## Agenda

## Creating a Trauma Informed School: Implementing School-Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports <br> Diane LaMaster Midwest PBIS Network

- Self Care
- What is Trauma?
- Trauma and the Brain
- Fight, Flight, and Freeze
- Trauma Informed Classroom Practices
- Integrating Trauma into the Current System
- Action Steps/Planning


WHY WE ARE STARTING HERE


## SELF CARE

## The Cost of Caring

- VICARIOUS TRAUMA (1982 Perlman \& sackivine, 1995)
- Profound shift in world views that occurs in helping professions when working with those who have experienced trauma. Fundamental beliefs are altered.
- COMPASSION FATIGUE (Figier,)
- Profound emotional and physical erosion that takes place when helpers are unable to refuel and regenerate
- BURNOUT
- Physical and emotional exhaustion that workers can experience when they have low job satisfaction, feel powerless and overwhelmed at work.

46\% of teachers report high daily stress during the school year.' That's tied with nurses for the highest rate among all occupational groups.

[^0]Causes and Consequences of Teacher Stress


Be prepared to share out with the large group.

## What is self-care?

Self-care has been defined as providing adequate attention to one's own physical and psychological wellness (Beauchamp \& Childress, 2001).

FIND A PARTNER
HOW DO YOU DEFINE SELF-CARE
WHAT DOES SELF CARE ACTUALLY LOOK LIKE?
Is self-care selfish?

## Self care means

 paying attention to what you need:

## SIGNS OF STRESS

- Exhaustion. This is a fatigue so deep that there's no way to "turn it off," no matter how badly you want to. It's deep in your bones. The kind of tired where you just want to ooze into your bed and disconnect from life.
- Extreme graveness. Realizing you go hours without smiling or laughing, or days without a belly laugh.
- Anxiety. The constant, nagging feeling that you can and should do more, while simultaneously realizing you need to unplug and spend more time with your family. But there are so many things to do.
- Being overwhelmed. Questioning how they can possibly add one more task, expectation, or mandate to your plate. Compromising your values of excellence just so you can check-off 15 more boxes to stay in compliance. All the while knowing it still won't be enough.
- Seeking. Losing your creativity, imagination, patience, and enthusiasm for daily challenges. Craving reflection time and productive collaboration rather than group complaining.
- Isolation. Wanting to head for the deepest, darkest cave where no one will see your vulnerability. A place where your limits are unseen and unquestioned and all is quiet.

1. Be aware of the signs.
2. Don't go it alone.
3. Recognize compassion fatigue as an occupational hazard.
4. Seek help with your own traumas.
5. If you see signs in yourself, talk to a professional.
6. Attend to self care

Resource: Figley, C.R. (1995). Compassion fatigue: Coping with secondary traumatic stress disorder in those who treat the traumatized. New York: Brunner/Mazel, Inc.

## Let's review! We know...

- There is a history of research around the impact of stress
- Stress impacts educators \& students

Signs and symptoms

- We need a self-care plan



## WHAT ABOUT...

What does this have to do with being in my classroom, in the heat of the moment, when I am trying to support a student who has experienced trauma?


- What state are we in?
- Are we regulated?
- How do we 'see’ behavior?
- Is my state of mind really that important?

I need to be regulated so I can help them regulate.

## WHAT IS TRAUMA?

## What are we talking about?

Extreme or chronic stress that overwhelms a person's ability to cope \& results in feeling vulnerable, helpless \& afraid

- Can result from one event or a series of events
- Event(s) may be witnessed or experienced directly
- Experience is subjective
- Often interferes with relationships; self regulation; \& fundamental beliefs about oneself, others \& one's place in the world


## Affects learning

## Affects school performance

Adversely affects students' ability to ...

