

WELCOME, THIS WEB CONFERENCE WILL BEGIN SOON

TRAUMA SURVIVORS AND LAW
ENFORCEMENT:
UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES AND
RIGHTING THE SHIP



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CALIFORNIA COALITION
AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT



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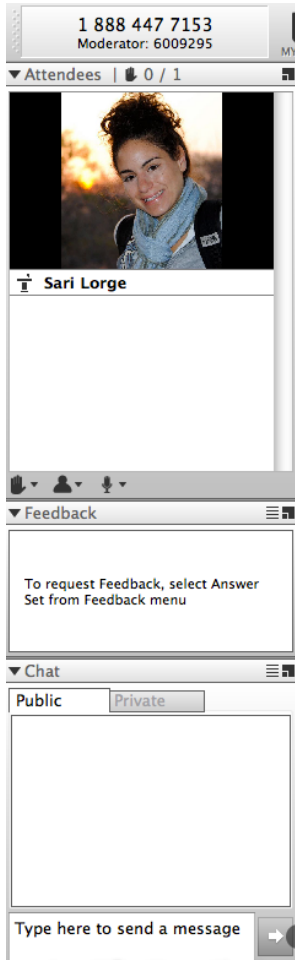
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C A L C A S A
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AGAINST SEXUAL ASSAULT

How to use this technology



- Raise hand
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Your travel host:



Have your Law Enforcement personnel had trauma informed training?

Answer
on the left

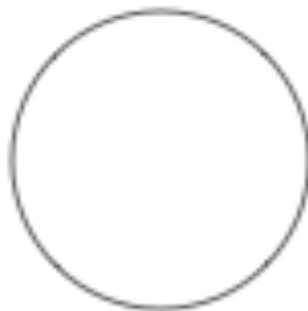


Feedback

Yes

No

No Answer



Your travel host:



Law Enforcement Technical Assistance and Training

Brought to you by:

Campus Law Enforcement Technical Assistance Program, East Central University, Ada, OK



Oklahoma State Capital

Your travel host:



Trauma Survivors and Law Enforcement

Unintended Consequences and Righting the Ship

David R. Thomas M.S.
Johns Hopkins University
Division of Public Safety Leadership



Your travel host:



Professional Goals

- Law Enforcement
 - To protect and serve citizens and victims...
 - To keep citizens and victims safe...
 - To uphold the law...
- Social Workers, Stakeholders and Mental Health Professionals
 - To provide guidance and support to citizens and victims...



Your travel host:



What's the Relationship

- Law Enforcement
- Social Workers
- Stakeholders
- Mental Health Professionals

Victim service
Perpetrator accountability



Your travel host:



\$ 1Million Questions

- Are our goals similar?
- Where our goals intersect, are the paths we take to get there the same?
- Where and what are the major areas of conflict between the professions?
- How do we come together to achieve similar goals?



Your travel host:



Knowledge is Power

- How does law enforcement operate?
- Why does law enforcement proceed in the way that they do?
- Is this beneficial information for you and your profession?
- Is it information that could be shared with clients in order that they be able to more effectively deal with law enforcement?



Your travel host:



Convergence of Influences

- Family of Origin and the origin of the word family, “*familia*”
- Police family/culture
- Entering profession at a *young, impressionable age*
- Macho culture
- Self Care?



Your travel host:



The Job and the Culture

“To protect and serve!”

- Some are drawn to the profession due to the inherent *power and control* that comes with the job
- How that translates into how well they ultimately are judged for performing their job and revered by fellow officers and supervisors thus has to be questioned
- Female officers are challenged with surviving in a male dominated profession



Your travel host:



Knowledge is Power

- We know what we know, but we don't know what we don't know
- “What am I missing that's in plain sight?”
- Where do I go for answers, where I go to get insight?



