

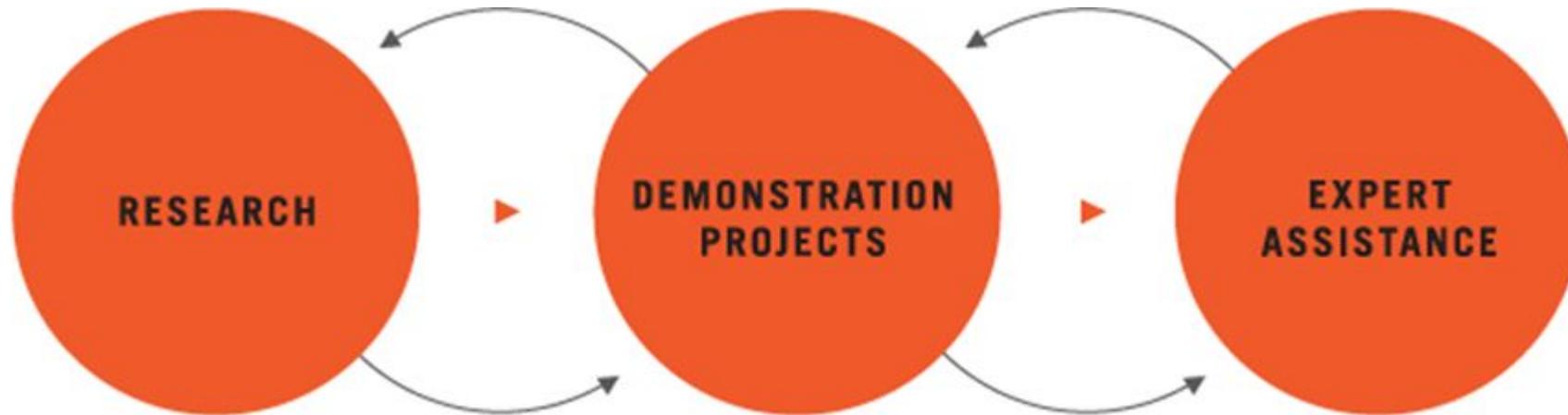
Juvenile Detention and Human Trafficking: Trauma-Informed Screening and Responses for Human Trafficking Victims

Miriam Goodman

Grand Rapids, MI

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The Center's Work



Opening Exercise

Let's get honest!

Please write down...

- ▶ What are the first words that come to mind?
- ▶ What behaviors do you find challenging/annoying/frustrating? Why?
- ▶ What are your immediate thoughts on how to handle this case?

What we are going to do today:

- ▶ Go over definitions
- ▶ Overview of sex trafficking
- ▶ Discuss trauma and trauma – informed response
- ▶ Putting it all together: how can we change/enhance our screening/response with victims?

