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Healing in Action

August 16, 2022 | Presented by:

Gretchen Schmelzer, PhD & Elsie Boudreau, MSW Child Welfare Academy, University of Alaska



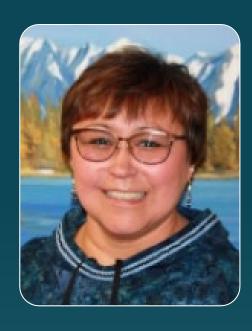


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The opinions expressed by presenters in their oral or written material are theirs alone, and do not necessarily represent those of the National Criminal Justice Training Center of Fox Valley Technical College or OVC.

Today's Presenters



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Welcome & Introductions

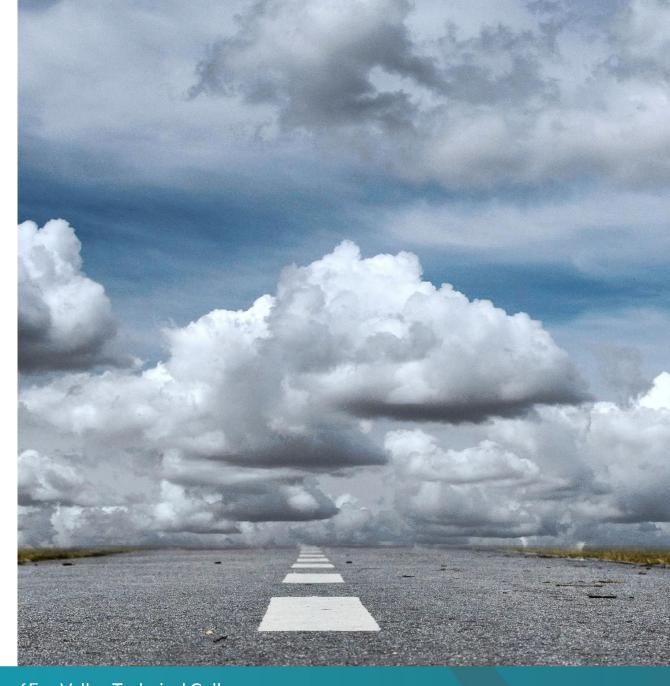
Our Journey: Healing in Action

Session 1: Webinar

Aug 16, 2022

Session 2: Community of Practice Sept 7, 2022





Learning Objectives



Understand the impact of repeated trauma on individuals



Learn the 5-phase cycle of healing trauma



Understand how trauma impacts emotional intelligence



Learn models and concepts you can apply with self, clients, team, colleagues



Expectations of You on this Journey:

- Be here: As a virtual participant, be as present as you are able.
- Help each other grow and learn.
- Respect each other; be sensitive; respect confidentiality.
- Take advantage of this opportunity.
- Be willing to commit to action.