Your travel host:



Defining Trauma

- A traumatic event either witnessed or experienced, representing a fundamental threat to one's physical integrity or survival
- Responses involve intense fear, helplessness or horror
- The meaning of the event may be as important as the actual physical act/experience (Lisa Ferentz, 2008)

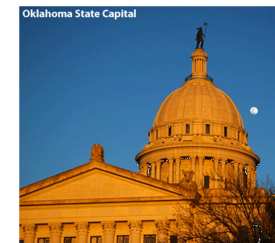


Your travel host:



Trauma

- Subjective Experience
 - Coping Ability
 - Fears
 - Overwhelming
 - Subjective Experience/Objective Events
(Jon Allen, Coping with Trauma: A Guide to Self Understanding)
1. Single Trauma
 2. Repetitive Trauma
 3. Environmentally Induced Trauma



Your travel host:



The Neurobiology of Trauma

- Evolutionary Heritage
- Primitive Brain
- Survival
- Adaptation
- Obedient Victim
- Dissociation = Freeze
- Fight /Flight or Freeze
- Fear



Your travel host:



Fight or Flight Thwarted

- Instinct
- Freeze
- Pent up energy
- Animals in the wild
- Humans
- Children
- Dissociative state
- Price paid

(Lisa Ferentz, 2008)



Your travel host:



Impact on Interview?

- Do we expect victims to remember what occurred when an event is reported?
- Do we understand the way the primitive brain works and how it can impact memory?
- Might the victim perceive (whether real or not) that there is pressure to provide a complete narrative?
- What steps might we take to inhibit victims from feeling they must fill in the blanks?
- What lessons can we take away when it comes to the creditability of sexual assault victims?



Your travel host:



Shaking it Off

- Peter Levine observed a key difference between animals and humans in their use of the “freeze” response.
 - After threat passes
 - Residual effect
 - Fixed in the response



Your travel host:



Humans vs. Animals

- Humans sometimes struggle
- Rational thought inhibits
- Animals do it quickly
- Humans stay stuck
- Traumatic symptoms
- Frozen residue (Peter Levine, 1997)



Your travel host:



The Loss of Conscious Experience

- The upside
- The downside
- Insights gained?

...will also keep them from learning from the
experience...

Bessel Van der Kolk, 1994



Your travel host:



Implications

- Conditioned hormonal response
- Future threatening situations
- Coping as a child (*Dissociation*)
- Like situations as an adult
- Choice

(Lisa Ferentz, 2008)



Your travel host:



All May Not Be Lost

- Narrowing of consciousness (Christianson, 1982)
- Focus
- In the moment
- Parts remembered? (Van der Kolk and Fisher, 1995)
- Other senses
- Smells, Sights, Sounds?

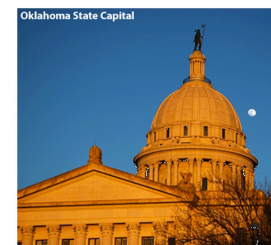


Your travel host:



Interview or Interrogation?

WHEN A VICTIM OF DV OR SA ATTEMPTS TO TELL THEIR STORY TO THE POLICE, THEY ARE OFTEN “INTERVIEWED” WITH THE REID TECHNIQUE..



Your travel host:



John E. & Associates. INC.

- Founder John E. Reid Associates. INC.
- Polygraph Examiner – taught by Fred Inbau, former Director of the Chicago Police Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory
- Reid established a private polygraph practice in 1947

Criminal Justice System Mantra

“Inconsistent statements equals a lie”

What about when stress and trauma enter the equation?