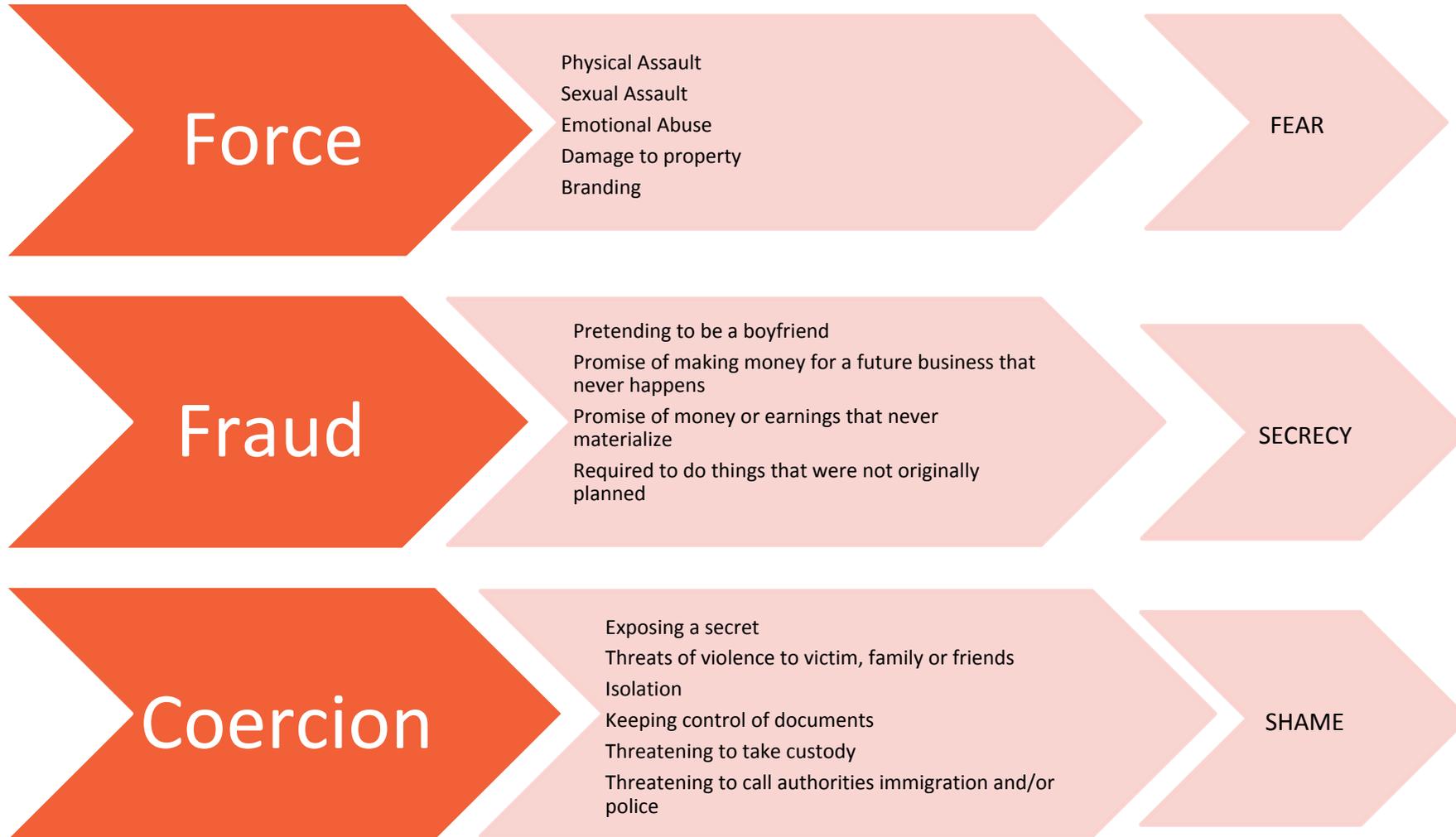
Definitions: what's what?

Let's start with the law

▶ Many states have their own specific trafficking legislation, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA) defines trafficking as:

- ▶ The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or
- ▶ labor or services, through the use of **force, fraud, or coercion** for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.
- ▶ Coercion includes threats of physical or psychological harm to children and/or their families. Any child (under the age of 18) engaged in commercial sex is a victim of trafficking.

Three Key Elements



Trauma: What is it and why does it matter?

- ▶ Results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual and/or communities as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's and/or communities functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being
- ▶ Micro (interpersonal trauma) and Macro (systemic trauma and oppression) experiences

Examples of interpersonal and systemic trauma and oppression

Interpersonal

- Childhood sexual abuse
- Childhood physical abuse
- Verbal/emotional abuse
- Domestic/sexual violence
- Rape
- Neglect

Systemic

- Court
- Foster care
- Education
- Incarceration
- Police/law enforcement
- Health care

Structural

- Racism
- Poverty
- Sexism
- Homophobia
- All other -isms

Interpersonal Trauma: Trauma Reactions

- ▶ Best understood as adaptations to survive and are logical in the context of trauma
- ▶ People will do whatever it takes to survive their experience and pain – RESILIENCY!
- ▶ Trauma reactions often misdiagnosed or overlooked as symptoms of other mental illness

