

Presents

When The Titanic Meets the Iceberg: Addressing the Trauma Beneath the Presenting Problem

> Presenter Mark Sanders, LCSW, CADC

## Lessons from History:

The Alcoholic Republic "Americans drank more alcohol per capita, the first 40 years after the signing of The Declaration of Independence than anytime in our nations history."

## Rationale

The British had all the tea

#### Water was impure

• Milk spoiled easily







Martha Washington Leader of the Temperance Movement



#### "We can't stagger to freedom." Frederick Douglass Leader of the Black Temperance Movement

## Benjamin Rush, M. D.



## First Surgeon General

## The Bill of Rights

The first 10 Amendments of the Constitution reflects all the things a trauma survivor would need to feel safe.

Amendment 1 Freedom of Speech

Amendment 2 The Right to Bear Arms

## Amendment 3 You don't have to let soldiers live in your house.

#### Amendment 4

Nobody can search your body or your house unless they can prove to a judge there is a good reason to do so.

#### Amendment 5

A grand jury is needed for you to be tried for a serious crime.

 The government can't just take your home without paying a fair price.

Amendment 6 You have a right to a speedy trial.

Amendment 7
You have a right to a jury trial.

Amendment 8

• You have a right to a reasonable bail.

#### Amendment 9

You have other rights not just those listed in the constitution.

#### Amendment 10

Anything that the constitution does not say that Congress can do, is left up to the states and the people.



# George Washington

## The National Residue of Our Historical Trauma

More guns than people

The highest homicide rate in the world

The highest imprisonment rate in the world

- Leads the world in illicit drug use – 70 – 90 %
- Leads the world in cigarette smoking

### Every Helping Professional Needs to be an Advocate for Trauma Informed Care

## A brief history

- Freud
- World War I
- World War II
- Vietnam War
- Modern Addictions and Mental Health Treatment
- The Woman's Movement
- The Trauma of Unemployment
- The ACES Study

#### Center for Disease Control and Prevention

### The Adverse Childhood Study (ACE)

### Research with Nearly 18,000 Adults

Discovered A Strong Correlation Between Early Childhood Trauma and Physical and Mental Illness in Adulthood

## ACE Study

<u>Directions</u> – For each "yes" answer, give yourself one point. For each "no" answer, give yourself zero points.

When you were growing up in your household, before age 18, did you have any of the following experiences?

- 1. Often had a parent or someone else in the household who swore at you, yelled at you, and sometimes, or often, acted in a way that made you believe you might be physically hurt. \_\_\_\_
- 2. Sometimes, often, or very often, were you pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at you, or hit so hard that you had marks or were injured?

# ACE Study Continued

3. An adult or person at least five years older ever touched you or fondled you in a sexual way, had you touch their body in a sexual way, attempted oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you or actually had oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you. \_\_\_\_

- *4. Were you ever mad to feel unloved, unprotected, and not special in your home?*
- 5. Were there times when you did not have food, clean clothes, and a place to live? If you were sick, were there times when an adult did not take care of you consistently? \_\_\_\_

# ACE Study Continued

6. Did you ever witness your mother or stepmother get pushed, grabbed, slapped, hit, or have something thrown at her? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Was there anyone in your household who was a problem drinker, alcoholic, or who used street drugs?

- 8. Did you live with a household member who was depressed, mentally ill, or attempted suicide? \_\_\_\_
- 9. Were your parents ever separated or divorced?
- *10. Did you ever have a household member who went to prison?*

### Ace Results

• If a client answers yes to 3 out of 10 ACE Study questions they are at an increase of developing an addiction, process or chemical

- If a client answers yes to 3 out of 10 questions they are at risk of developing a mental illness
- Answering yes to 4 out of the 10 questions increases the risk of a Co-occurring Disorder (Mental Illness and Addiction)

# Follow-up Research on the ACE Study

Year

2010

2009

 link between lung cancer and childhood trauma

 link between childhood trauma and premature death

• prescription drug abuse

# Follow-up Studies Continued

2008

• pulmonary disease and childhood trauma



mental illness in adulthood
cigarette smoking

2006

• early alcohol and drug use



homelessness in adulthood

# Follow-up Studies Continued

2004

depression in adulthood
liver disease
heart disease
teen pregnancy



illicit drug use
mental illness

# Follow-up Studies Continued



2001

2000

 alcoholism and depression in adulthood

 suicide attempts and risky sexual behavior

 HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases





Santa Claus

• The tooth fairy

Surprise birthday party

• How you feel about people as people

Dark Secrets



## Phobias

## • The intimate details of an affair

# Level II Dark Secrets

Your real ethnicity

• Adoption status

• Who your parents really are



## Secrets Theory

Everyone in the family knows the secret. They will repeat the secret across generations until the secret is openly dealt with.

