

Module 3: Understanding Co-Occurring Disorders, Domestic Violence & Trauma

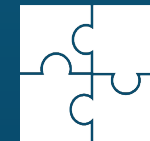
Child Welfare Training Toolkit



National Center on
Substance Abuse
and Child Welfare

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National Center on
Substance Abuse
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Learning Objectives

After completing this training,
child welfare workers will:

- Discuss mental health as a spectrum with key language improvements to promote optimal health and well-being
- Identify the prevalence and common types of co-occurring disorders along with associated symptoms
- Recognize the three models of care management for co-occurring substance use and mental disorders
- Acquire knowledge about domestic violence and how it overlaps with co-occurring disorders including prevalence, power and control dynamics, interagency response efforts, and best practice screening tools
- Differentiate between domestic violence and the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment, including key considerations when assessing safety and risk
- Acquire knowledge and strategies for increasing safety and protective capacities for families experiencing violence
- Understand the cumulative effects of trauma and the importance of providing trauma-informed care



Mental Disorders



Mental Health Spectrum



A horizontal diagram representing the Mental Health Spectrum. It consists of four chevron-shaped segments pointing from left to right, each containing a label. The segments are colored in a gradient of blue, with the first being the darkest and the last being the lightest. The labels are 'Healthy', 'Coping', 'Struggling', and 'Unwell'.

Healthy

Coping

Struggling

Unwell

Which Term Should I Use?