Interpersonal Trauma

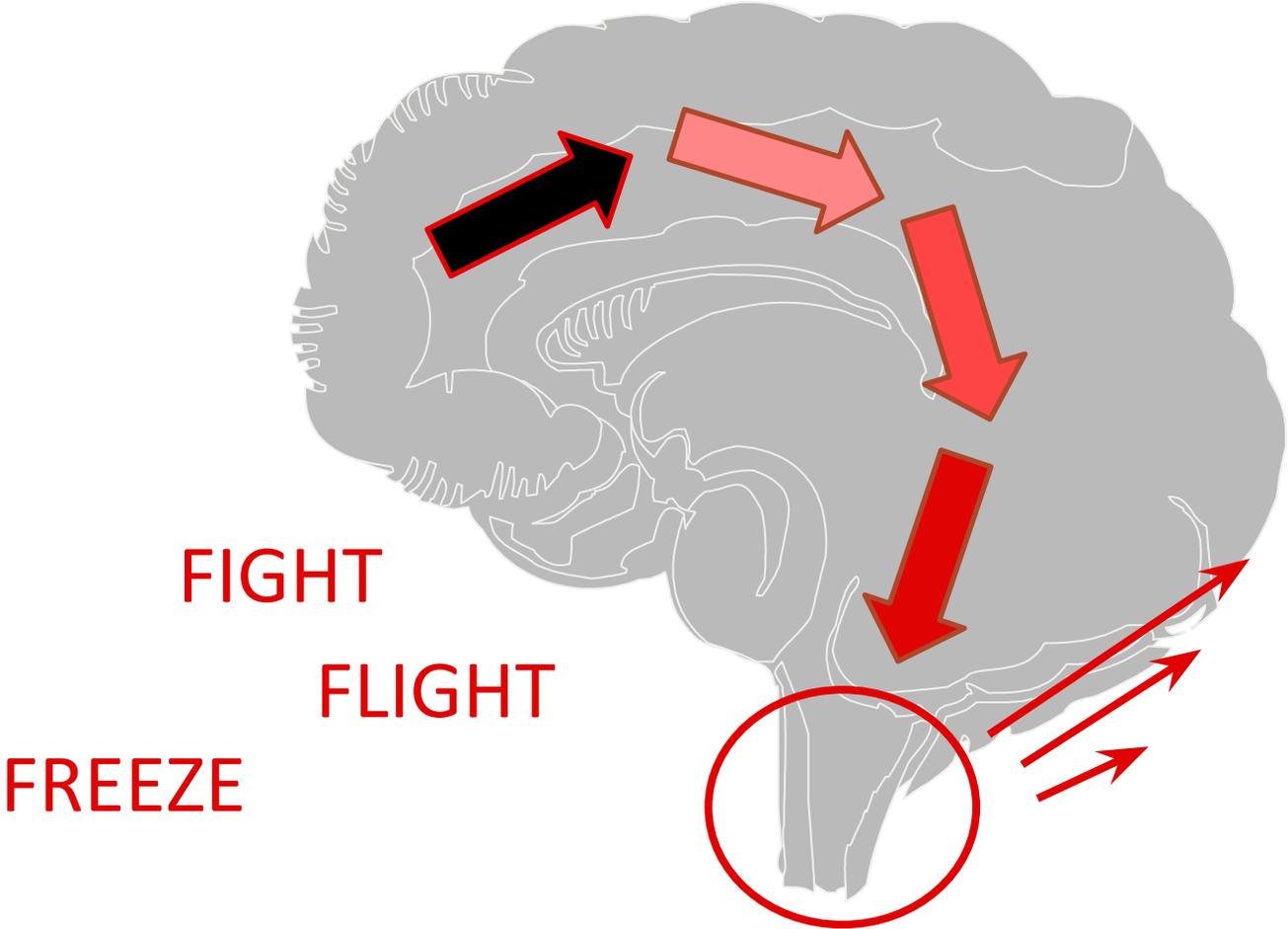
Immediate/Automatic Reactions

Fight

Flight

***Freeze**

Effects of trauma



Trauma Reactions:

A new lens to understand challenging behavior

▶ **Intrusive thoughts/feelings**

- ▶ Flashbacks
- ▶ Nightmares
- ▶ Intrusive thoughts
- ▶ Intrusive memories
- ▶ Physical pain

▶ **Avoidance**

- ▶ Behavioral or cognitive attempts to avoid trauma-reminiscent stimuli
- ▶ Emotional Numbing

▶ **Hyperarousal**

- ▶ Increased arousal
- ▶ Difficulty falling or staying asleep
- ▶ Difficulty concentrating
- ▶ Irritability
- ▶ Jumpiness
- ▶ Chronic hyperarousal makes it difficult to feel a range of emotion

Trauma Reactions:

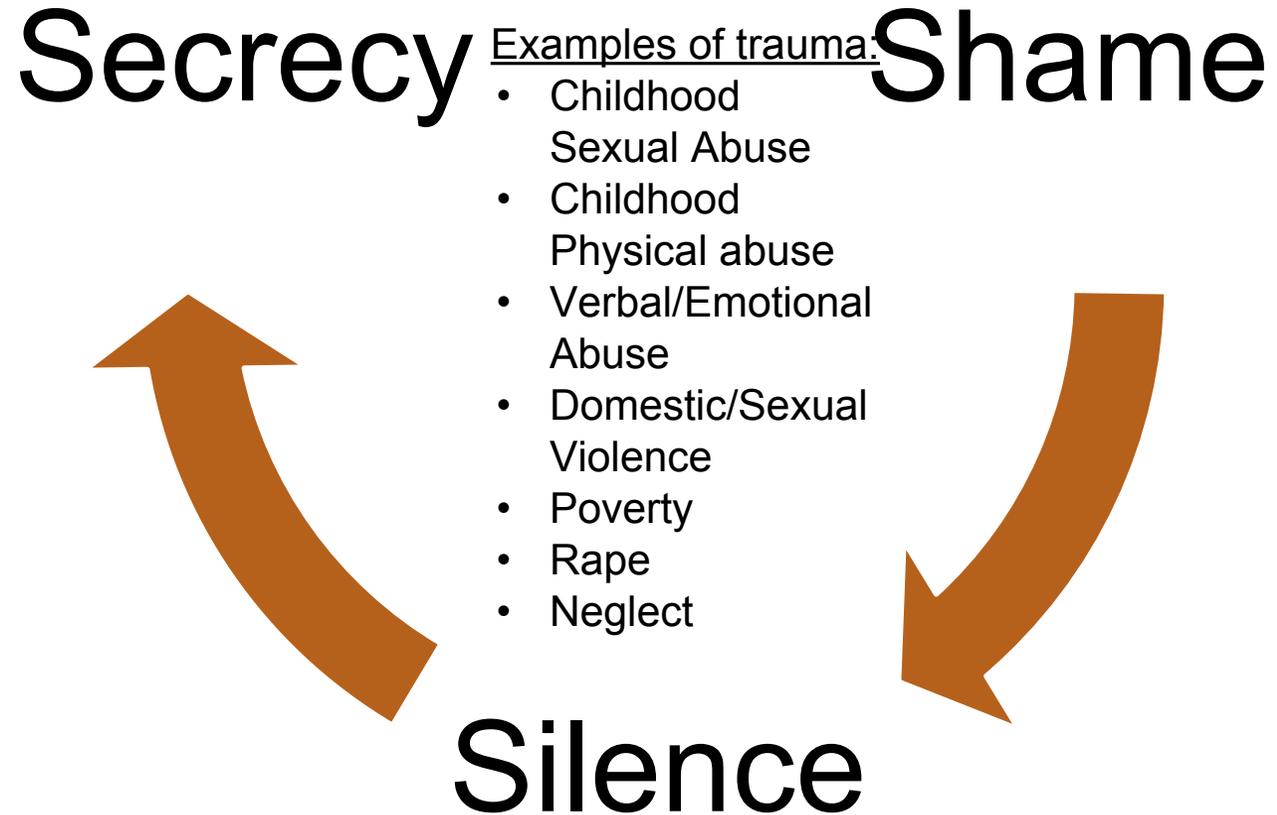
A new lens to understand challenging behavior