Source: Family Secrets

## Level III Dark Secrets

Addictions

• Living with addictions

## Level IV Dark Secrets

These secrets cause the most damage if not discussed

- Incest
- Childhood sexual abuse
- Sexual assault
- Torture
- Witnessing extreme violence
- "The secret that you only tell once"

# **Diagnostic Categories and Treatment**


- The person has been exposed to a traumatic event
- Recurrent and intensive distressing recollections of the event
- Efforts to avoid conversations, activities, places and people that bring up memories of the event
- Difficulty falling or staying asleep, nightmares, flashbacks

#### Treatment

Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Exposure Therapy, EMDR, Cognitive Processing Therapy

# PTSD vs. Complex Trauma

With PTSD exposure to a specific traumatic event is required Complex Trauma Includes Multiple Layers and Years of Traumatic Experiences

- Neglect
- Abandonment
- Multiple placements
- Parental substance abuse
- Adult emotional unavailability
- Multiple losses
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Abuse

## Most Common Symptoms of Complex Trauma

- Difficulty regulating emotions
- Difficulty with impulse control
- Negative self-image
- Difficulty concentrating (ADD)
- Aggression (Conduct Disorder)
- PTSD
- Substance Abuse

62% 60% 56% 12%

65%

63%

*10%* 

#### Treatment

Cognitive Behavioral Treatment, Anger Management, Mindfulness Meditation, ARC Model etc.,

#### Historical Trauma

A cumulative emotional and psychological wounding over the lifespan and across generations, emanating from massive group trauma

- Brave Hart, 2000



## Historical Trauma Features

- Loss of culture
- Survivor guilt
- Depression
- Traumatic stress symptoms
- Numbing
- Low self esteem

## Historical Trauma Features Continued

- Historical unresolved grief
- Substance use
- Suicidal ideations
- Traumatizing others at the micro and macro levels



#### NEW YORK TIWES BESTSELLER

# Tattoos on the Heart

#### THE POWER OF BOUNDLESS COMPASSION



#### Gregory Boyle Feaster of Bomebay Industries

Winner of the 2011 PEN Center LGA Garrary Award for Creative Notifiction

## The Healing of Historical Trauma

- Awakening and Collective Commitment Mass Mobilization
- Personal and Collective Mourning
- Forgiving the Unforgivable
- Return to culture
- Achieving a new harmony
- Cultural revitalization and celebration

White and Coyhis

# 24 -7 - 365 Terror

#### An Existential Concern

How long do African American and Latino males live?

## Dispelling the Myth

500 – 700 murders annually

40,000 annual births in Chicago

> 2.7 million residents

#### Dispelling the Myth Continued

*9 million residents of Cook County* 

*112 murders in Englewood over last 20 years* 

73 thousand residents of Englewood

Life expectancy of African American men in Chicago is age 70. Hispanic Latino males age 73

# 3 Waves of Trauma Informed Treatment

#### First Wave

Psychodynamic Approaches Judith Hermann Safety Remembering and mourning Reconnection

- Finding a survivor mission
- Striving to reach your potential



Cognitive Behavioral Therapies



**Experiential Approaches** 



September 11th survivors were asked what helped them most with their trauma • Acupuncture Massage • Yoga Movement









Agency's Have an Ethical Responsibility to Create Trauma Informed System of Care

A trauma informed system of care recognizes and therapeutically responds to the impact of traumatic stress on those who have contact with the system from the initial phone call, through termination and follow-up. In a trauma informed system of care every member of the service team has an awareness of their role in reducing the impact of trauma on those seeking services.

# The First 5 Minutes of Contact

A warm greeting

- Pictures on the wall
- Magazines in the waiting room
- A short wait
- An inviting waiting room
- Positive service energy

## Principles of Trauma Informed Care Continued

- Parallel Process- How we treat each other impacts how we treat clients
- Do no harm

# Do No Harm

Avoid heavy confrontation Use person first language Avoid stigmatizing language > Addict > Dopefiend > Dirty drop > Clean

• Natural consequences rather than punishment

#### Do No Harm Continued

Client is in charge of disclosure

Missing details are ok

• One experience can stand for many

Healthy boundaries

#### Types of Family Boundaries

Loose- everyone is doing their own thing, no one is aware of what's going on with other family members

- Enmeshed- family members are too close
- Healthy- everyone is allowed the 5 freedoms

## The Five Freedoms

To think what you think rather than what you should think

- To feel what you feel rather than what you should feel
- To want what you want rather than what you should want
- To see what you see rather than what you should see
- To imagine your own self actualization

#### The Goal is: Differentiation of Self

The ability to establish healthy boundaries when the system is pushing you towards enmeshment. This involves:

- Assertiveness
- The ability to say no
- Emotional preparation
- The ability to observe rather than react
- A healthy family of choice

#### Emotional Cut Offs

How individuals distance themselves from enmeshment without doing the work of differentiation of self.

- Drug use
- Homelessness
- Discontinuation of medication
- Prison
- Caller ID
- Go to war

Emotional Cut Offs Continued

How individuals distance themselves from enmeshment without doing the work of differentiation of self.

• Joining a gang or a cult

• An addictive relationship

o Smothering

• Suicide

#### Do No Harm Continued

#### Paternalism

- Discharge for confirming the diagnosis
- Keeping clients in therapy too long
- Treating aftercare as an afterthought
- Dual relationships
- Sexual exploitation
- Professional desertion
- *Guard against burnout and compassion fatigue*

# Sign of Compassion Fatigue

- Loss of energy
- Loss of hope
- Loss of idealism
- Spiritual distress
- Shift in your world view
- Depersonalization

# Depersonalization

#### **Compassion Fatigue Protective Factors**

Laughter

Feelings of appreciation

• Team cohesion

• Outlets to discuss traumatic experiences