

UNFORESEEN BARRIERS: INTERVENTIONS FOR AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTERS



Presenter:
Akosoa McFadgion, PhD
Howard University

PURPOSE

- To provide attendees with information to frame culturally-sensitive processes and program outcomes that support African American women survivors of interpersonal violence & traumatic brain injury.
- To equip attendees with African-Centered strategies appropriate for trauma-informed program implementation with communities of color.
- To provide attendees with the opportunity to develop strategies to evaluate their culturally-sensitive and trauma-informed programs.



TBI IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

○ Mild TBI-

- “traumatically induced physiological disruption of brain functioning characterized by an alteration of mental status at time of injury, anterograde or retrograde amnesia, with or without loss of consciousness, and post traumatic amnesia <24 hours” (Wilson,2009).

○ Anoxic Injury (Strangulation)

- Intentional “external compression of the neck that can impede oxygen transport by preventing blood flow to or from the brain” (Taliaferro, et al., 2009).

○ “Facial Injuries or severely shaken” (Bent-Goodley, 2011)



POST CONCUSSIVE SYMPTOMS

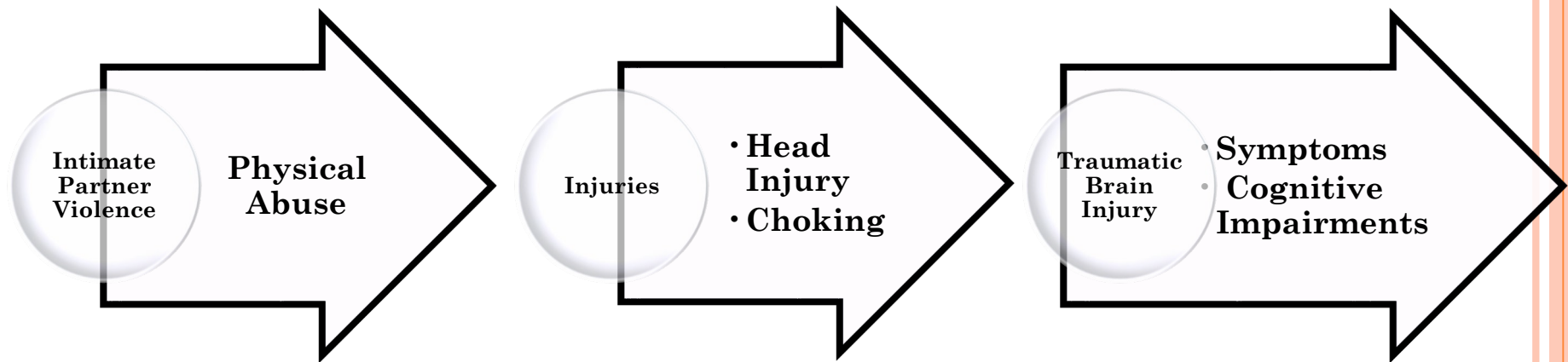
- Difficulty concentrating
- Trouble sleeping
- Memory loss
- Headaches
- Dizziness
- Seeing spots
- Difficulty problem solving
- Post Traumatic Amnesia
- Fatigue
- Sleep disturbances



SYMPTOMATOLOGY OF TBI

System	Symptom	Indicator
Head, eyes, ears, nose, throat exam	Neck pain, voice and vision change, difficulty swallowing, ringing in ears	Facial and neck swelling; facial droop; marks on neck; headache; nose bleed
Respiratory	Difficulty breathing; chest pain	Hoarseness; respiratory distress;
Gastrointestinal	difficulty swallowing	Vomiting
Gynecological	Abdomen pain during pregnancy	Irregular bleeding; miscarriage
Urinary		Lack of urinary control
Skin	Petechiae; subconjunctival hemorrhages	Scratches on neck, red spots; cord marks
Neurological	Dizziness; weakness; loss of consciousness; headache	Mental status changes; loss of sensation; eyelid and facial droop; extreme weakness or paralysis
Psychiatric	Memory problems; depression; suicidal ideation; insomnia; anxiety	Trouble concentrating; difficulty remembering things; confusion
Musculoskeletal	Neck or back pain	Cervical spine tenderness; thoracic cage tenderness; shoulder or clavicle tenderness