▶ Reenactment

- ▶ Power and control struggle is often reenacted
- ▶ A traumatized participant has had their power and control taken away, often throughout their life
- ▶ Feeling powerless or as if someone is trying to control her can be intolerable
- ▶ When reenacting, the participant can play the victim OR the victimizer
- ▶ Often, this is what causes people to feel like participant is being “manipulative”

▶ Dissociation

- ▶ Intrapsychic defense
 - ▶ The separation of mental systems that would ordinarily be integrated
- ▶ Voluntary and Involuntary Reaction
- ▶ Protective
- ▶ At first a conscious effort to block out the abuse, but when repeated over time, becomes a uncontrollable response to abuse or stimulus of abuse
- ▶ Common experience for survivors of rape, childhood sexual abuse, and witnessing DV



Context of Trauma Histories/ Complexity of Choice



Overview of Sex Trafficking

Potential Risk Factors

- Poverty
- Wanting to improve family economic status (send money home)
- Violence in home countries
- Damage to property
- History of abuse
- Homelessness
- Undocumented
- About 50-80 % of trafficking victims involved with CPS
- Minimal social support
- Limited education
- Lack of work opportunities
- Runaway, homeless youth
- History of previous sexual abuse
- Drug or alcohol addiction
- History of trauma
- History of truancy
- Mental or behavioral health issues

Pimp Controlled Prostitution/ Sex Trafficking/Domestic Trafficking

“Traumatic Bonding” and “Love”

- ▶ “turned out” at a young age
- ▶ Pimp provides
 - ▶ Shelter, food, clothes, basic needs
 - ▶ Sense of safety from unsafe family/community/living situation
 - ▶ Promise of future
 - ▶ Love
 - ▶ Companionship
- ▶ Psychological Abuse
- ▶ **Isolation**
 - ▶ Kept in insular community
 - ▶ Stable of folks
 - ▶ Recreation of family
 - ▶ Using other woman
- ▶ **Money/ Sense of worth**
 - ▶ Power
 - ▶ Self worth/worth of attention direct result of financial worth

Recruitment Pathways

- ▶ Family
- ▶ Kidnap
- ▶ Peer recruitment
- ▶ Violence
- ▶ Internet
- ▶ Pimp

LANGUAGE

- ▶ **The Life or The Game:** The life of prostitution
- ▶ **Daddy:** The pimp
- ▶ **P.I:** In reference to another pimp
- ▶ **Stable:** A group of women/girls under pimp control
- ▶ **Bottom Bitch/Bottom Girl:** The head girl
- ▶ **Breaking:** To give all your money to your pimp
- ▶ **Choosing:** To choose another pimp
- ▶ **Folks/Family:** Your pimp or the person for whom you work
- ▶ **Gorilla Pimp:** A pimp who uses force to get a woman
- ▶ **Suave Pimp:** A pimp who uses sweetness and kindness to seduce women
- ▶ **Track/Stroll:** A street location for prostitution
- ▶ **Turnout:** Someone who recruits you into “the life”
- ▶ **Wife-in-Law:** A group of women who work for the same pimp
- ▶ **Dates/Johns/Trick:** Buyers/ Clients
- ▶ **In House:** Someone who works from inside a house
- ▶ **Out of Pocket:** To look at or talk to another pimp
- ▶ **Stay in Pocket:** To play by the rules of “the game”
- ▶ **Renegade:** To work for oneself or to not have a pimp
- ▶ **Pimps Up, Hos Down...** A reference to power and status or a rule of standing in the street and not being allowed on the sidewalk
- ▶ **Pimp Circle...** A group of pimps surrounding a girl for purposes of intimidation
- ▶ **Square:** Those who were never in “the life”
- ▶ **Squaring Up:** To get out of the game

You've ID, then what?