- Acquire language \& communication skills
- Understand cause \& effect
- Take another person's perspective
- Attend to classroom instruction
- Regulate emotions
- Engage the curriculum
- Utilize executive functions
- Make plans
- Organize work
- Follow classroom rules

Lower scores on standardized achievement tests
(Goodman et al, 2011)
Substantial decrements in IQ, reading achievement \&
language (Delaney-Black et al, 2002)
2.5x more likely to be retained
(Grevstad, 2007; Sanger et al, 2000; Shonk et al, 2001)
Suspended \& expelled more often
(Grevstad, 2007; Sanger et al, 2000; Shonk et al, 2001)
Daniel \& Zarling (2012)

## Misreading cues

Young children impacted by adverse experiences spend much time in a low-level state of fear learning to read adults' non-verbal cues to keep themselves safe

- Their safety depends upon knowing when an adult becomes a "dangerous bear"
Student may not interpret innocent or neutral looks, actions, \& touches from others at school as benign
- Difficult for student to re-learn these cues as meaning different things in different environments

Adapted from Chris Dunning

## Impact on student's view of world



- I live in a predictable \&
benevolent world
- I am worthwhile
- I am hopeful \& optimistic about my future
- I have the ability to impact \& change my life


## Developmental

- The world is not safe
- People want to hurt me
- I am afraid
- No one will help me
- I am not good/smart/ worthy enough for people to care about me
- It will never get better
- I need to establish personal power \& control
- These students may be in a persistent physiological state of alarm
" (constant "yellow alert")
- Likely to be more reactive than peers, as external stressors are introduced (e.g., complicated task at school, disagreement with a peer)
- Fight, flight, freeze
- Over-reading possibility of threat leads to lower brain functioning \& impulsive acts
- e.g., striking out physically or verbally, leaving the classroom, shutting down
- Student views his/her actions as defensive \& justified


## Adverse Childhood Experiences


https://www.samhsa.gov/capt/tools-learning-resources/aces-risk-factors-substancemisuse

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Conducted at Kaiser Permanente 1995-1997

Over 17,000 HMO members

Questions regarding childhood experiences and current health status and behaviors

## Silently complete the ACE's scale for yourself.

## You will not be asked to share your information.



## Prior to your 18th birthday:

1) Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often... Swear at you, insult you, put you down, or humiliate you? or Act in a way that made you afraid that you might be physically hurt? No $\qquad$ If Yes, enter 1 $\qquad$
2) Did a parent or other adult in the household often or very often... Push, grab, slap, or throw something at you? or Ever hit you so hard that you had marks or were injured?
3) Did an adult or person at least 5 years older than you ever... Touch or fondle you or have you touch their body in a sexual way? or Attempt or actually have oral, anal, or vaginal intercourse with you?
4) Did you often or very often feel that ... No one in your family loved you or thought you were important or special? or Your family didn't look out for each other, feel close to each other, or support each other?
5) Did you often or very often feel that ... You didn't have enough to eat, had to wear dirty clothes, and had no one to protect you? or Your parents were too drunk or high to take care of you or take you to get care?
6) Were your parents ever separated or divorced?

7) Was your mother or stepmother:

Often or very often pushed, grabbed, slapped, or had something thrown at her? or Sometimes, often, or very often kicked, bitten, hit with a fist, or hit with something hard? or Ever repeatedly hit over at least a few minutes or threatened with a gun or knife?
8) Did you live with anyone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic, or who used street drugs?
9) Was a household member depressed or mentally ill, or did a household member attempt suicide?
10) Did a household member go to prison?

Now add up your "Yes" answers: This is your ACE Score


## Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Physical, emotional or sexual abuse
- Emotional or physical neglect
- Growing up with family members with mental illness, alcoholism or drug problems
- Family violence
- Incarcerated family member
- One or no parents
- Parental divorce


## Study Findings

Adverse Childhood Experiences are common

- Two-thirds reported at least 1 ACE
- 1 in 6 people reported 4 or more ACEs

Those with 4 or more ACEs were:

- Twice as likely to smoke
- Seven times as likely to be alcoholics
- Six times as likely to have had sex before 15
- Twice as likely to have cancer or heart disease
- Twelve times more likely to have attempted suicide

Men with six or more ACEs
46 times more likely to have injected drugs than men with no history of adverse childhood experiences

## Life Long Impact

ACEs strongly correlated to risk for disease and well-being factors throughout life