PATHWAY OF ABUSE TO INJURY: LOCATION, FREQUENCY, SEVERITY



40% experience head, neck, and facial injuries (Bhandari et al., 2005)

Head, neck and facial injuries significant indicators of IPV (Wu et al., 2010)



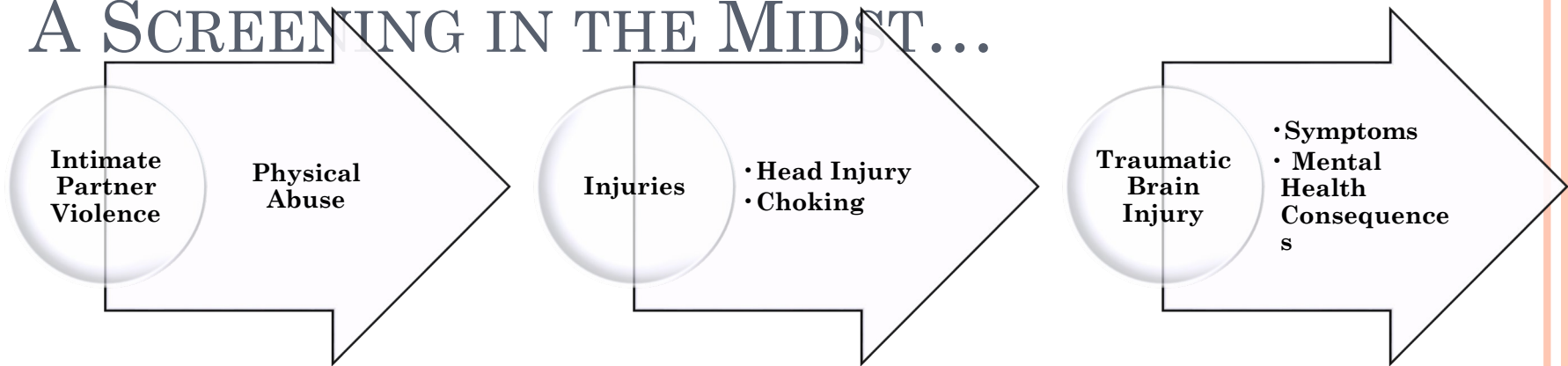
COGNITIVE IMPAIRMENTS



S



A SCREENING IN THE MIST...



- Injuries can be unnoticed
 - Anoxic injuries (strangulation)
 - Blunt force (closed injuries)
- Co-morbidity of PTSD, Depression, & TBI
- Consequences of TBI can last at least 5 years or longer
 - A longitudinal study found that women with TBI had reproductive challenges, cognitive impairments, and poor health overall 5 years later
- Severity of Abuse in Domestic Violence Shelter



TYPES OF INTERVENTION MODELS

- Logic (Outcomes)
- Process
- Synergy



INDIVIDUALISTIC: LOGIC MODEL

- Problem Statement: *What problem does she need solved? Housing? Employment? Childcare?*
- Goal: *What do you hope to achieve with her?*
- Rationale and Assumptions: *What are some implicit underlying dynamics?*
- Resources: *What do you have to work with?*
- Activities: *What will you do with your resources?*
- Outputs: *What are the tangible products of your activities? Housing? Employment? Childcare?*
- Outcomes: *What changes do you expect to occur as a result of your work?*



PROCESS MODELS

A process model documents and analyzes the early development and actual implementation of the strategy or program, assessing whether strategies were implemented as planned and whether expected output was actually produced.

Examples of output include:

- Number of job interviews.
- Frequency and type of abuse experienced; past or present (physical, hit with an object, strangulation).
- Types of services provided (counseling, resume prep).
- Number of women served



CULTURALLY-SENSITIVE MODELS: SYNERGY FRAMEWORK

- The community and individuals are interconnected with each other and nature by a spirit realm
- The community is accountable to one another in reaching racial solidarity.
- The individual is a holistic and spiritual being that actively participates with the world and the world with him/her.
- Knowledge is gained through our affective and cognitive experiences.



ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS: THE INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE

○ Cultural-Self

- A process of synergizing the spirit, unique experiences, and communal experiences into a multi-dimension of oneself.

Self-Knowledge

- An understanding of how political, religious, and social environments influence personal experiences. Occurs when individuals acquire oneness with their inner, outer, and spiritual selves.