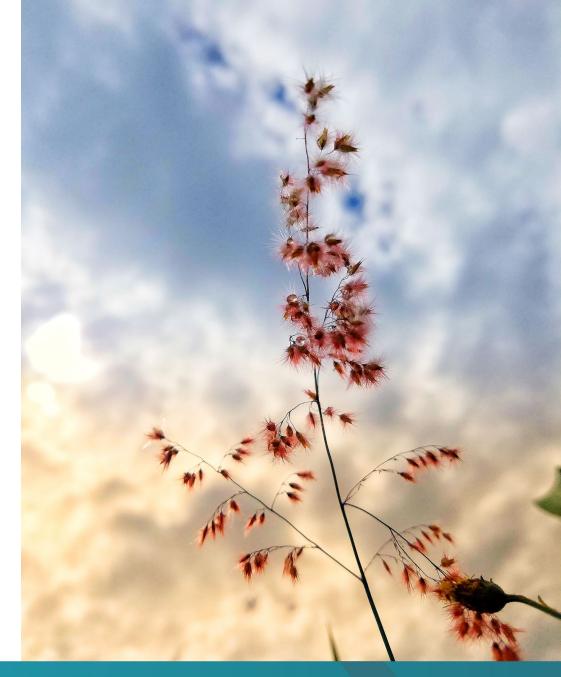


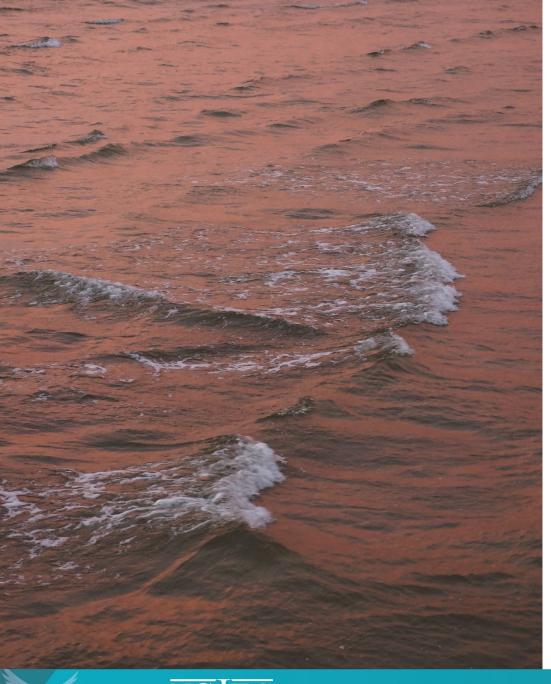
Trauma is a Leadership Issue

- We don't tend to think of the workplace as a place where we need to overtly work with trauma
- Adults spend most of their time at work
- Workplaces need to become places where we not only grow and develop, but where we can heal and repair
- Our work and homelife have become inextricably linked

The Purpose of Being Trauma Informed

- Awareness leads to understanding and action
- Impact of trauma on memory and the ability to tell a coherent narrative
- Impact of trauma on belief and capacity to ask for help
- Impact of trauma and secondary traumatic stress on you and the systems you work in, allowing proactive self-care and system change
- How to create a secure, solid environment





Signs and Symptoms of Vicarious Trauma

- Hopelessness
- Inability to embrace complexity
- Anger
- Cynicism
- Sleeplessness

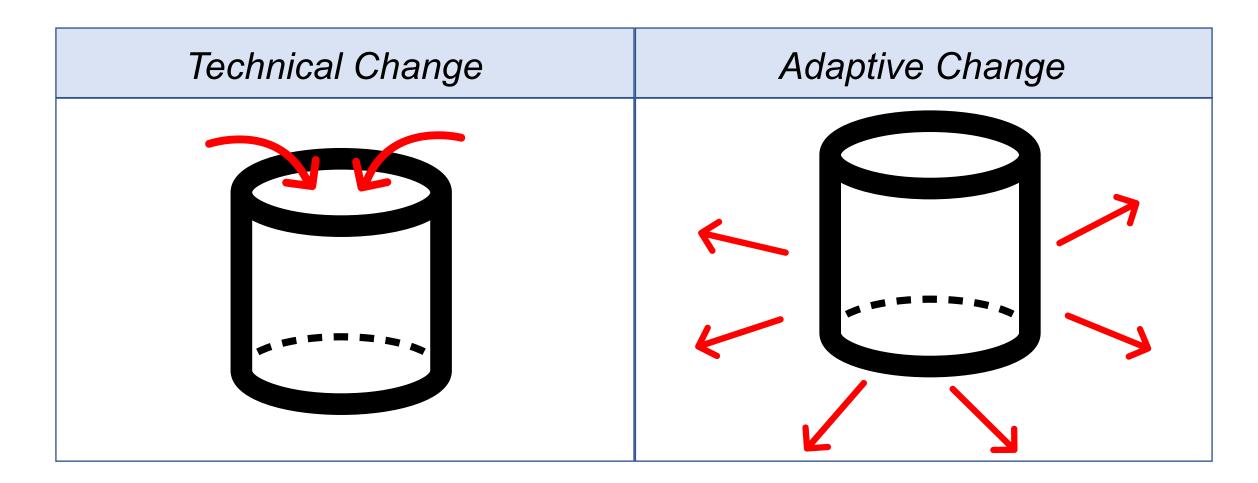
- Exhaustion
- Guilt
- Intrusive thoughts
- Nightmares
- Burnout

Let's Start with Healing

- 1) Healing
- 2) Emergence
- 3) Growth



Healing to Support Growth and Change



Healing and Growth are a Spiral

At some points you are lower on the spiral even though you have grown **Touchpoints**

Emotional Intelligence (E.Q.)

- Self Awareness
 - Emotional Self-Awareness
- Social Awareness
 - Empathy
 - Organizational Awareness



Goleman, Daniel. (2005). Emotional Intelligence. New York, Bantam

Emotional Intelligence (E.Q.)