- Alcoholism or alcohol abuse
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Depression
- Financial stress
- Suicide attempts
- Adolescent pregnancy
- Poor academic achievement

Source: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study. Information available at: http://www.cdc.gov/ace/index.htm

Demographics of those in the study

- College educated
- Middle Class
- Mostly Caucasian


## That Exacerbate Over Time



## ACES Impacts Learning

$51 \%$ of children with 4+ ACE scores had learning and behavior problems in school

Compared with only $3 \%$ of children with NO ACE score

Source: Burke, N.J., Hellman, J.L., Scott, B.G., Weems, C.F \& Carrion, V.C. (June 2011 ). "The Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences on an Urban Pediatric Population," Child Abuse and Neglect, 35, No. 6.

## Prevalence



## Key Triggers for Students

- Lack of personal power or control
- Unexpected change
- Feeling threatened or attacked
- Feeling vulnerable or frightened
- Feeling shame
- Positive feelings or intimacy

Triggers can be internal and/or external

## How do we see these students?

Uninformed view

- Anger management problems
- May have ADHD
- Choosing to act out \& disrupt classroom (e.g., disrespectful or manipulative)
- Uncontrollable, destructive
- Non-responsive


## Uninformed response

- Student needs consequences to correct behavior or maybe an ADHD evaluation


## Informed view

- Maladaptive responses (in school setting)
- Seeking to get needs met
- Difficulty regulating emotions
- Lacking necessary skills
- Negative view of world (e.g., adults cannot be trusted)
- Trauma response was triggered

Informed response

- Student needs to learn skills to regulate emotions \& we need to provide support


## Teacher responses to student outburst

> "Ashley just transferred into my 5th grade classroom after being placed in foster care. I wanted to make her feel welcome. I moved to put my hand lightly on her shoulder when I was explaining an assignment \& she slapped my hand away. Then she stared at me defiantly."

- Teacher response \#1 - teacher-centered
- Teacher response \#2 - student-centered


## Uninformed teacher response

"Why she just decided to slap me is beyond me. I was trying to be helpful \& welcoming. Her reaction was totally out of proportion to the situation. Physical aggression simply cannot be tolerated or excused. She needed to learn that right away. There had to be immediate \& significant consequences if I'm to maintain order in my classroom. When I tried to remove Ashley to the office, she just lost it. Instead of complying, she chose to struggle \& started kicking me. I don't like to see students suspended from school, but Ashley needs to learn that she cannot behave that way in school."

## Informed teacher response

"I must have frightened Ashley without meaning to. It's clear she does not want to be touched. She may have other triggers, as well. Right now she is hyper-aroused \& feels cornered. If I put any extra demands or expectations on her right now, she could escalate \& that will just make the situation worse. I told Ashley we would talk about what just happened when she calms down. I need to help her feel safe or she won't be able to learn in my classroom. I know it's common for kids in foster care to have multiple adverse experiences. I need to find out more about what her needs are, maybe from her school records or from her foster parents \& the caseworker. If I need to, I'll contact our Building Consultation Team for support."

## Schools that are sensitive to adverse child experiences

- Recognize the prevalence \& impact of traumatic occurrence in students' lives \&
- Create a flexible framework that provides universal supports, are sensitive to the unique needs of students \& are mindful of avoiding re-traumatization.


## TRAUMA AND THE

 BRAIN
## Bottom-Up Development



Typical Development
Cognition
Social/
Emotional
Regulation
Survival


Adapted from Holt \& Jordan, Ohio Dept. of Education

## UPSTAIRS BRAIN

- Made up of cerebral cortex/parts behind forehead (middle prefrontal cortex)

- More evolved and fuller perspective
- Highly sophisticated
- Intricate mental processes
- Higher order and analytical thinking
- Planning
- Control over emotions
- Self-understanding
- Empathy
- Morality


## DOWNSTAIRS BRAIN

- Brain stem and limbic region
- Lower parts of the brain
- Top of neck to bridge of nose
- More primitive
- Basic functions
- Breathing and blinking
- Innate reactions \& impulses
- Fight/flight


THE WHOLE BRAIN CHILD: 1212 REVOLUTIONARY STRATEGIES TO NURTURE YOUR CHILD'S DEVELOPING MIND DANIEL J. SIEGEL, TINA PAYNE BRYSON

Amygdala (uh-MIG-duh-luh)



Cortex- Thinking /Cognitive Learning Part : $A B C$ 's, geography, algebra, etc.