Your travel host:



Advancing Interrogations

- In the 1930's, the “third degree” was commonly used to obtain confessions. An interrogator's use of intimidation and coercion could cause an innocent person to confess
- Knowing the “third degree” could cause false confessions, Inabu and Reid, applying psychological principles, developed a structured approach to the interrogation process that in no way relied on coercion or intimidation to elicit the truth



Your travel host:



Interview Characteristics and Purpose

- To develop information to make decisions
 1. Develop the subjects explanation(s) of the events in question
- To determine the truthfulness of the subject
 1. Evaluate the verbal and non-verbal behavior
 2. Identify inconsistencies and discrepancies
- To create an environment that will encourage communication
 1. Approach in a non-accusatory fashion



Your travel host:



The Physical Lay-Out of an Interrogation/Interview Room

Julia Layton

- Maximize discomfort and powerlessness
- Sterile environment to create isolation, exposure, and unfamiliarity
- Heighten the “get me out of here” sensation
- Increase a sense of vulnerability



Your travel host:



The Physical Lay-Out of an Interrogation/Interview Room

Julia Layton

- Seated in an uncomfortable chair
- Out of reach of light switch/thermostat to increase sense of dependence
- One-way mirror increases anxiety and sense of being “watched”
- Increase a sense of being “at the mercy of” the interviewer



Your travel host:



The Attitude of the Interviewer

Julia Layton

- Close physical proximity to establish control
- Good cop/bad cop to create false ally
- Use of leading or inaccurate information to promote confusion or encourage recanting
- Sustained eye contact to command attention
- Physical gestures and words of sincerity to build rapport and get person's guard down



Your travel host:



Goals of the Reid Technique

Munch, Margolis and Thomas, 2009

- Determine the truthfulness of the subject
- Identify inconsistencies and discrepancies
- Observe and evaluate verbal and non-verbal behavior
- Create an environment that encourages communication
- Get confession of guilt or complicity, recanting of “false” reporting



Your travel host:



The Reid Technique

Principles of Behavior Symptom Analysis

1. Non-verbal behavior is responsible for more than half of total communication
2. Non-verbal behavior is more reliable than verbal behavior
3. The meaning of a verbal response is either supported or contradicted by non-verbal behavior
4. The behavior of the interviewer has an influence on the behavior of the subject
5. The behavior symptoms of the subject become clear as the anxiety of the subject increases



Your travel host:



The Reid Technique

Behavioral Attitudes Common to Both Truthful and Deceptive Subjects

A. Nervous

- Determine whether nervousness is increasing or decreasing

B. Angry

- Determine reason for the anger
- Evaluate whether anger is justifiable
- Attempt to diffuse the anger

C. Fearful

- May be withholding knowledge others involvement
- May be involved in other misconduct



Your travel host:



The Reid Technique: Typical Truthful Behavioral Attitudes

Munch, Margolis and Thomas, 2009

- Composed
- Concerned
- Cooperative
- Direct and spontaneous
- Open
- Sincere
- Unyielding



Your travel host:



The Reid Technique: Typical Deceptive Behavioral Attitudes

Munch, Margolis and Thomas, 2009

- Overly anxious
- Overly polite
- Defensive
- Evasive
- Complaining
- Defeated
- Rationalizing
- Unconcerned
- Accepting
- Apologetic
- Quiet
- Guarded
- Crying



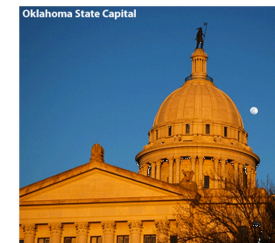
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The Reid Technique: Non-verbal Behavioral Symptoms Indicative of Truth

Munch, Margolis and Thomas, 2009

- Upright posture
- Open and relaxed
- Lean forward on occasion
- Frontally aligned with interviewer
- Casual posture changes
- Look up with eyes to right when remembering
- Look up to left when thinking



Your travel host:



The Reid Technique: Non-verbal Behavioral Symptoms Indicative of Deception

Munch, Margolis and Thomas, 2009

- Slouching
- Very rigid
- Runner's position
- No frontal alignment
- Closed/barrier posture
- Lack of interest
- Erratic and rapid posture changes
- Head and body slump



Your travel host:



Critical Thinking?

IN ADDITION, CERTAIN BODY LANGUAGE IS INDICATIVE OF “SURRENDER” INCLUDING HEAD IN HANDS, ELBOWS ON KNEES, SHOULDERS HUNCHED. ONCE THIS HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY THE INTERVIEWER, THE GOAL IS TO LEAD THE SUBJECT INTO CONFESSION OR RECANTING.