Mental
Health

Behavioral
Health

Mental
Health
Condition

Behavioral
Health
Condition

Mental
Health
Disorder

Behavioral
Health
Disorder

Mental
Disorder

Behavioral
Disorder

Creating a Shared Language & Understanding of Substance Use & Mental Disorders

Large Group Discussion

The Negative Effects of Stigma on Treatment & Recovery Outcomes



Language Paradigm Shift

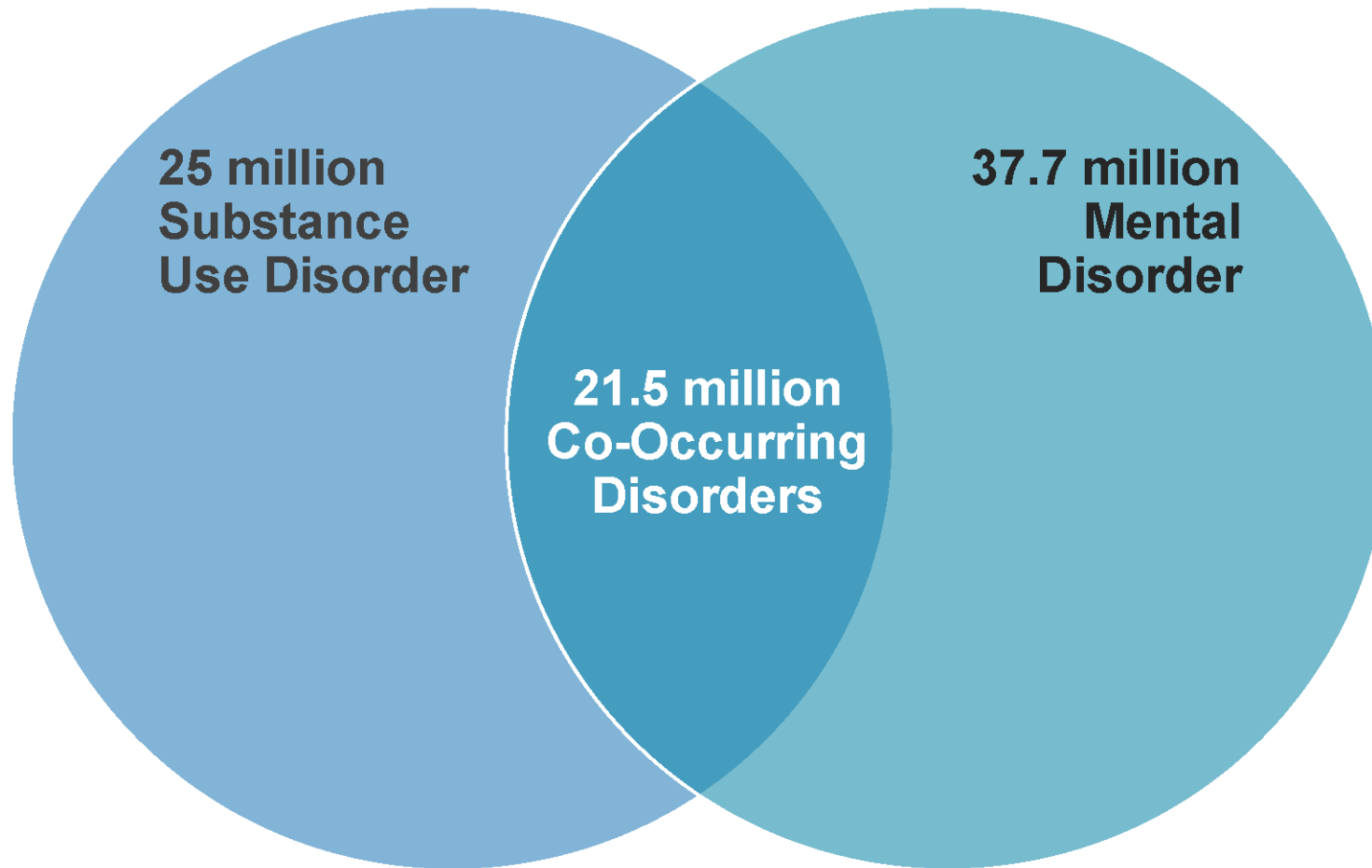
Medical vs. Recovery Model

Person-First vs. Identity-First

Co-Occurring Substance Use & Mental Disorders



Prevalence of Co-Occurring Disorders



Common Types of Co-Occurring Mental Disorders

Mood

Anxiety

Psychotic

Personality

Coordinated

Co-located

Integrated

Three Models of Care Management for Co-Occurring Disorders

Mental Scategories

Small Group Activity



Domestic Violence & Co-Occurring Disorders

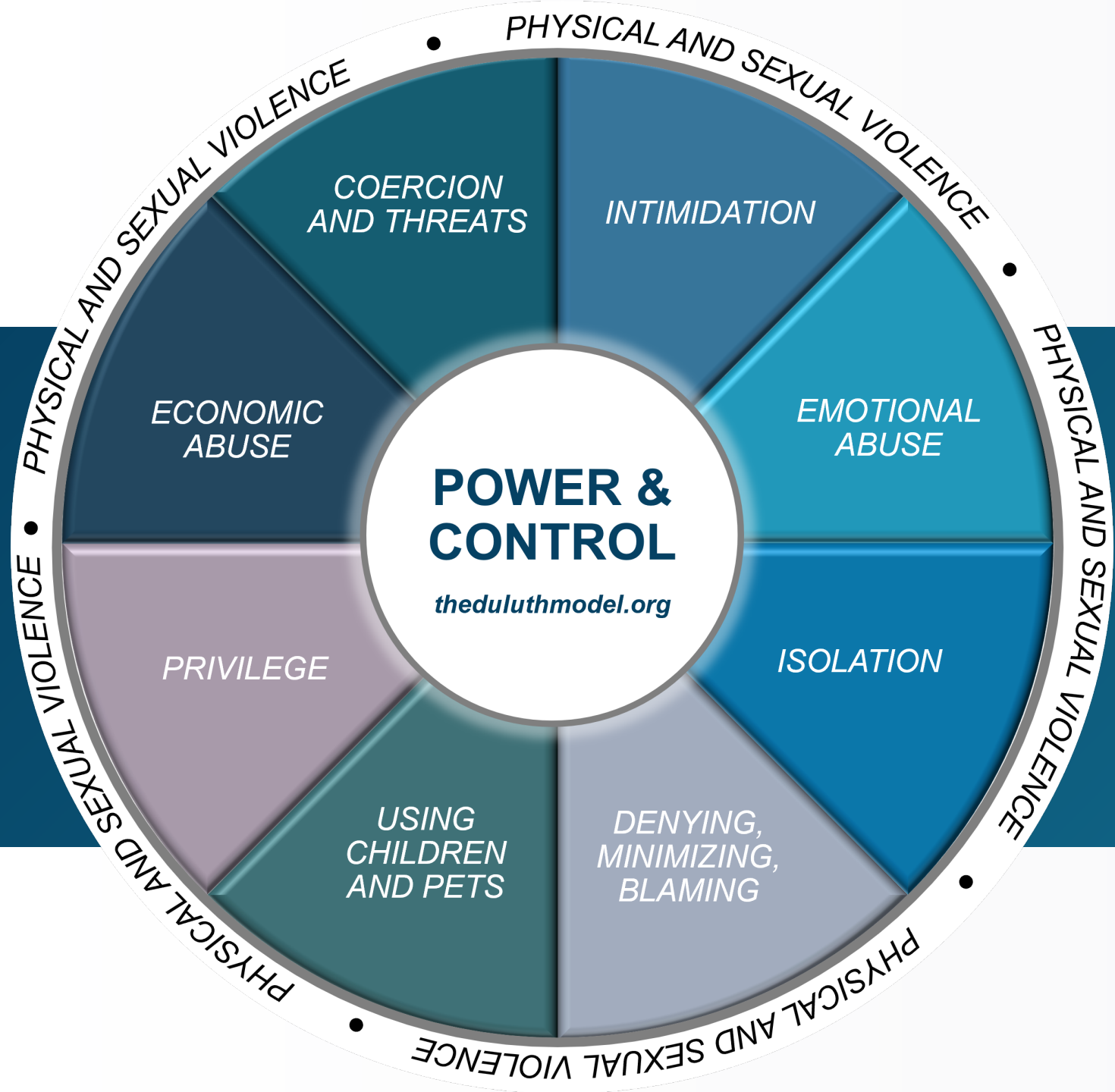
An Introduction to Domestic Violence (DV)