○ Self-Reliance

- The realization that an individual believes in their inner power and an optimal conceptualization of self is reached.



ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS: THE COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE

○ Collectivism

- The collective identity and liberation of the group gives birth to individual liberation and one's identity

○ Fundamental Goodness

- Everyone is innately good capable of participating in a reciprocal relationship with the world

○ Spirituality

- Gives unification to the group and identity to the individual



TRADITIONALISM: BEGINNINGS FOR LIBERATION

- Program Components & Outcomes
 - Sense of Belonging as:
 - Family relationships
 - Community support and connection
 - Spirituality as a method used to work through issues
 - Sense of Identity as:
 - Influenced by trauma
 - Affected by collective trauma within/between community
 - Both individual and collective accomplishments determine success
 - Sense of Control as:
 - Influenced by service provision
 - Power differential- facilitator/customer
 - Community ALWAYS has the power



HOW DOES IT WORK: SUPPORTING SURVIVORS OF IPV & TBI



TRAUMA-INFORMED FRAMEWORK

- Elucidates a consciousness among survivors that intersects racial, cultural, and economic influences into a unique experience of trauma.
- Liberation for people of color is attained as survivors speak for themselves regarding the systems of oppression.
- Necessitates a commitment to human solidarity and eradicate the ideology of domination by the oppressor or service providers.



NOTHING TO DO WITH .



*'You have difficulty making decisions?'
Because family doesn't want me in relationship. My husband wants to see the baby. So confusing*

No it didn't have nothing to do with the forgetting it was just the situation I was in. As far as the housing that have something to do with not having a job and the job it just seem like it's so hard for me to get one.

Ok difficultly learning new information...? I probably be giving up or something. I told you I can't keep appointments with my psychologist or therapist. Like I'm supposed to be meeting up to get my license I don't even know where the book at I can't do it. I can't concentrate like that.

TRAUMA-INFORMED FRAMEWORK

- Identifies the interlocking system of oppression and prior experiences of trauma that women, and all people of color endure.
- Confronts the systems of oppression and trauma through the voice and lens of the victim AND service provider. The voice and lens is the unique heritage, struggles, and experiences of women of color.



TRAUMA-INFORMED: ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS- AUTONOMY & LIBERATION

- Autonomy: defining oneself without rejecting the collective experience but helping to actualize the freedom of the collective.
 - Facilitator _____
 - Survivor _____

- Liberation: deliverance that occurs when Black women arise and give voice to the complex experiences of African-American women, the Black race, and the global culture.
 - Facilitator _____
 - Survivor _____



TRAUMA-INFORMED: IMPLEMENTATION

- Positions values, beliefs, and knowledge as outcomes.
 - Facilitator _____
 - Survivor _____
- The self-definition of people of color, is intertwined in the reconciliation of contradictions that emulate from perpetual trauma
 - Facilitator _____
 - Survivor _____
- The collective identity is always the source of the individual self-identity
 - Facilitator _____
 - Survivor _____



TRAUMA-INFORMED: IMPLEMENTATION

○ Questioning roles

- Internally define and integrate a communal identity
- Internal racial identity contributes significantly
- Facilitator _____
- Survivor _____

○ Life course trajectory of trauma

- Life Course Trajectories are not smooth and predictable; result in twists and turns and reversal in life course
- Life events may open or close opportunities, make a lasting change on one's environment and have an impact on self concept
- Facilitator _____
- Survivor _____