- Self Management
 - Emotional self-control
 - Adaptability
 - Positive outlook
 - Achievement orientation
- Relationship Management
 - Teamwork
 - Inspirational leadership
 - Conflict management
 - Influence
 - Coaching/developing others



Goleman, Daniel. (2005). Emotional Intelligence. New York, Bantam



Acute Stress = Fight | Freeze

- Stress primes our body with energy
- This energy narrows our focus, increases our blood flow and directs all available energy to 'the problem'
- This method of stress response was designed with a 'physical' action-oriented problem in mind

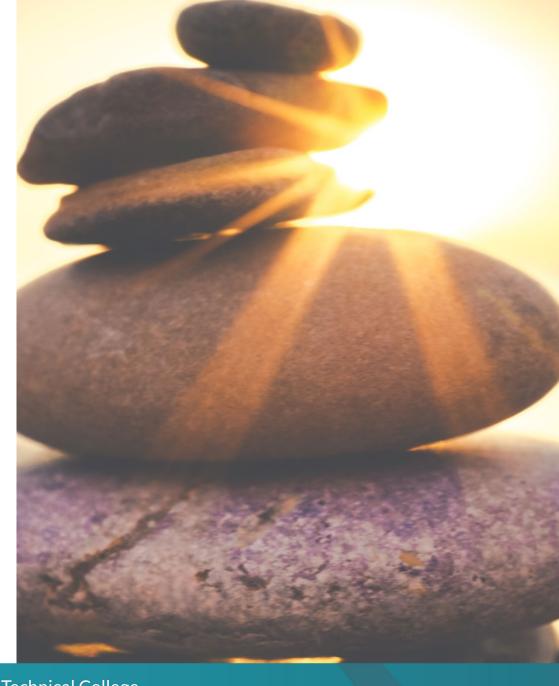
How do We Slow Down?

Breathing

Deep diaphragmatic breathing triggers the relaxation response in the body.

Connection

Find a calmer brain than your – our brains are an 'open loop.' Emotions are contagious and our limbic systems allow us to communicate emotions without words.



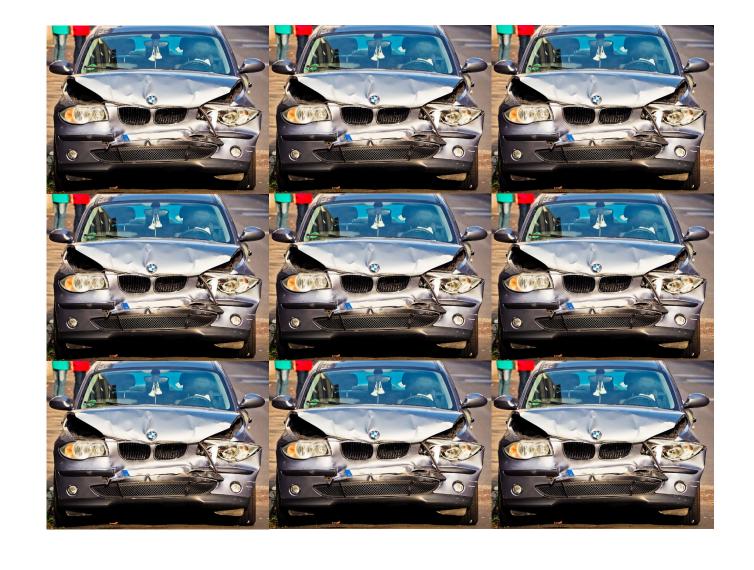


Acute Trauma

Trauma is an experience or event that overwhelms your capacity to defend or protect yourself.

The hallmarks of trauma are feelings of helplessness and terror.

What Happens When Trauma Gets Repeated?





Three Forms of Trauma

- ✓ What did happen
- ✓ What you did to survive: your protections
- ✓ What didn't happen

Vicarious Trauma – Secondary Traumatic Stress

- When you hear about first-hand trauma
- When you read accounts of trauma
- When you witness suffering
- Vicarious trauma is another form of repeated trauma
- Many professionals have their own history of trauma
- Vicarious trauma can lead to burnout, compassion fatigue, PTSD, and moral injury
- Hopelessness, inability to embrace complexity, anger, cynicism, sleeplessness, exhaustion, guilt, intrusive thoughts, nightmares, burnout