Definitions & Parameters

Other Qualifying Indicators

Types of DV

Rates of Prevalence



Understanding DV Dynamics

Identifying Behavioral Indicators of DV

Small Group Activity

Understanding DV & Substance Use Coercion

26%

used substances as
a coping
mechanism for
DV dynamics

27%

were forced or
pressured to use
substances or use more
than they wanted to

24.4%

noted being
afraid to
seek help due to fear of
reported consequences

37.5%

received threats that their substance use would
be reported to employers, LEA, or CPS

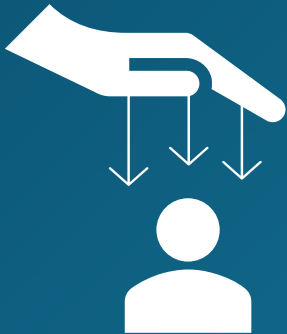
15.2%

acknowledged trying to seek treatment but

60%

were prevented or discouraged

Child Welfare Involvement as a Power & Control Tactic



Escalating violence and coercive behavior

Withholding finances or jeopardizing employment status

Making false reports to child abuse hotlines

Filing false police reports or restraining orders



DV & Child Maltreatment: Understanding the Complexities of Mandated Reporting Laws

DV Interagency Response Efforts



Local Protocols Guiding Practice with Children, Parents & Families Experiencing Violence

Large Group Discussion

DV Screening Tools



ABUSE ASSESSMENT
SCREEN (AAS)

HUMILIATION, AFRAID,
RAPE, and KICK (HARK)

ONGOING VIOLENCE
ASSESSMENT TOOL
(OVAT)

PARTNER VIOLENCE
SCREEN (PVS)

DANGER ASSESSMENT 5
(DA-5)

WOMAN ABUSE
SCREENING TOOL (WAST)



DV Exposure & Child Welfare Intervention

Key Considerations When Assessing Safety & Risk

Nature & Severity of DV Dynamics

Family History of DV Dynamics

**Level of Perceived Safety During &
Following the DV Dynamics**

Level of Parental Protective Capacities

Assessing for Level of Risk Specific to DV Exposure

Large Group Discussion

Questions to Consider When Assessing for Level of Risk



Has the violence and coercive behavior occurred before? Or escalated over time?