Make sure these lower parts of the brain are regulated-
patterned, repetitive, sensory experiences (i.e. jumping jacks, jump rope, music). Literally quiet down the lower part so the top part can be receptive to cognitive input
Early in life: If this part doesn't develop properly, the top part can't either
fight, flight or freeze response

Noticeable Effects

- Pupils dilate
- Mouth goes dry
- Muscles tense
- Heart pumps faster
- Breathing rate increases
- Chest pains
- Palpitations
- Perspiration
- Hyperventilation


## Hidden Effects

- Brain prepares body for action
- Adrenaline released
- Blood pressure rises
- Liver releases glucose to provide energy for muscles
- Digestion slows or ceases
- Cortisol released (depresses immune system)

What are we going to do? The 3 R's

## egulate

## elate


"Until a child is regulated (i.e., feeling physically and emotionally settled), he is unlikely to be able to relate to you (i.e., feel connected and comfortable). And until a child has related, he is unlikely to have the mental capacity to fully engage with you in the higher level cognitive processes (reason) that are critical for problem-solving, like perspective taking, predicting the future, and considering multiple
solutions."
(This is not just true for traumatized children, but for all children... and adults too!)

## What does it mean to REGULATE?

"Fostering relational rhythm through movement, music, breathing, and other safe patterned sensory based, neural experiences is the best way to create, instill, and maintain regulation."

- Rhythmic Activities
- Repetitive Breathing activities
- Music
- Dance
- Walking
- Drawing
- "QUIET" the stress response system
- LOWER the state of arousal


## What does it mean to RELATE?

- Meaningfully connected
- Developing, Educating, and Healing
- Being able to internalize learning new things
The best way to feel safe is in the
- Copy Cat
- Hot/Cold context of a nurturing, predictable relationship




## What does it mean to REASON?

Capacity to fully engage in:

- problem-solving
- like perspective taking
- predicting the future
- Inquiry
- Considering multiple solutions
- Multi-player thumb war
- Group drumming
- Sidewalk chalk
- Board Games
- Classroom Professions (jobs)


## Think-Pair-Share

## Impact of Teachers

What are some strategies you already use in your classroom to help students reach their cortex for learning?

THINK: Individually for 60 seconds
PAIR: Shoulder partner (3 minutes)
SHARE: Table time (4 minutes)

- Teachers often sell their power short
- The brain has the ability to create memory and if there is one adult who sees them as special, a kid can use that the rest of his/her life.
- You can never underestimate the power of a single positive interaction

Imagine this...you are sitting in a beautiful meadow eating a delicious gourmet meal of cheese, French bread and chocolate


You hear a sound, you look behind you and you see a BEAR.


A Big. Brown. Mamma. BEAR. And its cub.



FUNNY PICTURES ON KUEFOTO.COM 4


## MOWISTHS MRITRMTET




## ALWAYS ON GUARD!



What Flight, Fight, or Freeze Looks Like in the Classroom

| Flight | Fight | Freeze |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| - Withdrawing | - Acting out | - Exhibiting numbness |
| - Fleeing the classroom | - Behaving <br> aggressively | - Refusing to answer |
| - Skipping class | - Acting silly | - Refusing to get needs met |
| - Daydreaming | - Exhibiting defiance | - Giving a blank look |
| - Seeming to sleep | - Being hyperactive | - Feeling unable to <br> move/act |
| - Avoiding others | - Arguing |  |
| - Hiding or wandering | - Screaming/yelling |  |
| - Becoming disengaged |  |  |

## How to Help

- TIME—time to respond to questions, time to deescalate
- CALM Predictable environment
- CHOICES—true choices with wait time


