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## Trauma-Informed Services

July 17, 2024 | Presented by:

Dr. Anjali Nandi, PhD, MAC, LAC





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#### **Today's Presenter**

Dr. Anjali Nandi, PhD, MAC, LAC *Associate, NCJTC* 

#### **Learning Objectives**

- ✓ Obtain a deeper understanding of the impact of trauma on the brain.
- Gain at least three skills to attend to a trauma response.
- Acquire at least three ways to recognize and respond to their own trauma-response.



#### What is Trauma

- The experience of violence or victimization
- Threat to life or limb, loss of control
- Extreme stress that overwhelms the person's capacity to cope

#### **Impact of Trauma**

- Loss of mass in frontal cortex
- Dysregulated emotional system
- Re-experiencing the event
- Emotional numbing
- Lack of self-regulation



#### Intellectual & Emotional Brain

Intellectual (Logical) Brain

Forward looking

– future and
solution focused

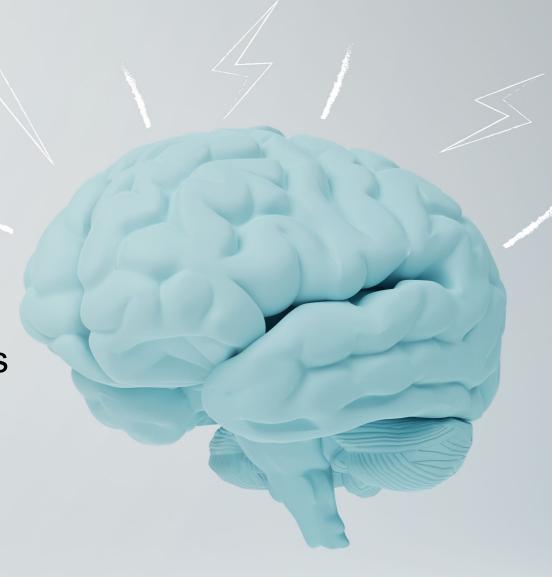


**Emotional Brain** 

Past focused – non-intellectual/non logical

#### **Limbic Lounge**

- Changes the way your brain and body work
- Impairs your judgment
- Rewires your brain to run on stress chemicals
- Causes inflammation



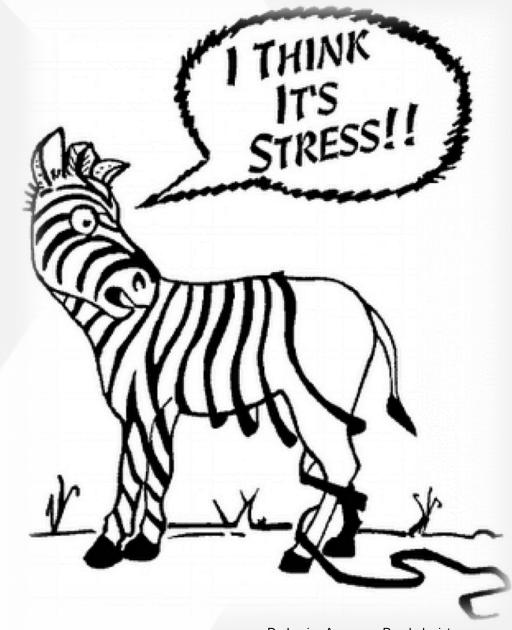
#### **Examples of Behavioral Changes**

- Decreased resilience to stress
- Increased impulsivity
- Increased risk-taking behavior
- Withdrawal

- Disconnection
- Reexperiencing
- Symptoms of depression
- Symptoms of anxiety

#### **Stress Continuum**

- Eustress
- Distress
- Short-term
- Long-term
- Traumatic
- Trauma response



Dr. Louise Aznavour, Psychologist



### Why Talk About Stress?

- Strong predictor of relapse
- Higher risk for chronic disease
- Increases risk and symptomology of mental health disorders
- Impact on resiliency
- Susceptibility to ACEs



#### **Toxic Stress**

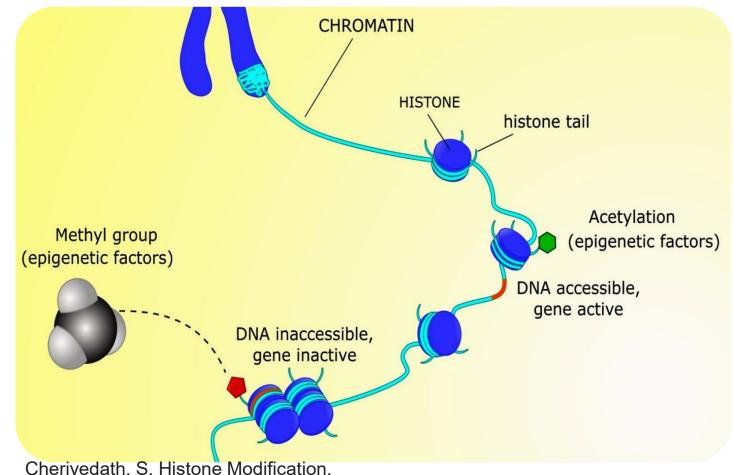
- Systemic issues
- Relational Stressors
- Poverty
- Food insecurity
- Historical Stressors



#### **Epigenetics: Intergenerational Transfer of** Risk and Resilience

Historical Trauma is "a constellation of characteristics associated with massive cumulative group trauma across generations."

- Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Braveheart (1999)



Cheriyedath, S. Histone Modification.

https://www.news-medical.net/life-sciences/Histone-Modification.aspx

#### **Examples of Negative Experiences**

- Emotional, physical, and sexual abuse
- Emotional and physical neglect
- Witnessing domestic violence
- Parental separation or divorce
- Living with someone who was misusing substances

- Living with someone who had a mental health disorder
- Living with someone who had gone to prison
- Racism
- Bullying
- Poverty

#### By the Numbers

- Experiencing trauma in childhood increases the odds of engaging in violent behavior as an adult by 200%
- An ACEs score of 4 or more increases the risk of suicide by 1200%
- People in the CJ system have 4 times as many ACEs as people in the general population
- Over 90% of juveniles in the CJ system report experiencing at least one traumatic event



# What Does Being Trauma-Informed Mean?



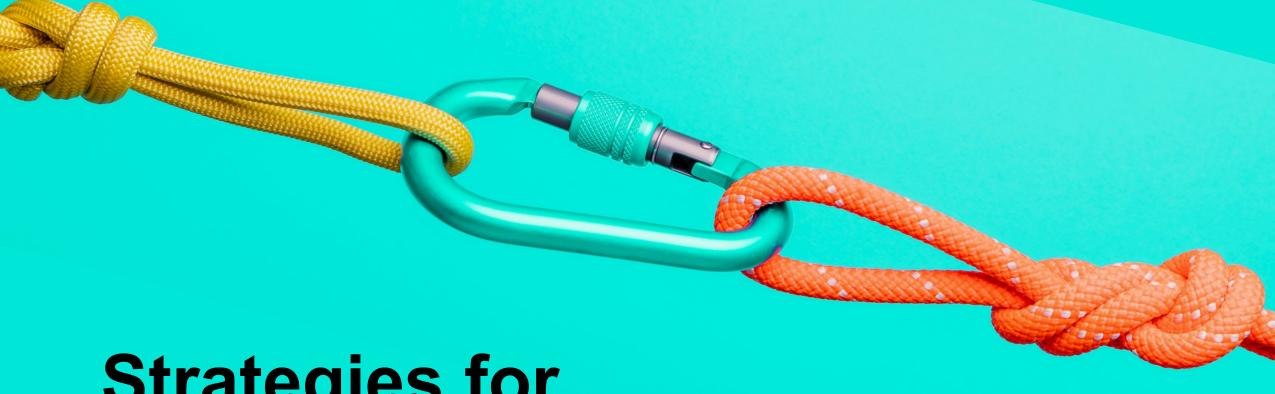
- Avoid re-traumatizing
- Recognizing what trauma is
- Using a different lens
- Flexible with consequences
- Sensitive to fear

- Being patient
- Not taking it personally
- Facilitate safety
- Be consistent
- Know when to refer

#### **Practical Tips**

- Engage the person, build relationship
- Provide a calm, soothing environment
- Give relaxed, unhurried attention
- Talk about their concerns
- Provide as much choice and control as possible
  - Making decisions develops the cortex
  - Involve the clients in decision-making
  - Avoid pathologizing behaviors





# Strategies for Resilience and Durability

#### **Un-Mirroring Ideas:**

- Sit up straight
- Cross or uncross legs
- Change breathing
- Take a sip of water

- Stretch
- Take a deep breath
- Exhale
- Break eye contact

Don't Play Trauma Tag!



## Managing our Mindset







- Focus and attention
- Being present
- Chemicals
- Social engagement
- Cortisol
- Resilience



# Community, Social Connection & Play

- Spend time together
- Rituals, prayer, meditation
- Reach out
- Reach out to someone

- Play, sing together
- Get outside
- Share food
- Share laughs



"Just because I understand, doesn't make your behavior okay."

Steve Maraboli

"Empathy without boundaries is self-destruction."

Silvy Khoucasian



#### Gratitude

- Write a thank-you note
- Write a letter of gratitude to yourself
- Keep a gratitude journal
- Count your blessings
- Express gratitude for the little things:
   "What can I be grateful for in this moment?"
- Pray



#### **Contact Information & Final Q&A**



NCJTC General Inquiries

> info@ncjtc.org www.ncjtc.org (855) 866-2582



Dr. Anjali Nandi, PhD, MAC, LAC anjalinandi@hotmail.com

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✓ Reentry Issues and Reintegration

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