



Trauma-Informed Legal Interviews & Intakes

Presented by Network for Victim
Recovery of DC



SERVES SURVIVORS OF ANY TYPE OF CRIME

From sexual assault to homicide and elder abuse.



FREE, HOLISTIC, TRAUMA- INFORMED SERVICES

Working together to increase access to services.



SURVIVOR-DEFINED JUSTICE

There's no "right" way to react to a crime.

Network for Victim Recovery of DC





THE PERSON CENTER



We are a nonprofit that serves and supports African Immigrant and Refugee survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in Washington DC.

TPC offers case management and crisis support for survivors, develops and facilitates community education workshops, professional trainings for community organizations and responders, and leads advocacy initiatives throughout the district.



JUST A NOTE

ON LANGUAGE

Victim v. Survivor

ON CONTENT

Will be covering case examples

SHORT & LONG-TERM SUPPORT - What's next?



TODAY'S DISCUSSION

- 1) Review Trauma & Its Impacts
- 2) Discuss the Interview Purpose
- 3) Identify Interview Best Practices



REVIEW TRAUMA & ITS IMPACTS ON CLIENTS



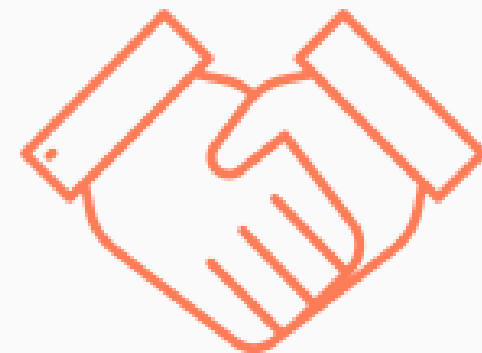
BEST PRACTICES



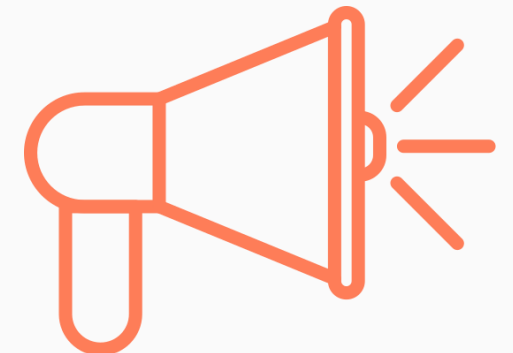
Build Trust &
Rapport



Respectful
approach to
victims



Recognize and
honor the role of
culture in
victimization



Advocate for
victims' choices
and rights





WHAT IS TRAUMA?

“EXPERIENCING TOO MUCH, TOO FAST, TOO SOON IN SUCH A WAY THAT ONE’S ABILITY TO COPE IS OVERWHELMED. LEAVING ONE FEELING POWERLESS, OUT OF CONTROL AND/OR SEVERELY DISCONNECTED FROM ONE’S SELF, FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND/OR BELIEFS.”