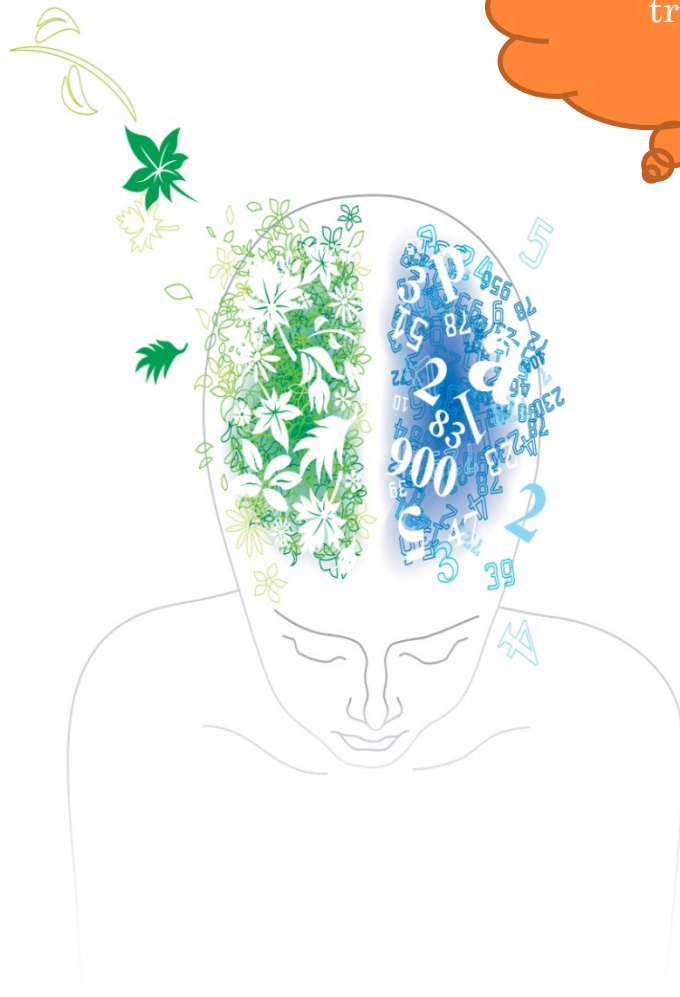


THINK ABOUT THE ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS DIFFERENTLY?

- Problem Statement: *What problem does she need solved? Housing? Employment? Childcare?*
- Goal: *What do you hope to achieve with her?*
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- Resources: *What do you have to work with?*
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SOURCES OF RACIAL IDENTITY



Balancing act of
trying to be
perfect

the feeling that I
would die

Forgetting
because I wanted
to

He just kept
banging my head



Sources of Collective Identity



He beat me with the belt, he was like I'm not gon' put my hands on you I'ma beat you so he beat me with the belt then so once I got a hold of the belt and that one popped he choked me. He got a blow up bed and I just fell on the blow up bed, blacked out, my head it started getting light headed first and then my eyes just closed.



TBI in Strangulation

ENCOURAGE SELF-RELIANCE



“my eyes were, I guess he was choking me so tight that I had like red lines in my eyes. I had lines in my eyes and I had the marks, fingerprints around my neck.”

“I got slapped so hard one time he broke a vessel...in the eye you can see that red string across...that was a ringing of the ear kind of day.”



Source of Spirituality

- *He choked me while I was in my sleep and I woke up gasping for air, I was gasping for air. I couldn't breathe my neck got really, really tight, and my eyes felt like they were about to pop out of my head... I jumped up and I ran out in the living room and he came out there to the living room and that's when he jacked me up by my shirt and slammed me into the wall. I made a big imprint into the wall.*



TRAUMATIC STRESS, POST CONCUSSIVE SYMPTOMS NOT RELATED TO TBI

He choked me...I just blacked out and once I realized it is when I woke up I was like did I just black out? So once I did that I was trying to get out the door but he was chasing me out the door and so he just dragged me out the door..

Cause like I said he never left any bruises and like I said with the stars thing it was less than a minute and the doctors are gonna be like why you here you should've called the police.



Source of Identity

- Impacted employment
 - Abuser punched her in the eye and driving was “*a way that I made money and that’s at zero right now.*”
- Impacted health
 - I have um almost like a migraine, like if I get too frustrated I’ll black out and my head will start hurting on the left side and he gave me medication for that.
- Impact ability to cope with stressful situations
 - It is because I seem to cry a lot...I'm so frustrated.