Does the parent/caregiver using violence and coercive behavior prevent the other parent/caregiver from meeting their child's needs?

For example, does the parent/caregiver using violence prevent the child from attending school or doctor's appointments?



Does the parent/caregiver *using* violence and coercive behavior also struggle with substance use or co-occurring mental health conditions?

If yes, how may this be precipitating or exacerbating the level of violence? And how may this be affecting their child's safety and well-being?



Does the parent/caregiver *experiencing* violence and coercive behavior also struggle with substance use or co-occurring mental health conditions?

If yes, how may this be affecting their child's safety and well-being?



Has the child expressed fear of being harmed by the parent/caregiver using violence and coercive behavior? Or expressed fear that their other parent/caregiver may be seriously harmed?

Additional Questions to Consider...



Has the child ever been injured as a result of the parent/caregiver's use of violence and coercive behavior? Or has the child ever intervened to deescalate or protect their parent?



Has the parent/caregiver using violence and coercive behavior ever threatened to harm the child?



Has the child shown any signs of concerning behavior in response to the parent/caregiver's use of violence and coercive behavior?

For example, has the child used violence toward other children or siblings?



Does the parent/caregiver using violence and coercive behavior have access to firearms or other weapons?

If yes, have they used or threatened to use them to cause harm to the other parent/caregiver, child, or family pets?