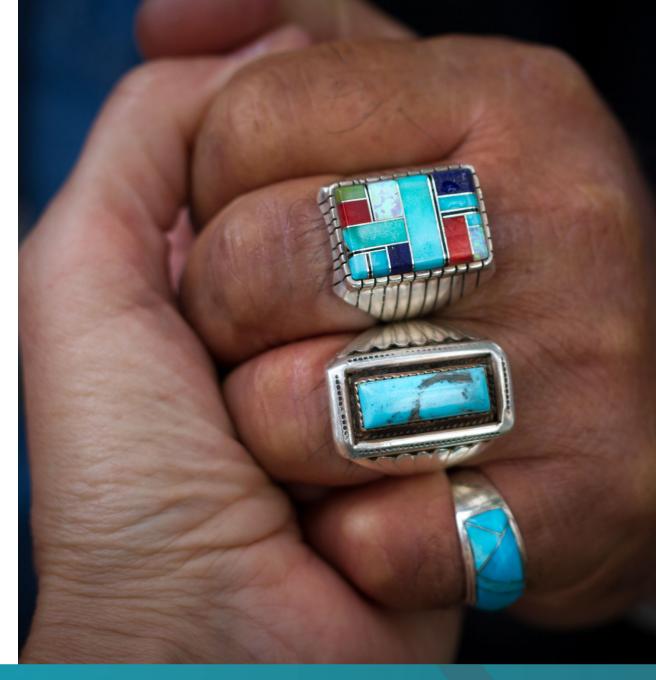


Intergenerational or Historical Trauma

Trauma that is passed down from a survivor to their descendants.

It is also called transgenerational or multigenerational trauma.

People experiencing intergenerational trauma may experience symptoms, reactions, patterns, and emotional and psychological effects from trauma experienced by previous generations (not limited to just parents or grandparents).





Moral Injury

Moral injury is not a 'psychological disorder.'

It's deeper than that—it hits identity, it hits values, spirituality, it hits at your very soul. It is the consequence of violating one's conscience, even if the act was unavoidable or seemed right at the time.

How Stress/ Trauma Impacts (E.Q.)

- Self Awareness
 - Numbing
 - Hyper-vigilance
 - Trauma impacts capacity for attention and focus
- Social Awareness
 - Low self-awareness makes it hard to understand others
 - Stress narrows focus--makes it hard to see big picture
 - Lack of understanding or trust in others



Schmelzer, (2021)

How Stress/ Trauma Impacts (E.Q.)

- Self Management
 - Hyper-arousal Fight/Flight/Freeze
 - Narrows the window of tolerance
 - Creates a fear of emotions
 - Foreshortened future
 - Rigid defenses/all or nothing behavior
- Relationship Management
 - Lack of trust/empathy impedes teamwork
 - "I have to do it myself"
 - Lower self-management impacts influence
 - Fear of negative emotions impedes conflict management



Schmelzer, (2021)

Trauma-Informed Communication Guide

Self	Relationship/Other Person	Context	Approach
Why is doing this work important to	Why is our meeting important for	What organizational stressors could	What are actions I am going to take
me?	this person?	be impacting this person?	in this conversation based on my
			reflections?
What are my values or purpose that	What experiences in their history or	Is there anything happening in the	
supports me?	current context that might impact	nation or world that could be	Is there preparation necessary?
	them in this interview?	impacting our conversation?	
			Does anyone else need to be
,	, ,	, ,	involved or informed?
me in this interview?	interact with this conversation?	impact our conversation?	
			What's the best pace of action?
, ,			
interact with this conversation?	-		What will I do to increase safety and
	trauma that you are aware of?	solid environment for both parties?	provide a solid container for our
1			work?
communicating effectively?			
	communicating effectively?		Why am I choosing this approach?
,			
•	0		
manner?	·		
	possible during the interview?		
<u> </u>			
or extra support?			
	Why is doing this work important to me? What are my values or purpose that	Why is doing this work important to me? What are my values or purpose that supports me? What experiences in my history or my current context that might impact them in this interview? What experiences in my history or my current context that might impact them in this interview? How might race, culture, gender (etc) interact with this conversation? How might get in my way of communicating effectively? What do I need to do to manage my emotions and words in a productive manner? How will I know I need to ask for help	Why is doing this work important to me? Why is our meeting important for this person? What are my values or purpose that supports me? What experiences in my history or my current context that might impact me in this interview? How might race, culture, gender (etc) interact with this conversation? What might get in my way of communicating effectively? What do I need to do to manage my emotions and words in a productive manner? Why is our meeting important for this person? What experiences in their history or current context that might impact them in this interview? What experiences in my history or current context that might impact them in this interview? What is the history here that might impact our conversation? What kind of environment can I create that will facilitate a secure solid environment for both parties? What might get in their way of communicating effectively? What might support them to manage their emotions and be as present at possible during the interview?