- ▶ What does the conversation look like?
 - ▶ What words are uncomfortable? Why?
 - ▶ Pimp, prostitution, sex work, ho-ing, daddy, game, life,
- ▶ What's the point?
 - ▶ Healing
 - ▶ Concrete options
 - ▶ Legal remedies
 - ▶ Benefits
 - ▶ Immigration
 - ▶ Services

What works?

- ▶ Goal: engagement and support
- ▶ Trauma-informed and strengths-based
 - ▶ Remove stigma/pathology
 - ▶ Breaking silence
 - ▶ Self-determination
 - ▶ Honoring survival
- ▶ Community of services
 - ▶ Basic: food, shelter, clothing
 - ▶ Crisis
 - ▶ Drug treatment
 - ▶ Counseling
 - ▶ Education
 - ▶ Employment
 - ▶ Ongoing support – “Keep showing up”

Now that we know, how do we respond?

Trauma – Informed care!

- ▶ Upholding a trauma framework helps us understand how our clients feel, behave, and present with themselves, other and their communities
- ▶ Understanding people's feelings and behaviors as adaptations to survive, and normal reactions to abnormal experiences, helps remove judgment and pathology
- ▶ Incorporating a trauma-informed approach allows the helper to connect with the client
- ▶ You don't need all the details!

Moving towards trauma-informed care!

Traditional models:

- ▶ What's wrong with you?
- ▶ Blaming
- ▶ Power and control
- ▶ Hierarchical
- ▶ Over reliance on diagnosis
- ▶ Safety as priority

Principles of TI Care:

- ▶ What's happened in your life? What's happened to you?
- ▶ Understanding the impact of trauma on individual
- ▶ Understanding of trauma reactions and ways reactions can be expressed
- ▶ Trauma reactions are normal in context of experience
- ▶ Removing pathology
- ▶ Transparency, flexibility, and firm boundaries
- ▶ Practitioner AND client have knowledge
- ▶ Worker is expected to be impacted by clients and work
- ▶ Safety as priority

Why is hard to uphold a trauma-informed framework?

- ▶ We're humans
- ▶ Requires living in the gray
- ▶ Acknowledging the horror in the world
- ▶ Impact of trauma and Vicarious trauma
- ▶ Our expectations v. reality

Common Terms

- ▶ Burnout: Focuses on the situation, the gap between what the helper is expected to do and what he or she is able to do
- ▶ Vicarious trauma: the negative changes that can take place in trauma workers across time



Challenge your reaction:

- 1) Think of three challenging behaviors that could be reframed through a trauma-informed perspective
- 2) How does using a trauma-informed framework impact your understanding and/or practice of engagement?
- 3) Let's generate several new practices and questions for working with trafficking survivors:
 - ▶ Engagement strategy
 - ▶ What are several potential trafficking indicators/open doors to gain more information?
 - ▶ Several questions that specifically address trafficking

Big group debrief:

- ▶ Let's generate several new practices and questions for working with trafficking survivors:
 - ▶ Engagement strategy
 - ▶ What are several potential trafficking indicators/open doors to gain more information?
 - ▶ Several questions that specifically address trafficking

It takes a village: Becoming a trauma-informed agency:

- ▶ Involves a change in the way we understand our work, structure our organizations, and we interact with survivors
- ▶ Requires a specific awareness of how trauma can affect our own responses and interactions with others
- ▶ Requires the intentional development of supports for ongoing reflection, learning, skill development and self-care to ensure that our interactions are consistent with our principles and to help sustain us in the work
- ▶ Take into account that the environment in which services are delivered can affect how services are received.

<http://www.vawnet.org/special-collections/DVTraumaInformed-Programs.php>

Good Books

- ▶ Trauma Stewardship – Laura van Dernoot Lipsky
- ▶ Trauma and Recovery – Judith Herman
- ▶ The boy who was raised as a dog – Bruce Perry
- ▶ To the End of June – Cris Beam

Q and A

Contact Information

Miriam Goodman, LMSW
Assistant Director of Anti-Trafficking and Trauma Initiatives
Center for Court Innovation
347-735-3957
mgoodman@nycourts.gov