Source of Fundamental Goodness

- Feeling stuck impacts goals
 - *Um it keeps me stuck some days I don't wanna move. Like I said some days I have to push myself to even get up out the bed because of the depression.*
- Depression impact caring for children
 - *I did a lot of hiding. Staying in the house. A lot of crying. Sunk into depression. Really couldn't take care of the kids, you know what I'm saying, cause I didn't want them to see it*

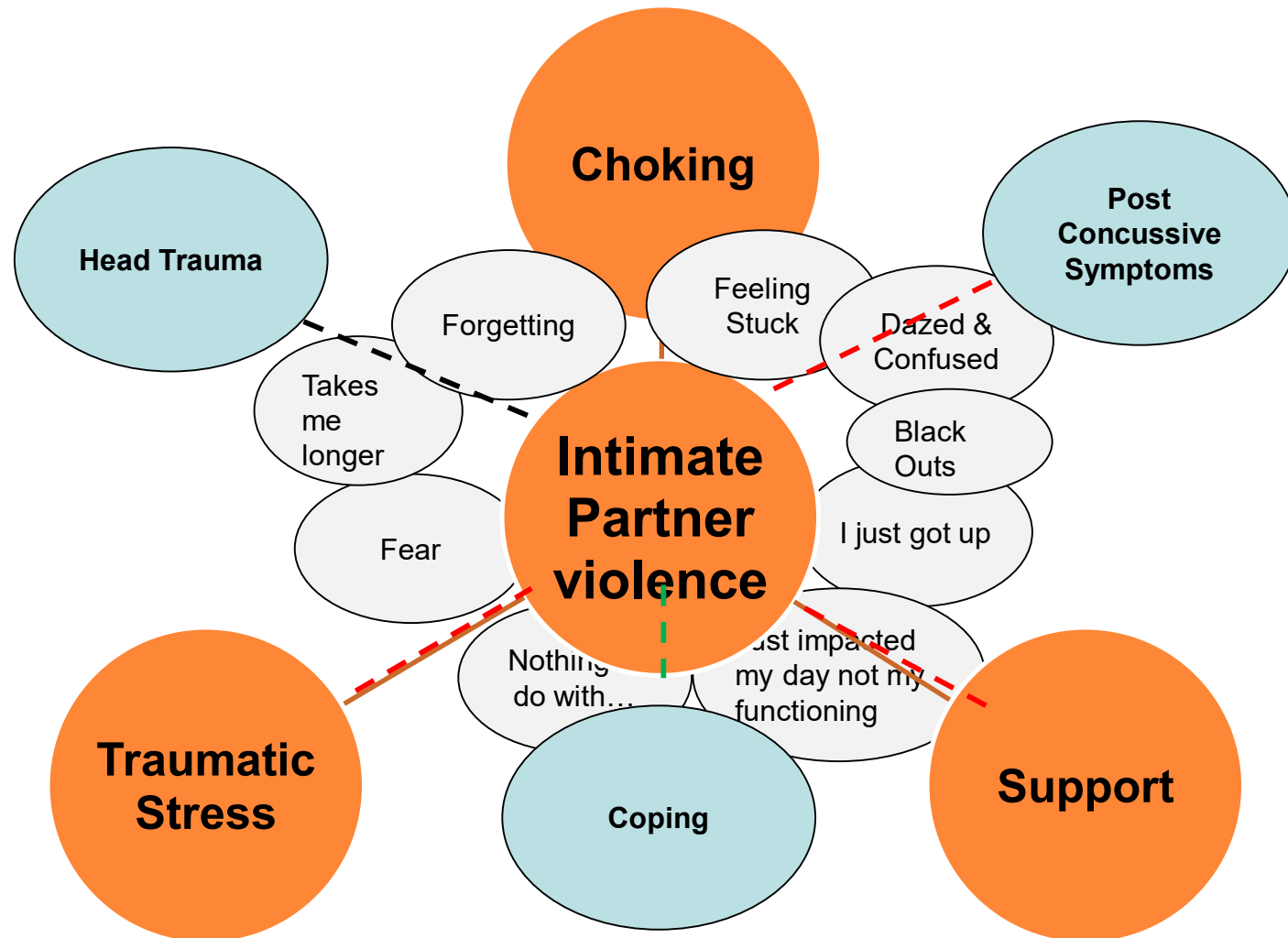


INCLUDING YOU

- I have to write everything down
 - *I said that started after the choking incident...find myself not being able to remember stuff I can remember longer but short like sometimes I be like I know...I use to be able to...I know what I have to do so it wouldn't be nothing for me to remember it. Now I have to literally write things down*
- I have to do get things done
 - *[having a job]that's something that I would know I have to do anyway so I would know that I have to check to make sure cause I need the job or go to school. I would know to check (because of forgetting)*



IPV AND TBI MANIFESTATION MODEL



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THANK YOU