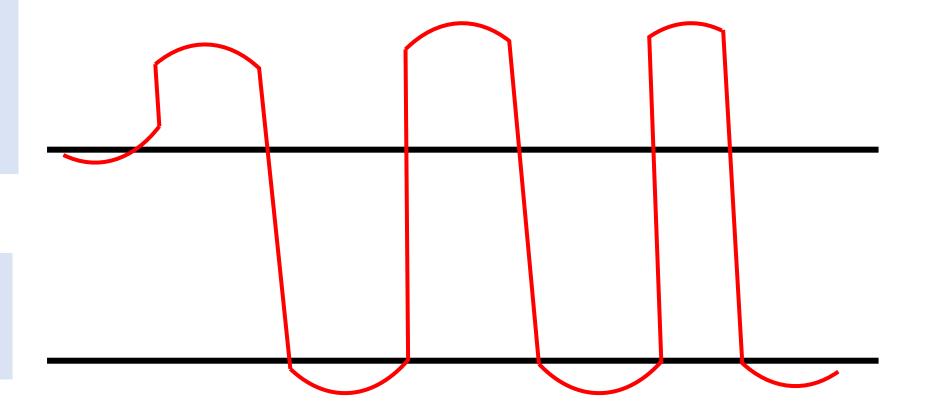
How Trauma Impacts Leaders: Rollercoaster of Extreme Stress

Hyperarousal

- High adrenaline
- Hypervigilant
- High energy
- Overstimulated
- Anxious/panic
- Angry

Hypo arousal

- Exhausted
- Numb
- Apathetic
- Boredom



Gilmartin, K. (2002). Emotional Survival for Law Enforcement: A guide for officers and their families. Tuscon, AZ: E-S Press.



Cultivating the "Window of Tolerance"

Window of Tolerance: the place where I can respond appropriately to stress and call on resilience

Hyperarousal

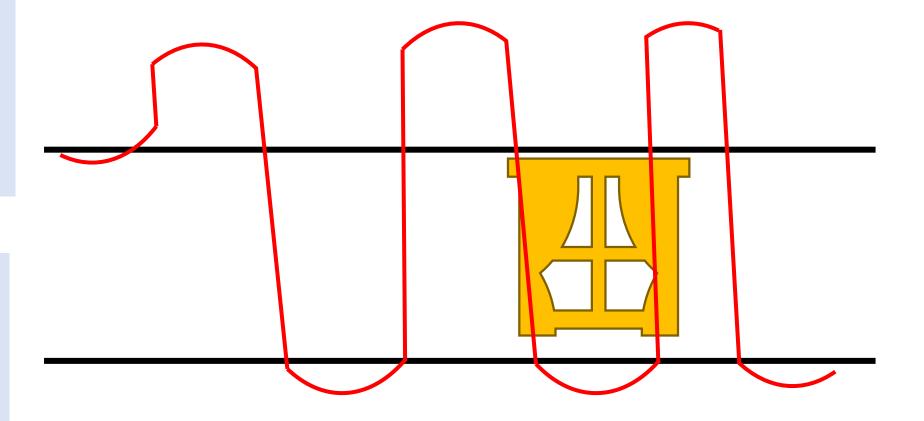
- High adrenaline
- Hypervigilant
- High energy
- Overstimulated
- Anxious/panic
- Angry

What you need: Soothing

Hypo arousal

- Exhausted
- Numb
- Apathetic
- Boredom

What you need: Connect with your body/feelings



Siegel, D. 2010 Mindsight, New York: Bantam

Own the Roller Coaster

- Own the roller coaster. Be aware of the impact on your body and brain - you have choices about what actions you can take.
- Plan your transitions: create a ritual that helps you connect with people and previous aspects of yourself.
- Avoid television, things that make you more likely to sit in 'numb' for too long.
- Attend to your body. Above the line, things that 'soothe' you. Below the line, things that bring you back into a feeling state.



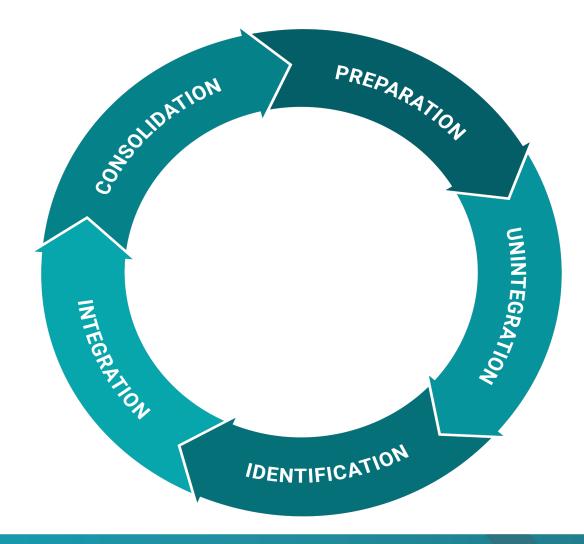


How Do We Heal From Repeated Trauma?