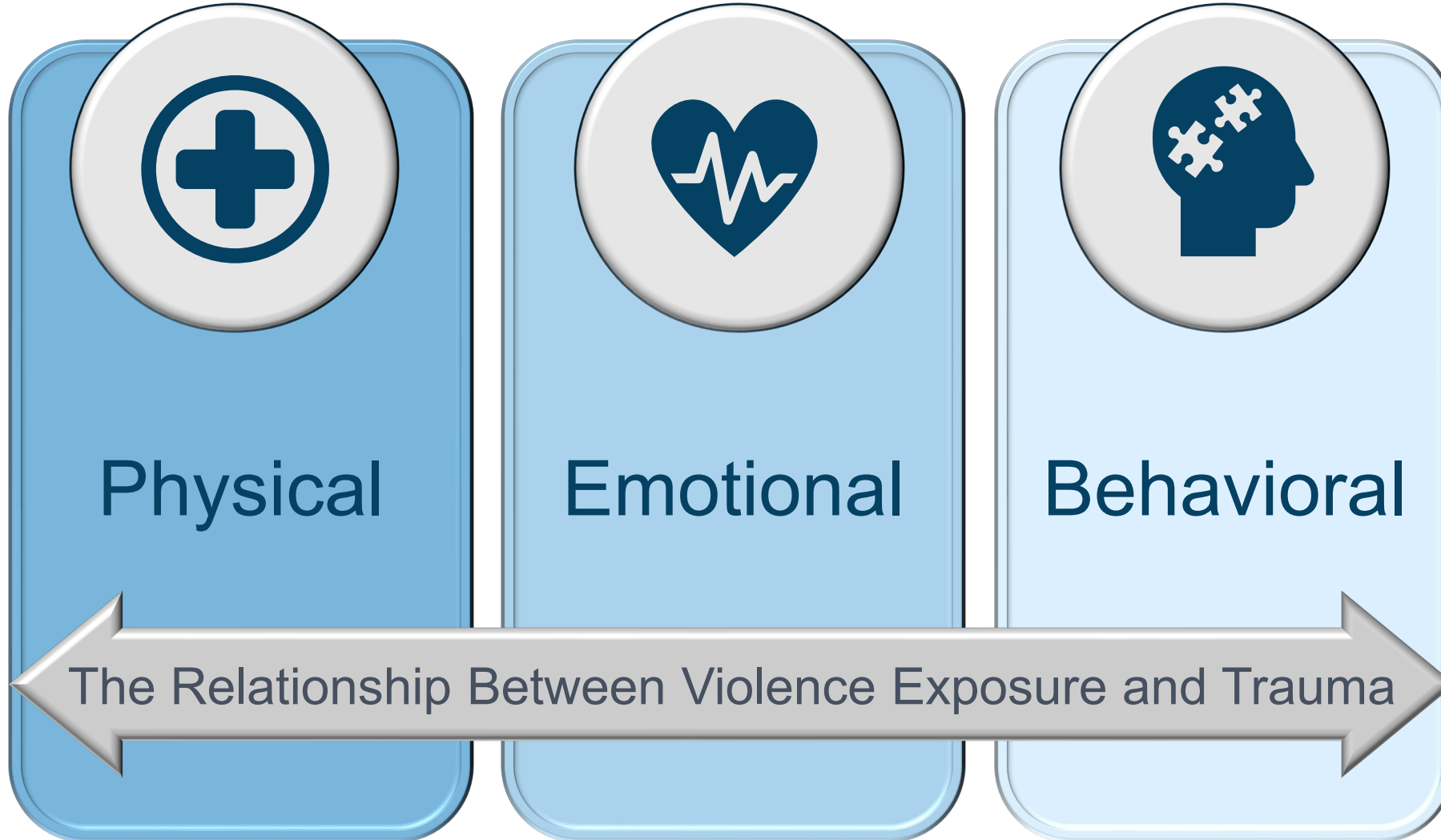


Has the parent/caregiver using violence and coercive behavior ever threatened to kill the other parent/caregiver? Or threatened to kill the children?



Has the parent/caregiver using violence and coercive behavior ever threatened to commit suicide?

Developmental Considerations When Assessing for Level of Risk



Increasing Safety & Protective Capacities for Families Experiencing Violence

Increased
Accountability for
the Person Using
Violence



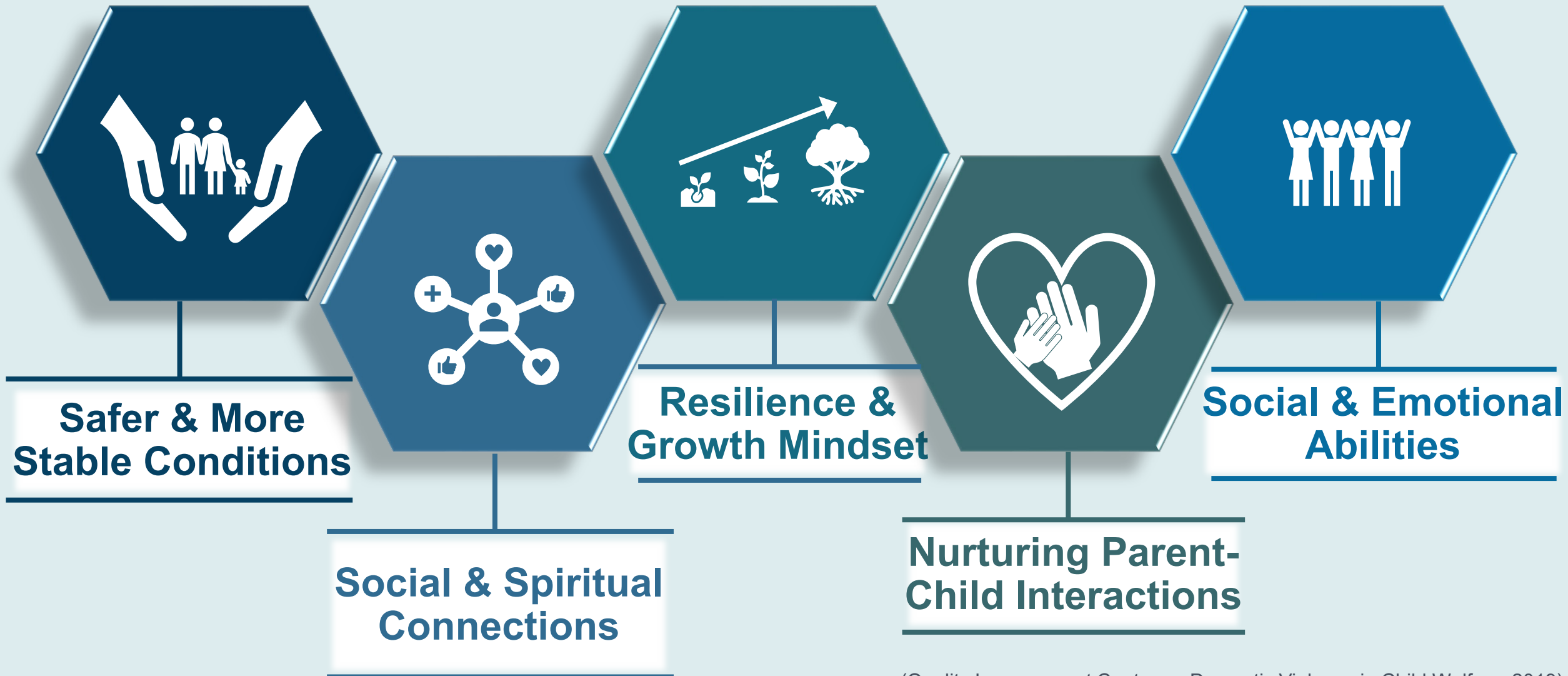
Collaborative
Engagement of the
Person Experiencing
Violence



