

## **BETTER TOGETHER**

2018 ATSA Conference | Wednesday October 17 | 1:30 PM – 5:00 PM

**P-20**

### **Translating Trauma-Informed Care Concepts into Practice with Adults**

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Many adults in treatment for sexual offending have a history of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) that contributed to the development of psychosocial problems later in life, including criminal behavior. We will first summarize the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) principles of trauma-informed care (TIC). Participants will then learn to translate TIC concepts into practices that facilitate client self-regulation to reduce risk for reoffending. Using many clinical case examples, this interactive workshop will focus on two main clinical skill sets: (1) case conceptualization through the trauma lens, and (2) trauma-informed response to clients.

#### **Learning Goals:**

- Participants will be able to define principles and components of trauma-informed care and apply them to the traditional goals of treatment programs for sexual offending.
- Participants will learn to conceptualize presenting problems and interactions with clients through a trauma-informed lens.
- Participants will identify links between current client behaviors and adverse childhood experiences.
- Participants will learn to use the therapeutic relationship as a tool for helping clients build self-regulation skills.
- Participants will share challenging cases and develop trauma-informed responses to addressing client needs.
- Participants will learn to translate the TIC framework into direct clinical practice skills, with specific and practical strategies for engagement and trauma-informed responding.

**Dr. Jill Levenson, PhD, LCSW**, Professor of Social Work at Barry University in Miami, is a SAMHSA-trained internationally recognized expert in trauma-informed care. She has published over 100 articles about policies and clinical interventions designed to prevent sexual abuse, including projects funded by the *National Institutes of Justice* and the *National Sexual Violence Resource Center*. Her groundbreaking research on the link between

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childhood adversity and sexually abusive behavior has paved the way for innovations in treatment programs that now utilize a trauma-informed approach. She has also been a clinician for over 30 years, using a scientist-practitioner model to inform both her research and her work with survivors, offenders, and families impacted by sexual abuse. She has been invited to present as a keynote speaker about trauma-informed care and sexual abuse in clinical, correctional, and forensic settings in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Dr. Levenson has co-authored four books about the treatment of sexual abuse, including the recently released book: *Trauma Informed Care: Transforming treatment for people who have sexually abused*, co-authored with Gwenda Willis and David Prescott, and published by Safer Society Press.

**Dr. Gwenda Willis** is a Senior Lecturer and founder/director of the Advancing Sexual Abuse Prevention (ASAP) research group at the University of Auckland New Zealand, and Registered Clinical Psychologist. Her research and clinical interests focus on sexual abuse prevention and strengths-based approaches to working with clients who have sexually abused. Dr. Willis has received numerous grants and accolades for her research including a Fulbright Senior Scholar award (2011), New Zealand Psychological Society Early Career Goddard Award (2012) and more recently a 5-year Rutherford Discovery Fellowship (2015). She has authored and co-authored numerous publications on trauma-informed care, including co-authoring *Trauma Informed Care: Transforming treatment for people who have sexually abused* with collaborators Jill Levenson and David Prescott, published by Safer Society Press. In addition, Dr. Willis has given several invited keynote and workshop presentations in North America, the UK, Europe, Asia, Australia and New Zealand on strengths-based approaches to rehabilitation including trauma-informed care and the Good Live Model.

### **Financial Interest Disclosure:**

Levenson, Willis, & Prescott (2017). *Trauma informed care: Transforming treatment for people who have sexually abused*