

Trauma Informed Considerations: Childhood Influences Impacting Abusive Choices

BISCOMI 2016 Conference

Dearborn Michigan

Presenter

Dr. Oliver J. Williams

University of Minnesota

St. Paul Minnesota

Multiple Pathways Regarding Exposure to Violence and the Affects of the Exposure

We will explore men that were exposed to violence as children

- ❧ Exposure to violence between parents (or father figure) at home
Exposure to violence among family and friends
- ❧ Exposure to violence (or bullying) in school
- ❧ Exposure to violence in the neighborhood or community
- ❧ Exposure to violence in gangs

Exposure is something seen but also things unseen

- ☞ Young children hearing or witnessing, violence first hand in their environment-home or neighborhood, school etc.- where someone is getting abused
- ☞ Witnessing people doing the hitting, stabbing or shooting, witnessing someone getting shot (single or multiple times)- etc.
- ☞ Being involved with the violence, being the bully, protecting oneself from being harmed or bullied

Effects of that exposure

☞ Neurophysiological

☞ Cognitive

☞ Psychological

☞ Behavioral

Those effected could manifest one or more of the following:

- ☞ Sense of powerlessness

- ☞ Confusion
- ☞ Anger
- ☞ Fear
- ☞ Isolation
- ☞ Attachment disorders
- ☞ Challenges with identity
- ☞ Challenges in regulating emotions/dis-regulation
- ☞ Rapid mood shifts
- ☞ Poor problem solving

- These Symptoms can lead to PTSD

Some programs do the following:

- ❧ Some programs work on helping to develop self concept
- ❧ Improving the understanding of issues
- ❧ Regulation of fear
- ❧ Regulate emotions
- ❧ Grief techniques
- ❧ Correcting faulty thinking
- ❧ Process childhood exposures to trauma

Story of men exposed to violence in such environments

∞ Pernell Brown

Work to address this among Young African American men

- ☞ Dr. John Rich at Drexel University—interrupting the behavior and address the challenges with youth in their environment-Wrong Place Wrong Time; The meaning of Being a Sucker
- ☞ Dr. William Oliver, Indiana University School of Criminology- modes of reacting based on street codes, examples of challenges youth have in dating violence and those exposed to abuse
- ☞ Dr. Esther Jenkins and Dr. Oliver J. Williams, IDVAAC University of Minnesota, Youth Violence Study
- ☞ Dr. Oliver J. Williams, University of Minnesota, SRI (Safe Return Initiative
- ☞ Nathan McCall—Make Me Want to Holler
- ☞ Geoffrey Canada, Harlem School Zone
- ☞ Dr. Sandy Graham-Berman-University of Michigan Department of Psychology-retired
- ☞ OJJDP- MST program

What should we do?

- ☞ In batterer intervention programs do we assess for these challenges among men in our programs?
- ☞ Do we offer guidance about addressing these challenges?