Screening & Assessment for Trauma in Drug Courts

Chanson Noether & Lisa Callahan

NADCP Annual Meeting
July 15th, 2013
What is Trauma?

Individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual’s functioning and physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

SAMHSA 2013
What is a “Trauma-Informed” Drug Court?

A trauma informed drug court:

• realizes the widespread impact of trauma

• understands potential paths for healing

• recognizes the signs & symptoms of trauma in staff, clients, & others involved with the court

• responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, practices, & settings.
Advantages to Being Trauma Informed

Increase safety

Avoid re-traumatization

Make appropriate treatment referrals

Decrease recidivism

Key component
Screening & Assessment

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TRAUMA IS PERVERSIVE
# Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACE Scale Item</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abuse</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical abuse</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional abuse</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual abuse</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Household instability</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household mental illness</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household substance abuse</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental separation or divorce</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent lost job</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer victimization (non-sibling)</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exposure to community violence</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone close died from illness/accident</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disaster</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Community Samples

National Co-morbidity Study:

61% of men & 51% of women reported at least one traumatic event.

Detroit Area Survey of Trauma:

90% reported lifetime exposure to trauma; 5.3 events for men, 4.3 events for women
Women & Trauma

Lifetime Exposure to Trauma:

• 55-99% with substance abuse problems

• 50-70% with psychiatric hospitalization history

• 70% seen in emergency departments

• 40-60% in psychiatric outpatient programs

• 80% in criminal justice system

Harris & Fallot, 2001
Jail Diversion Study (TCE)

Women
- 96% lifetime trauma experiences
- 74% current trauma experiences

Men
- 89% lifetime trauma experiences
- 86% current trauma experiences
# Mental Health Courts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abuse (self report)</th>
<th>% Women</th>
<th>% Men</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sexual abuse or rape (prior to age 20)</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents hit or threw things at one another</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents beat them with belt whip or strap</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents hit them with something hard</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents beat or really hurt them with their hands</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parents injured them enough to need medical attention</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4 Drug Courts in San Diego:

Women who received gender-responsive (trauma informed) treatment:

- had better in-treatment performance
- more positive perceptions of treatment experience
- reduction in PTSD symptoms
- all groups had reduction in substance use, arrests, & increased psychological well-being

2012, Messina et al.
2012 – OEF/OIF Veteran Study:

Factors Associated with Arrest:

- Young age
- Male
- History of arrests
- Witnessing family violence
- Substance misuse
- PTSD with high anger/irritability
- (TBI was close to significant)

2012 – Elbogen et al.
WHAT IS POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)?
Transition from DSM IV to V

Major changes:

• New category – “trauma and stress-related disorders”
  • No longer considered an anxiety disorder

• Separate diagnostic criteria for children younger than 6 years

• New PTSD Diagnostic Criteria:
  A. Stressor (1 required)
  B. Intrusion (1 symptom required)
  C. Avoidance (1 symptom required)
  D. Negative alterations in mood or cognition (2 symptoms req)
  E. Alterations in arousal & activity (2 symptoms required)
  F. Duration
  G. Functional significance
  H. Attribution

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Specific Populations & PTSD

General Population:

• 52% (men) & 28% (women) with PTSD develop AUDs
• 35% (men) & 27% (women) with PTSD develop SUDs

Military Veterans:

• Approximately 20% of current OEF/OIF veterans have PTSD

• Nearly 40% of incarcerated veterans screen positive for PTSD
  • Greater number of types of trauma
  • More serious current legal problems
  • Higher lifetime substance use
  • More psychiatric symptoms
GAINS Center
Selection Process

Work with Queens Treatment Courts

Extensive literature review

Experiences of other courts/programs

Familiarity with types of populations in drug, mental health, & veterans’ treatment courts
Program Goals

✓ Confirm PTSD Symptoms?

✓ Gather a brief history of traumatic events?

✓ Gather detailed information on traumatic experiences?

✓ Conduct a diagnostic assessment?
SCREENING FOR TRAUMA
Trauma Symptom Screening

PTSD Checklist-Civilian Version (PCL-C)
- 17-item, self-administered
- Corresponds to key PTSD symptoms
- Severity score
- Quick, easy, free – English & Spanish

Impact of Events Scale (IES)
- 22-item, self-administered
- Results in 4 PTSD subscales
- Quick, free, available in many languages
Trauma History Screening

**Life Events Checklist (LEC)**
- 17-item, self-administered, English-only
- Brief history of traumatic events

**Trauma History Screen (THS) – modified**
- 13-item, self-report, asks about 11 events
- Yes/no – # times, details such as age, distress

**Life Stressors Checklist-Revised (LSC-R)**
- Self-administered, provide details, rate each
- Choose 3 most upsetting events

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ASSESSING FOR TRAUMA
Trauma Assessment

Post-traumatic Diagnostic Scale (PDS)

- 49-item, self-administered
- PTSD symptoms related to single event
- Tracks PTSD criteria
- Proprietary, MH professionals or researchers

Clinician-Administered PTSD Scale (CAPS)

- 30-item, structured interview, “gold standard”
- Assesses symptoms, functioning, improvement, & severity/frequency of PTSD symptoms
- Free, available in many languages

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Being revised for DSM-V
Conclusion

Do your homework

Know your population

Know your program goals

Know what trauma treatment options exist & how to refer/link

Get help: GAINS Center & NCPTSD
SAMHSA’s GAINS Center for
Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation

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