Empowerment-
Based Safety
Planning for the
Family



The Five Interrelated Protective Factors for Families Experiencing Violence



Strategies to Promote Protective Factors for Families Experiencing Violence

Small Group Activity



Evidence-Based Interventions for Families Experiencing Violence

Child Development-Community Policing Program

Child-Parent Psychotherapy

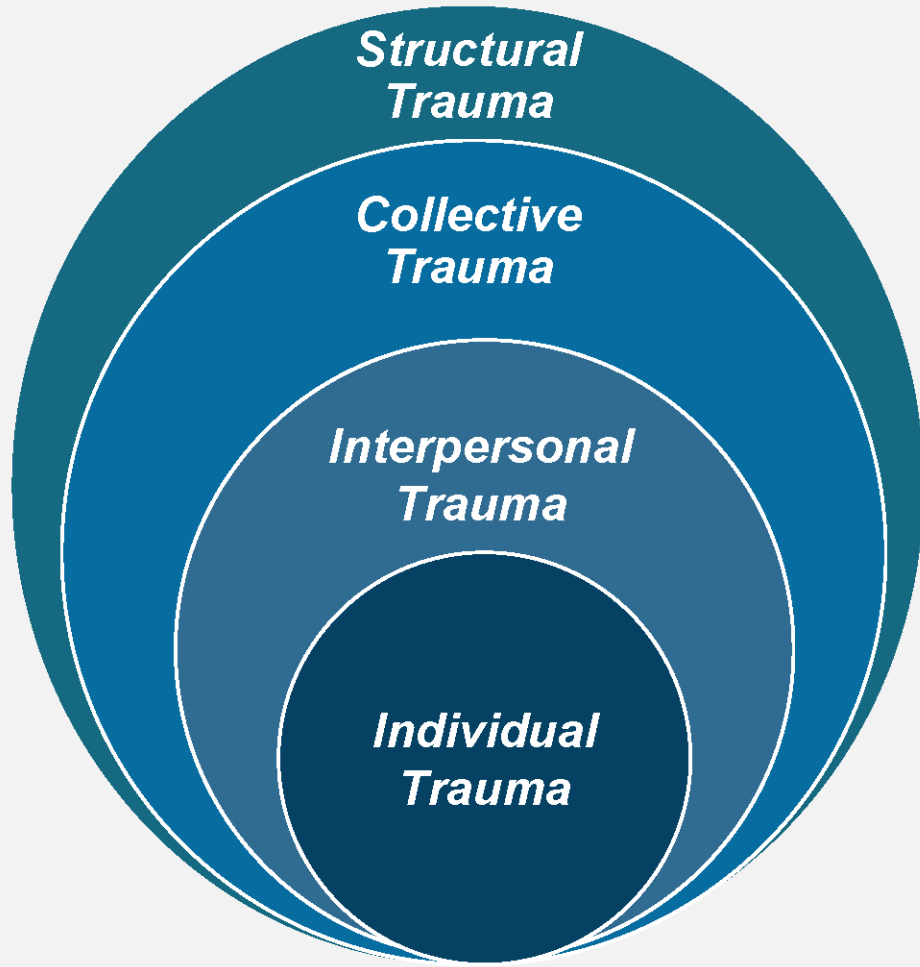
Structured Psychotherapy for Adolescents
Responding to Chronic Stress

Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy



Working Within the Interconnections of Trauma

What Is Trauma?



