

Brain Development and the Effects of Maltreatment on Development

Program Description

Participants will learn how brain cell networks are structured by life experiences with and how deprivation of certain experiences impacts a child's development. This includes maltreatment, stress or trauma in early life that can have a major impact on a child's functioning and development. Participants will learn practical information to help them understand and respond to the behaviors of children, particularly when they have come from situations of abuse, neglect, or trauma.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Explain the brain develops through infancy, childhood, and adolescence.
2. Examine the relationships between brain development and child maltreatment, stress and/or trauma.
3. Identify the differences between an adolescent's brain and that of a child or adult.
4. Describe at least three interventions that can ameliorate early childhood damage to the brain from maltreatment and trauma.

Target Audience

All health care, mental health and human service professionals including psychologists, counselors, social workers, marriage, and family therapists, DSS professionals and educators/school professionals.

Contact Hours

6.0 hours

Program Agenda

Available upon request

Faculty

Jodi Flick, MSSW, LCSW, ACSW, has an MSSW from the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and has earned an LCSW and ACSW. Prior to becoming a Clinical Associate Professor with the UNC-CH School of Social Work, she provided direct services in out-patient and in-patient mental health, in emergency poverty relief services, in crisis intervention with the police department and in medical social work, with 40 years clinical social work experience. She is a member of the N.C. Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force and the Triangle Coalition for Suicide Prevention, and she facilitates a local Survivors of Suicide Support Group. She has been actively involved in volunteer work and community organization around social justice and service issues. In addition, Ms. Flick has considerable experience teaching at conferences, colleges and local organizations and is a dynamic trainer who engages participants in the learning process.

OR

Kathy Johnson, MS is a Clinical Assistant Professor at the School of Social Work, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Jordan Institute for Families, Family and Children's Resource Program where she develops curricula and trains child welfare workers statewide. Ms. Johnson has experience as a teacher for the hearing impaired and as a child protective services and adult protective services investigator. She conducted abuse and neglect investigations in childcare statewide; worked as both an adult and CPS policy consultant for the NC Division of Social Services; and was a criminal justice expert and instructor for the NC State Bureau of Investigations, where she trained SBI special agents and other law enforcement officers regarding investigations and forensic interviewing in child sexual abuse and child pornography cases. Ms. Johnson is a certified criminal justice instructor; a certified suicide intervention instructor; chair of the Intentional Death Committee, NC Child Fatality Task Force; past president of the North Carolina Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. She serves on the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Board of Directors.