Guidelines for Participation

• Participant phones are on mute, but we encourage you to use the chat box to send us questions throughout the presentation.

• There are polling questions and a structured chat in this call—we are asking all participants to respond.

• This is a fast format (30-minute dialogue), but there will be additional opportunities to interact on the issue.

• At the end of the formal presentation there will be time for an extended Q & A with the speakers. Join us to hear answers to burning questions.
Understanding and Responding Proactively to Polyvictimization
Speakers

PRESENTER
Natalia Aguirre,
National Director of the Family Justice Center Alliance
Alliance for HOPE International

MODERATOR
Nilofer Ahsan
Lead, Knowledge & Partnerships
CANTASD

PRESENTER
Stacy Phillips,
Program Manager
Office for Victims of Crime
Polyvictimization:

Describes the collective experiences of multiple types of violence, usually in multiple settings, and often at the hands of multiple perpetrators.
Let’s look at Sally. She is a 16 year old girl who in the span of 12 months...

- Was sexually molested by her mom’s boyfriend
- Watched a gang fight on her walk home from school
- Has a boyfriend who has been verbally and emotionally abusive
- Had her cell phone stolen
- Has been bullied at school
- Has witnessed violence between her mom and her mom’s boyfriend

Join the National Conversation on Child Abuse and Neglect

cantasd.acf.hhs.gov
The three types of ACEs include:

**ABUSE**
- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual

**NEGLECT**
- Physical
- Emotional
- Divorce

**HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION**
- Mental Illness
- Mother treated violently
- Substance Abuse
- Incarcerated Relative

To learn more about ACES see the CDC’s webpage: [https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/index.html)
THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF CHILDREN’S EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

First comprehensive national survey to look at the entire spectrum of children’s exposure to violence, crime, and abuse across all ages, settings, and timeframes.

Examined past year and lifetime exposure to physical and emotional violence through both direct and indirect exposure.

38.7% reported more than 1 type of victimization.

64.5% of those children.

1.4% reported or more 10 direct victimizations.

10.9% reported or more 5 direct exposures to different types of violence.
POLYVICTIMIZATION

- Deteriorates Mental Health
- Changes Behavior
- Decreases Physical Well-being
- Increases Future Victimization
  - 2-7 times more likely to be victimized in the future
- Increases Life Adversities
  - 4-6 times the level of serious victimization
Pathways to Polyvictimization

Figure 6: Conceptual Models of Pathways to Polyvictimization

Pathway 1
Dangerous Families
- Child Maltreatment
- Sibling Assault
- Witness Domestic Violence/Sibling Maltreatment
- Peer Victimization

Pathway 2
Family Disruption and Adversity
- Poor Supervision
- Emotional Deprivation
- Peer Victimization
- Sexual Victimization
- Property Victimization

Pathway 3
Dangerous Neighborhoods
- Property Crime
- Witnessing Violence
- Peer Victimization
- Sexual Victimization

Pathway 4
Emotional Problems
- Burden for Caregivers
- Poor Social Skills
- Impaired Self-Protection
- Stigma
- Child Maltreatment
- Peer Victimization
- Sexual Victimization
Victimizations are not randomly distributed but tend to **cumulate** for certain individuals and in certain environments.
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS AND Multi-Agency Models

Start Small

Advocacy
Law Enforcement
Prosecutor and Civil Legal Services
Counseling Child Resource Room Adult Therapy
MDT Child Abuse and Sexual Assault
Social Services DCF Housing Services Cultural and Linguistic
Wellness Center Mental Health Center Interfaith Counseling Meditation
Medical Forensic Medical Examination Room Prevention
Self Sufficiency Job Training Dress for Success Childcare Camping and Mentoring

Adapted from:
The Center for Women and Families of Eastern Fairfield County, Inc.
Our Agreements About the Tool

- Client centered and used to guide service delivery
- Dynamic and flexible
- Screens for lifetime victimization
- Includes various types of victimization
- Will be used in conjunction with site-specific Screener
- Conversational
- Includes symptoms and events
- Can be implemented in two or more parts
- Is an information integration Tool
- Is focused on adult clients
Pilot Polyvictimization Assessment
Prevalence of Event Occurrence in Last Year:

Alliance for Hope Demonstration Initiative Data 2018
Pilot Polyvictimization Assessment
Prevalence of Occurrence of Trauma Symptoms In The Last Year

Alliance for Hope Demonstration Initiative Data 2018
Pilot Polytomization Assessment
Principal Components Analysis of 21 Item
Polytomization In The Last Year (20% Criteria):
Item Grouping by Component

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
<th>III</th>
<th>IV</th>
<th>V</th>
<th>VI</th>
<th>VII</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K1 = 4.53</td>
<td>K1 = 2.00</td>
<td>K1 = 1.46</td>
<td>K1 = 1.35</td>
<td>K1 = 1.25</td>
<td>K1 = 1.19</td>
<td>K1 = 1.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Emotional Abuse</td>
<td>2. Held Against Will</td>
<td>2. System Induced Trauma Chronic Discrimination</td>
<td>2. Lack of Love or Support Emotional Abuse (non-relative)</td>
<td>2. Cybercrime Stalking</td>
<td>2. Substance Abuse Perm. Long-Term Loss</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

KMO = .76
Bartlett’s Test of Sphericity $[\chi^2 = 637.55 (210); p < .001]$
Extracted Factors: K1 $\geq$ 1.0 account for 60.91% of variance.
Varimax Rotation with structure coefficients $\geq .40$: One dual loading
Strangulation for components II (.57) and VI (.53).
Internal Consistency Reliability for 21 items = .80
What we’ve learned

• Use a holistic perspective and remember that healing is not always linear
• Listen deeply and let survivors tell their whole story to better support healing
• Ensure that staff have the support they need
• Don’t just ask what happened–help the client identify things that they are doing well and increase hope!
• Create community for survivors by including alternative healing modalities such as yoga, acupuncture, Reiki, singing groups etc.
Join the National Conversation on Child Abuse and Neglect

cantasd.acf.hhs.gov

Resources

- Tip Sheet for PolyVictimization
- Polyvictimization and Complex Trauma
- Addressing Polyvictimization in Family Justice Centers and Multi-Agency Models (link from handout)
- Family Justice Centers: www.familyjusticecenter.org
- Background information on ACES
Thank You & Next Steps

• Download the handouts to learn more. Click on the files in the “Handouts” box on your screen.

• Do you have innovative ideas, questions or concerns about trauma and resilience? Tell us about your work. Send an e-mail to hello@CANTASD.org with “Trauma and Resilience” in the subject line.

Upcoming:

Jan. 10th. Father Engagement Addressing the Challenging Issues

February 26th, What the Science Tells us About Building Resilience