Trauma-Informed Care Elevator Speech

Activity Pair Share



Consequences of Systems Not Delivering Trauma-Informed Care

Inadequate or Inappropriate Services

Re-Traumatization

Engagement & Retention

Return to Use

Components of a Trauma-Informed Child Welfare System



Screening and
Assessment

Prioritizing
Secondary Trauma

Referral to
Evidence-Based
Treatment

Measurement-Driven
Case Planning

Workforce
Development

Cross-System
Collaboration

A person is shown from the waist up, wearing a white t-shirt and blue jeans. Their arms are raised in a celebratory gesture, with fists clenched. The background is a bright, hazy sunset or sunrise over a field. The overall mood is one of triumph and hope.

**Recovery
Is Possible!**

Doorway Recovery Videos

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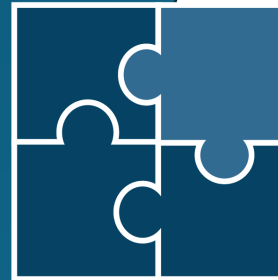
[DJ's Story: You Can Change and Live the Life You Want](#)

Contact

Contact the NCSACW TTA Program

Connect with programs that are developing tools and implementing practices and protocols to support their collaborative

Training and technical assistance to support collaboration and systems change



National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare



<https://ncsacw.acf.hhs.gov/>



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Toll-Free @ 1-866-493-2758

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Resources

Resources, 1 of 3

- Battered Women's Justice Project: [Reimagining Coordinated Community Response \(CCR\): A Focus on Survivor-Centered Design](#) (2022)
- Casey Family Programs: [How Can Child Welfare Partner with Other Systems to Support Families Experiencing Domestic Violence?](#) (2024)
- Casey Family Programs: [Supportive Communities: How are child protection agencies implementing trauma-informed, healing-centered policies and practices?](#) (2023)
- Center for Justice Innovation: [Coordinated Community Response Definition Fact Sheet](#) (2022)
- [Child Welfare Information Gateway: State Statutes Search](#) (n.d.)
- Criminal Justice Investment Initiative: [Creating a Trauma-Informed Abusive Partner Intervention Program](#) (2021)
- Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs: [The Duluth Model Wheel Library](#) (2017)
- Minnesota Department of Human Services: [Minnesota's Best Practice Guide for the Co-Occurrence of Child Maltreatment and Domestic Violence](#) (2021)
- National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health: [Family-Centered Toolkit for Domestic Violence Programs](#) (2021)
- National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health: [Guide for Engaging & Supporting Parents Affected by Domestic Violence](#) (2015)
- [National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma & Mental Health Website](#) (2023)

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- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [*Building Hope for Families Affected by Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders—A Blueprint for an Effective System of Care to Promote Lasting Recovery and Family Well-Being*](#) (2023)
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [*Building Hope for Family Healing and Recovery Webinar*](#) (2023)
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [*Collaborative Teams Toolkit for Trauma-Informed Care—Part 1: Trauma-Informed Care Tip Sheet for Collaborative Teams Serving Children, Parents, and Family Members Affected by Substance Use and Co-occurring Mental Health Challenges*](#) (2024)
- National Center on Substance Abuse and Child Welfare: [*Strengthening Systems Collaboration for Families: The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Co-Occurring Substance Use and Mental Health Disorders*](#) (2025)
- [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) (n.d.)
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- [Strong Hearts Native Helpline](#) (2024)
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: [*SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach*](#) (2014)
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