Your travel host:



The Source of the Behavior Matters!

WHEN DEALING WITH SUBJECTS WHO HAVE A PRIOR HISTORY OF ABUSE AND TRAUMA, ALL OF THE “DECEPTIVE” BEHAVIORAL ATTITUDES RESONATE WITH THEIR VICTIM MENTALITY AND ARE THE LEARNED COPING RESPONSES OF DISEMPOWERED PEOPLE WHO ARE TRIGGERED, THREATENED AND BEING RE-TRAUMATIZED BY AUTHORITY FIGURES.



Your travel host:



What We Know

When our own are involved in a traumatic event we look at things like “sensory overload,” “post-incident amnesia,” and the intricacies of, “memory recovery.”

Shootings

37% had memory loss return:

Within hours:	10%
After 1 st sleep:	15%
After 2 nd sleep:	20%
DNR:	50%



Your travel host:



Perceptual Data Survey

Number of Officers: 157

- Diminished Sound 84%
- Tunnel Vision 79%
- Automatic Pilot 74%
- Heightened Clarity 71%
- Slow Motion Time 62%
- Memory Loss/Event 52%
- Memory Loss/Own Actions 46%
- Dissociation 39%
- Intrusive Thoughts 26%
- Memory Distortion/False Memories 21%
- Intensified Sounds 16%
- Fast Motion Time 17%
- Temporary Paralysis 7%

FBI Bulletin, 2002



Your travel host:



Basic Crime Scene Psychological Management

- Introduce yourself
- Medical care
- Keep everyone informed
- Family contact
- Mobilize peer support team
- Access peer support
- Privileged confidentiality
- Transportation
- Conflict
- Basic physical comforts
- Timeliness of investigation



Your travel host:



Interviewing Traumatized Victims

- Take the time to establish rapport
- Re-frame their “difficult” or “resistant” behaviors as trauma based, so you can shift from anger and frustration to empathy
- Make the environment where you meet with the victim as physically “safe” as possible
- Be consistent and predictable to avoid triggering the victim
- Help the victim distinguish between “then” (when they were unsafe) and “now” (when they are powerful and safe)



Your travel host:



Creating External Safety

- Room temperature
- Inside/outside noise
- Physical proximity to interviewer
- Arrangement of furniture/seating
- Use of artificial and natural lighting
- Phone ringer off/on
- Permission to stop/re-group
- Attention to personal needs: water, bathroom



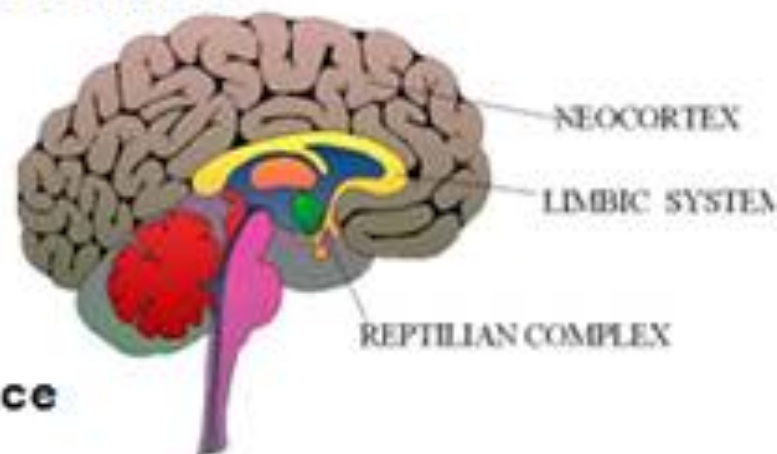
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A Paradigm Shift...

Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview

- Acknowledge their trauma/pain/difficult situation
 - What are you **able** to tell me about your **experience**?
 - Tell me more about ... or that...
 - What was your thought process during this experience?
 - What were your reactions to this experience
 - Physically
 - Emotionally
 - What are you **able** to remember about...the 5 senses
 - What was the most difficult part of this experience for you?
 - Clarify other information and details...after you **facilitate** all you can about the "**experience**"



1. Recognize the Impact of Trauma on Sexual Assault Investigation

- Most victims who report do so after some delay
- Most victims have difficulty remembering all the details of the sexual assault
- Most victims experience trauma reactions on an ongoing basis after the sexual assault
- Most victims do not physically resist
- Prosecutors can use expert witnesses to explain the impact of trauma



Your travel host:



2. Understand Officers Make or Break Cases Based on their Approach to the

- Victim's first impression matters **Victim**
- Build rapport with the victim, use advocates
- The recipe for a bad investigation is to form a hypothesis and try to prove it
- The strategy for a good investigation is to examine all the evidence and let it take you to the truth
- Always approach a case believing that a crime occurred



Your travel host:



3. Corroboration of Details is Essential

- Physical evidence, as possible
- Sexual assault exam, pictures, crime scene
- Witness accounts from before and after
- Outcry witnesses
- Documentation of sensory and peripheral details from the victim's perspectives
- What did "no" look like?
- Follow up to see the effects of ongoing trauma in the victim's life



Your travel host:



4. Focus on Offender Behavior NOT Victim Behavior

- Why did he choose victim?
- Are there other victims in his past?
- Investigate his social circles for “similar”
- How did he manipulate the environment and circumstances to get the victim into a position of vulnerability?
- Role of alcohol or drugs
- Chosen location for the assault
- Grooming behavior
- Contrived circumstances
- Stalking



Your travel host:



5. Investigate the Offender!

- Investigate the offender's history
- Look for other victims; the majority of sexual assaults are by serial offenders
- Investigate pre and post assault behavior
- Use of “pre-text” calls
- Conduct suspect forensic exam
- Conduct effective interviews/interrogations
- Look for all violations of the law
- Require the offender to answer to the crime



Your travel host:



6. Thorough Documentation

- Goal of investigation is to be fair, balanced, and thorough
- While every case is different, investigations must be consistent and thorough
- Detailed case documentation is critical
- Effective supervisory review of case is essential
- Proper case clearance and coding is a must



Your travel host:



Luck of the Draw

- Cops are like everyone else they respond to the objective event in a subjective manner
- Their responses are often based upon the personal outlook they bring to the scene, tempered by:
 - Family of origin
 - Friends and relations
 - Police culture
- Rookies represent a prime opportunity to shape and mold a victim centered approach



Your travel host:



Luck of the Draw

How can we best deal with the luck of the draw and ensure that everyone is dealt with an even hand?



Your travel host:



Potential Danger

Responding to calls for service *without basic knowledge* about the effects of trauma is dangerous

- Food service certification; Educated on food borne illnesses and sanitary conditions; Educated on proper use of cleaning solutions i.e. “Don’ t mix Clorox and Ammonia
- Law enforcement training; Educated on hazardous situations; Educated on what to do in case of a natural gas leak i.e. “Don’ t set up flares!”



Your travel host:



What We Don't Know

- How the *traditional aggressive authoritative law enforcement response* could lead to arousal of the sympathetic motor response of a victim
- In the eyes of the untrained the assumption may be the *person is being deceptive*
- There may be numerous reasons for a persons hyper arousal upon approach or questioning
- Assuming, and misreading, them could *cause the officer to believe* they are getting closer to the truth causing them to push harder
- Being blind to what's going on *could* result in a domino effect for a victim



Your travel host:



Bottom Line

Victim Centered Approach



Your travel host:



Questions & Answers

At this time please feel free to use
the text that to ask a question or
raise your hand



Contact Information

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Your travel host:



Acknowledgements

- Webinar Participants
- David R. Thomas M.S.
- East Central University - Oklahoma
- California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women



Your travel host:



Upcoming Campus Webinar

- Thursday, November 15th, 2012
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (*Pacific Standard Time*)

