

Shame

Silence

Context of Trauma Histories/ Complexity of Choice



Overview of Sex Trafficking

Potential Risk Factors

- Poverty
- Wanting to improve family economic status (send money home)
- Violence in home countries
- Damage to property
- History of abuse
- Homelessness
- Undocumented
- About 50-80 % of trafficking victims involved with CPS
- Minimal social support
- Limited education
- Lack of work opportunities
- Runaway, homeless youth
- History of previous sexual abuse
- Drug or alcohol addiction
- History of trauma
- History of truancy
- Mental or behavioral health issues

Pimp Controlled Prostitution/ Sex Trafficking/Domestic Trafficking

“Traumatic Bonding” and “Love”

- ▶ “turned out” at a young age
- ▶ Pimp provides
 - ▶ Shelter, food, clothes, basic needs
 - ▶ Sense of safety from unsafe family/community/living situation
 - ▶ Promise of future
 - ▶ Love
 - ▶ Companionship
- ▶ Psychological Abuse
- ▶ **Isolation**
 - ▶ Kept in insular community
 - ▶ Stable of folks
 - ▶ Recreation of family
 - ▶ Using other woman
- ▶ **Money/ Sense of worth**
 - ▶ Power
 - ▶ Self worth/worth of attention direct result of financial worth

Recruitment Pathways

- ▶ Family
- ▶ Kidnap
- ▶ Peer recruitment
- ▶ Violence
- ▶ Internet
- ▶ Pimp

LANGUAGE

- ▶ **The Life or The Game:** The life of prostitution
- ▶ **Daddy:** The pimp
- ▶ **P.I:** In reference to another pimp
- ▶ **Stable:** A group of women/girls under pimp control
- ▶ **Bottom Bitch/Bottom Girl:** The head girl
- ▶ **Breaking:** To give all your money to your pimp
- ▶ **Choosing:** To choose another pimp
- ▶ **Folks/Family:** Your pimp or the person for whom you work
- ▶ **Gorilla Pimp:** A pimp who uses force to get a woman
- ▶ **Suave Pimp:** A pimp who uses sweetness and kindness to seduce women
- ▶ **Track/Stroll:** A street location for prostitution
- ▶ **Turnout:** Someone who recruits you into “the life”
- ▶ **Wife-in-Law:** A group of women who work for the same pimp
- ▶ **Dates/Johns/Trick:** Buyers/ Clients
- ▶ **In House:** Someone who works from inside a house
- ▶ **Out of Pocket:** To look at or talk to another pimp
- ▶ **Stay in Pocket:** To play by the rules of “the game”
- ▶ **Renegade:** To work for oneself or to not have a pimp
- ▶ **Pimps Up, Hos Down...** A reference to power and status or a rule of standing in the street and not being allowed on the sidewalk
- ▶ **Pimp Circle...** A group of pimps surrounding a girl for purposes of intimidation
- ▶ **Square:** Those who were never in “the life”
- ▶ **Squaring Up:** To get out of the game

You've ID, then what?

- ▶ What does the conversation look like?
 - ▶ What words are uncomfortable? Why?
 - ▶ Pimp, prostitution, sex work, ho-ing, daddy, game, life,
- ▶ What's the point?
 - ▶ Healing
 - ▶ Concrete options
 - ▶ Legal remedies
 - ▶ Benefits
 - ▶ Immigration
 - ▶ Services

What works?

- ▶ Goal: engagement and support
- ▶ Trauma-informed and strengths-based
 - ▶ Remove stigma/pathology
 - ▶ Breaking silence
 - ▶ Self-determination
 - ▶ Honoring survival
- ▶ Community of services
 - ▶ Basic: food, shelter, clothing
 - ▶ Crisis
 - ▶ Drug treatment
 - ▶ Counseling
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Employment
 - ▶ Ongoing support – “Keep showing up”

Now that we know, how do we respond?

Trauma – Informed care!

- ▶ Upholding a trauma framework helps us understand how our clients feel, behave, and present with themselves, other and their communities
- ▶ Understanding people's feelings and behaviors as adaptations to survive, and normal reactions to abnormal experiences, helps remove judgment and pathology
- ▶ Incorporating a trauma-informed approach allows the helper to connect with the client
- ▶ You don't need all the details!

Moving towards trauma-informed care!

Traditional models:

- ▶ What's wrong with you?
- ▶ Blaming
- ▶ Power and control
- ▶ Hierarchical
- ▶ Over reliance on diagnosis
- ▶ Safety as priority

Principles of TI Care:

- ▶ What's happened in your life? What's happened to you?
- ▶ Understanding the impact of trauma on individual
- ▶ Understanding of trauma reactions and ways reactions can be expressed
- ▶ Trauma reactions are normal in context of experience
- ▶ Removing pathology
- ▶ Transparency, flexibility, and firm boundaries
- ▶ Practitioner AND client have knowledge
- ▶ Worker is expected to be impacted by clients and work
- ▶ Safety as priority

Why is hard to uphold a trauma-informed framework?

- ▶ We're humans
- ▶ Requires living in the gray
- ▶ Acknowledging the horror in the world
- ▶ Impact of trauma and Vicarious trauma
- ▶ Our expectations v. reality

Common Terms

- ▶ Burnout: Focuses on the situation, the gap between what the helper is expected to do and what he or she is able to do
- ▶ Vicarious trauma: the negative changes that can take place in trauma workers across time



Expectations
of success

The diagram consists of an orange square on the left containing the text 'Expectations of success', a large black 'V' in the center, and an orange circle on the right containing the text 'Reality'.

V

Reality

Challenge your reaction:

- 1) Think of three challenging behaviors that could be reframed through a trauma-informed perspective
- 2) How does using a trauma-informed framework impact your understanding and/or practice of engagement?
- 3) Let's generate several new practices and questions for working with trafficking survivors:
 - ▶ Engagement strategy
 - ▶ What are several potential trafficking indicators/open doors to gain more information?
 - ▶ Several questions that specifically address trafficking

Big group debrief:

- ▶ Let's generate several new practices and questions for working with trafficking survivors:
 - ▶ Engagement strategy
 - ▶ What are several potential trafficking indicators/open doors to gain more information?
 - ▶ Several questions that specifically address trafficking

It takes a village:

Becoming a trauma-informed agency:

- ▶ Involves a change in the way we understand our work, structure our organizations, and we interact with survivors
- ▶ Requires a specific awareness of how trauma can affect our own responses and interactions with others
- ▶ Requires the intentional development of supports for ongoing reflection, learning, skill development and self-care to ensure that our interactions are consistent with our principles and to help sustain us in the work
- ▶ Take into account that the environment in which services are delivered can affect how services are received.

<http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/DVTraumaInformed-Programs.php>

Good Books

- ▶ Trauma Stewardship – Laura van Dernoot Lipsky
- ▶ Trauma and Recovery – Judith Herman
- ▶ The boy who was raised as a dog – Bruce Perry
- ▶ To the End of June – Cris Beam

Q and A

Contact Information

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