Healing is brave
Healing is possible
No one heals alone

5-Phase Cycle of Healing Repeated Trauma

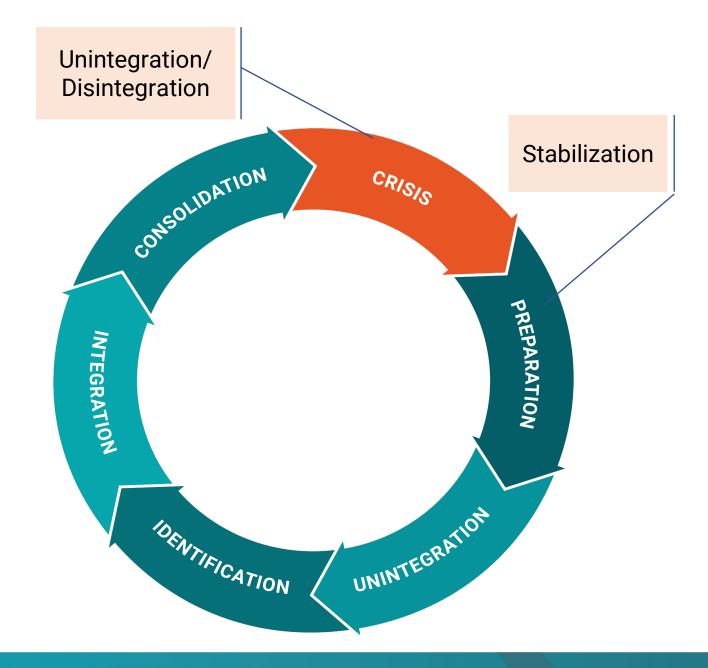
How do individuals, teams and communities recover from trauma?



Schmelzer, G. (2018). Journey Through Trauma. NY: Avery.

Crisis

When a crisis occurs (at any phase), return to Preparation



Schmelzer, G. (2018). Journey Through Trauma. NY: Avery.



The 5 Phase Cycle of Healing Through Trauma

Phase of the Cycle of Healing from Trauma	The Work
Preparation	Practice leaning into support and safety/Strengthen your resources or relationships
Unintegration	The area of a controlled coming apart where the experience of safety leads to a loosening of old protections; Emotions can feel overwhelming
Identification	The area of sorting, identifying, and experimenting where you take the pieces that come up in healing. You talk about them, name them, and begin to weave them into a story. This phase is iterative and requires lots of practice.
Integration	The area of weaving the pieces back together, where 'what did happen,' 'what didn't happen' and your protections all come together in the same place. Integration is made of up two main parts: mourning and new beginning.
Consolidation	The area of solidifying and stabilizing. This phase is about allowing yourself to live and practice the healing and growth that you have learned—with support and encouragement.

Schmelzer, G. (2018). Journey Through Trauma. NY: Avery.



Building and Sustaining a Trauma Informed Team or Organization

Stages of Healing	Trauma Informed System Growth	Task Inside the System
Preparation	Trauma Aware	Recognition and AwarenessStrengthening relationships, resources
Unintegration	Trauma Sensitive	KnowledgeReadinessInfrastructure
Identification	Trauma Responsive	Identifying roadblocksPrioritize actions
Integration	Trauma Informed	Implement ChangesOngoing support, development
Consolidation	Ongoing assessment, adjustment	AssessmentRoutine adjustment



Healing Conversations to Support Myself and My Teams

- What are some of my strengths I (we) can rely on?
- What are some routines that can support me (us)?
- Who is on my (our) 'team?' and can offer support? How can I communicate with them more effectively?
- What are some practices/activities that help me (us) feel grounded or more effective?
- How do I know it is time to slow down and get ourselves centered— or reconnect with dialogue? (How will we know..)

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✓ Community of Practice – Healing in Action

September 8, 2022 | 1:00 – 2:30 PM CT

✓ Emotional Intelligence

September 27, 2022 | 12:00 – 1:30 PM CT

✓ Homicide Survivor Advocacy

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