–Sandra Bloom, MD

TRAUMA PHASES



INITIAL CRISIS



LONG-TERM STRESS
REACTION



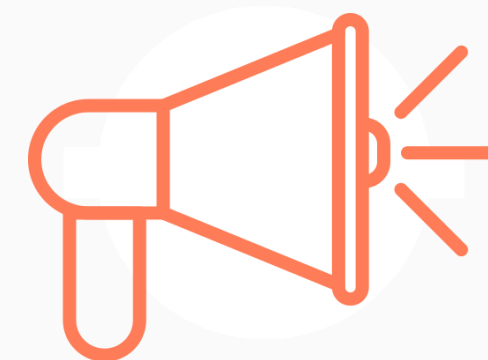
THE CRISIS REACTION: TRAUMA RESPONSES



PHYSICAL



EMOTIONAL



EXTERNAL





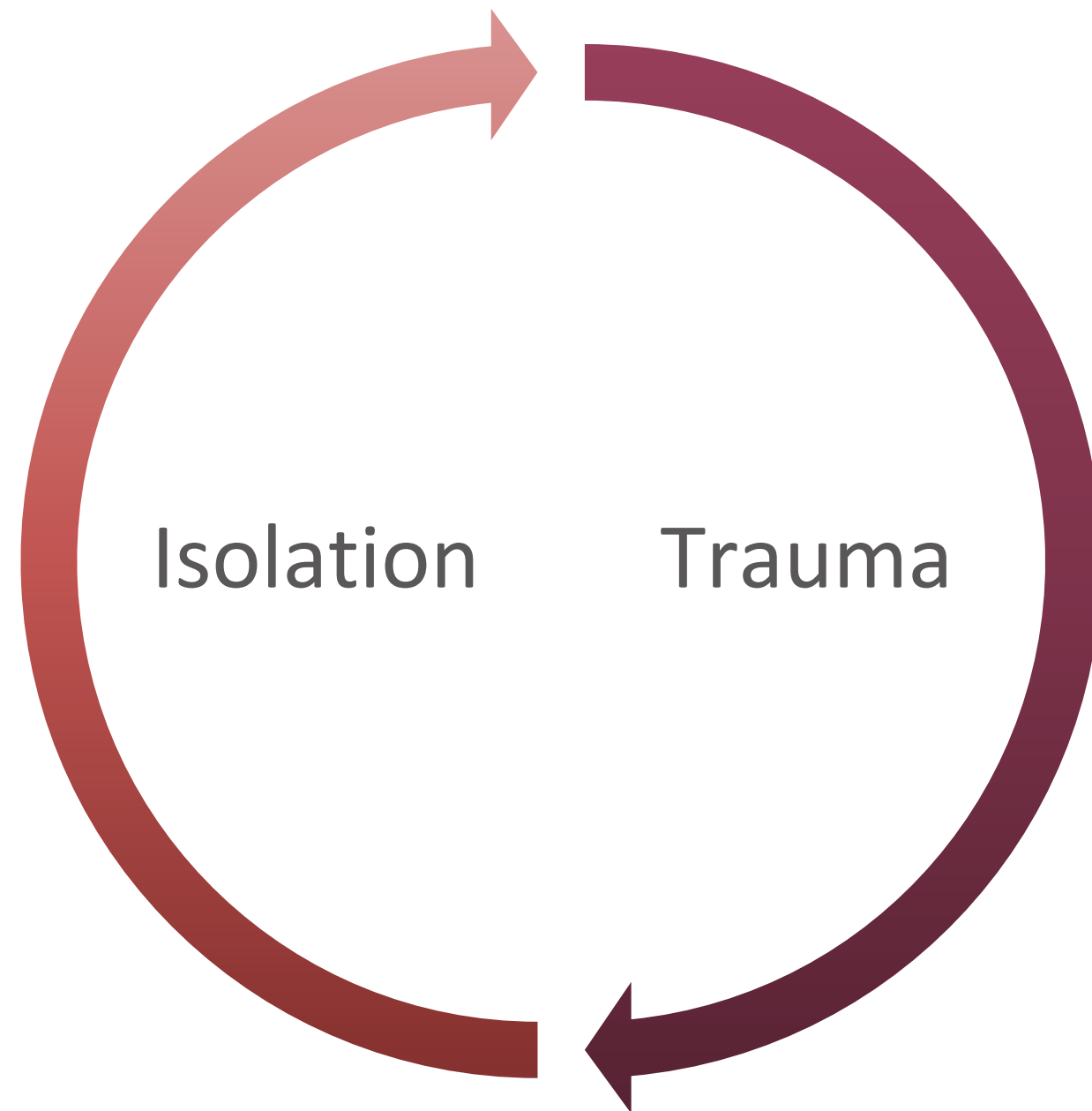
LONG-TERM STRESS REACTION

RE-EXPERIENCING THE EVENT

ACTUAL OR IMAGINED



SELF-REINFORCEMENT OF TRAUMA



DISCUSS INTERVIEW PURPOSE



DATA
COLLECTION

OBSERVATION &
DATA INPUTTING

INTERPRETING
INFORMATION

EMPOWERMENT
TOOL

Others?

The Interview Purpose





ASSUMPTIONS



REALIZES

RECOGNIZES

RESPONDS

RESISTS

REVISITS

IDENTIFY TRAUMA-INFORMED INTERVIEW AND INTAKE BEST-PRACTICES





TRAUMA-INFORMED INTERVIEW PRINCIPLES

SAFETY

TRUST &
TRANSPARENCY

PEER SUPPORT

COLLABORATION

EMPOWERMENT
& CHOICE

CULTURAL &
HISTORICAL LENS

Trauma-Informed Interview Approach



1) AFFIRM

2) ASK WHAT THEY CAN REMEMBER

3) ASK ABOUT THOUGHT PROCESS

4) ASK ABOUT SIGHTS, SMELLS, SOUNDS

5) ASK HOW IT AFFECTED THEM

6) ASK WHAT WAS MOST DIFFICULT

7) ASK WHAT THEY CAN'T FORGET





TRAUMA-INFORMED INTERVIEW APPROACH

Clarify other information (details) after facilitation and collection of the psychophysiological experiential evidence.

TRAUMA-INFORMED INTERVIEW FRAMEWORK

BEFORE

- 1) Check non-verbals
- 2) Set an agenda
- 3) Make it standard
- 4) Identify concerns & comfort
- 5) Create choice



TRAUMA-INFORMED INTERVIEW FRAMEWORK

DURING

- 1) Explain why
- 2) Ask permission
- 3) Be clear
- 4) Mind the questions



TRAUMA-INFORMED INTERVIEW FRAMEWORK

AFTER

- 1) Review
- 2) Talk next steps
- 3) Express thanks



COMMUNICATION



ACTIVE LISTENING

CHECK ASSUMPTIONS &
ASSOCIATIONS

KNOW BEST TIME



QUESTIONS



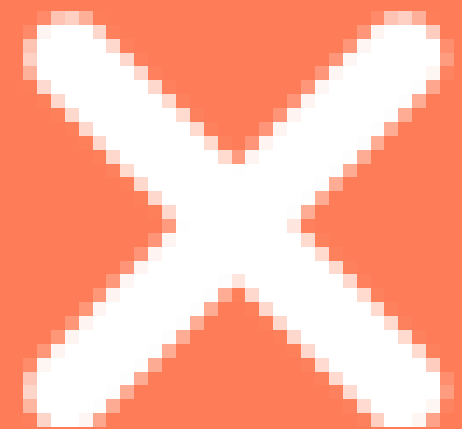
WHY MIGHT YOU NEED THEM?

EXPLAIN WHY

OPEN-ENDED



TRAUMA- INFORMED LANGUAGE



RECOMMENDATIONS



- Identify internal screening policies to identify trauma histories
- Offer trainings on trauma-informed service provision to **anyone** who will be interacting with clients
- Involve clients in identifying what they need from those of us in positions of power (social, professional, networking capital) to help implement the protective factors **they identify**
- Rethink 'respect'
 - Allow space
 - Allow for emotional fluctuation





NEUROSCIENCE OF TRUST



QUESTIONS? FEEDBACK?



FOR FEEDBACK ON TODAY'S PRESENTATION, VISIT:

bit.ly/NVRDC-Feedback



CONTACT US

For more information:

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- Call (202) 742-1727
- Email info@nvrdc.org
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