## TRAUMA INFORMED CLASSROOM PRACTICES

- Firm limits on negative behavior with NO acceptance of bullying/teasing
- Key in on areas of competence


## How to Help

- Frequent repetition of expectations, practiced not just verbally but in role plays of real-life scenarios
- Modeling of respectful, nonviolent relationships
- Safe spaces within the school
- A not too serious environment-too serious is usually perceived as reason to be fearful in traumatized children
- Modified, gentle criticism
- Opportunity for more successes than failures
- Praise publicly, criticize privately


## Low and Slow

- Lower the volume and pitch of your voice
- Keep a matter of fact tone regardless of the situation
- Speak in short sentences without a lot of questions
- Don't preach- this is about talking with the student, not at the student.
- Slow your self down by slowing down your heart rate
- Take slow, deep breaths
- Slow down your rate of speech and make sure to pause between sentences
- Slow down your body movements
- Slow down your agenda and take your time


8 Positive Behavioral Classroom Supports

1. Arrange orderly physical environment
2. Define, Teach, Acknowledge Rules and Expectations
3. Define, Teach Classroom Routines
4. Employ Active Supervision
5. Provide Specific Praise for Behavior
6. Continuum of Response Strategies for Inappropriate Behaviors
7. Class-Wide Group Contingency
8. Provide Multiple Opportunities to Respond

## Why Trauma Informed?

| Examp/es of How Classroom Practices Are Trauma informed |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |

INTEGRATING TRAUMA INTO THE CURRENT SYSTEM

## TFI Sub-Scale: Team

TFI 1.1 Team Composition
TFI 1.2 Team Operating Procedures

Which building teams will need a trauma informed lens?

- Tier 1 team
- Building Leadership Team
- Tier 2 team
- Individual student teams
- Problem solving teams

How does trauma lens change the conversation?

- Tier 1: Consider how school-wide and classroom practices are supporting all students. Is there need for more support for all students?
- Tier 2: How are tier 2 interventions supporting students impacted by trauma? Do we need to add trauma based interventions?
- Tier 3: How are we assessing impact trauma may have on student?


## TFI 1.6 Discipline Policies

Policies and procedures emphasize proactive, instructive, and restorative approaches that focus on empowering student and teaching needed skills.

## Examples:

- Circles / Morning Meeting
- Restorative Conferencing
- Re-teaching


## TFI 1.7 Professional Development

What professional development does staff need?

- Awareness and understanding of trauma
- Understanding of why practices support
- New practices

How will you identify PD needs for all staff, some staff and a few staff?
Example

- All: Trauma awareness, classroom management practices, and de-escalation skills
- Some: Re-training on de-escalation skills and responding to crisis
- Few: Trauma informed interventions




## Midwest PBIS Website

- Trauma page
- http://www.midwestpbis.org/materials/special -topics/trauma

National Child Traumatic Stress Network
Empirically Supported Treatments \&
Promising Practices List
http://www.nctsn.org/resources/topics/treatments-that-work/promising-practices

- Clinical \& anecdotal evidence
- Research Evidence
- Outcomes
http://naswil.org/news/chapter-news/featured/for-school-social-workers-sparcs-sparks-interest-among-adolescents-in-champaign-county/
http://sparcstraining.com/index.php
- Ovc.gov for video—click on Library and Multimedia then videos then Child \& Youth Victimization
- www.depts.washington.edu/hcsats/resources. html, click on Resources then Therapy Resources
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network Schools Committee. (October 2008). Child Trauma Toolkit for Educators. Los Angeles, CA \& Durham, NC: National Center for Child Traumatic Stress.
- nctsn.org, click on Resources then Audiences then Resources for School Personnel
- ovc.gov for video—click on Library and Multimedia then videos then Child \& Youth Victimization
- www.depts.washington.edu/hcsats/resourc es.html, click on Resources then Therapy Resources



Thank you!


[^0]:    - Gallup [2014). State of American Schools. Retrieved from http://www.gallup.com/ services/178709/state-america-schools-feport.aspx.

