Trauma-Informed Evaluation: Protecting Evaluators and Survivors of Sex Trafficking

Jennifer Klauth, LMSW

Bo Klauth, PhD Student

Western Michigan University

NASW Code of Ethics, values

- Competence
  - Social workers practice within their areas of competence and develop and enhance their professional expertise.

- Dignity and Worth of a Person
  - Social workers treat each person in a caring and respectful fashion, mindful of individual differences and cultural and ethnic diversity. Social workers promote clients' socially responsible self-determination. Social workers seek to enhance clients' capacity and opportunity to change and to address their own

- Social Justice
  - Social workers pursue social change, particularly with and on behalf of vulnerable and oppressed individuals and groups of people.

Guiding Principles for Evaluators

- Competence (also see Evaluator Competencies)
  - A6. Carefully consider the ethical implications of the use of emerging technologies in evaluation practice

- Respect for people
  - D2. Abide by current professional ethics, standards, and regulations (including informed consent, confidentiality, and prevention of harm) pertaining to evaluation participants.
  - D3. Strive to maximize the benefits and reduce unnecessary risks or harms for groups and individuals associated with the evaluation.

- Common Good and Equity
  - E4. Promote transparency and active sharing of data and findings with the goal of equitable access to information in forms that respect people and honor promises of confidentiality.

Domestic Definition

Commercially exploiting a person for labor or sex by using force, fraud, or coercion OR *inducing a person under age 18 into commercial sex*

Trafficking Victims Protection Act (Now included in VAWA)

International Definition

Article 3, paragraph (a) Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons

"The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs."

Trauma

"Individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life-threatening with lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being."

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Traumatic Experiences of a Trafficking Victim

- Sleep deprivation
- Starvation
- Debt bondage
- Abuse – physical, sexual, mental, verbal, emotional, ritualistic
- Forced to have sex*
- Forced drug addictions*
- Trained to not speak and/or remember;
- May look like a DID
- Beatings, mutilations
- Tattoos, branding*
- Unwanted Pregnancies, Abortions*
- Disorientation (especially around location)
- **ANY Psychological Diagnosis**

Research and Evaluation Challenges

- No exact estimates = no exact baselines

- Vague objectives
  - E.g. "eliminating human trafficking" or "strengthening government action against human trafficking"
  - E.g. To implement the program as outlined in the program document

- Lack of rigorous evaluations
  - Only evidence related to project outputs/program extension
  - Evidence related to outcomes are subjective
  - Lack impact evaluation
  - Not evaluate cost efficiency
  - Not included victims in evaluation

Trauma-Informed Evaluation: Protecting Evaluators and Participants

Evaluation Approach

Evaluator preparation

Participant Recruitment & Selection

Data collection

Ethical dissemination

Evaluation Approach

- Utilization focused (Patton, 2008):
  - "Specific, intended primary users for specific, intended uses"
  - Consult stakeholders

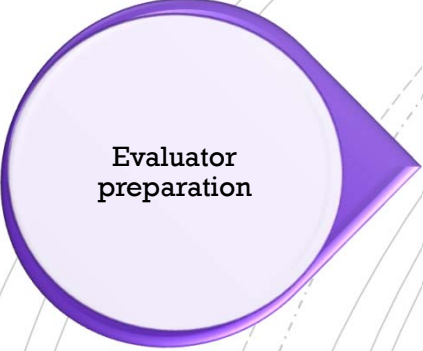- Use external experts
  - E.g. Awareness on participants, locations

Patton, M. (2008). Utilization-focused evaluation (4th ed.)
UN Evaluation Group.(2005). Guide to conducting evaluation

Know the Risks & Benefits of Participation for Survivors

(Legerski, et.al, 2010)

Know Possible Trauma Responses

- Avoid eye-contact, physical touch or proximity
- Confusion
- Inconsistencies in memory
- Flat affect
- Dis-regulation
- Flashbacks
- Anxiety attack
- "Shutting down"
- Disassociation

Know the evaluator's risks

Vicarious

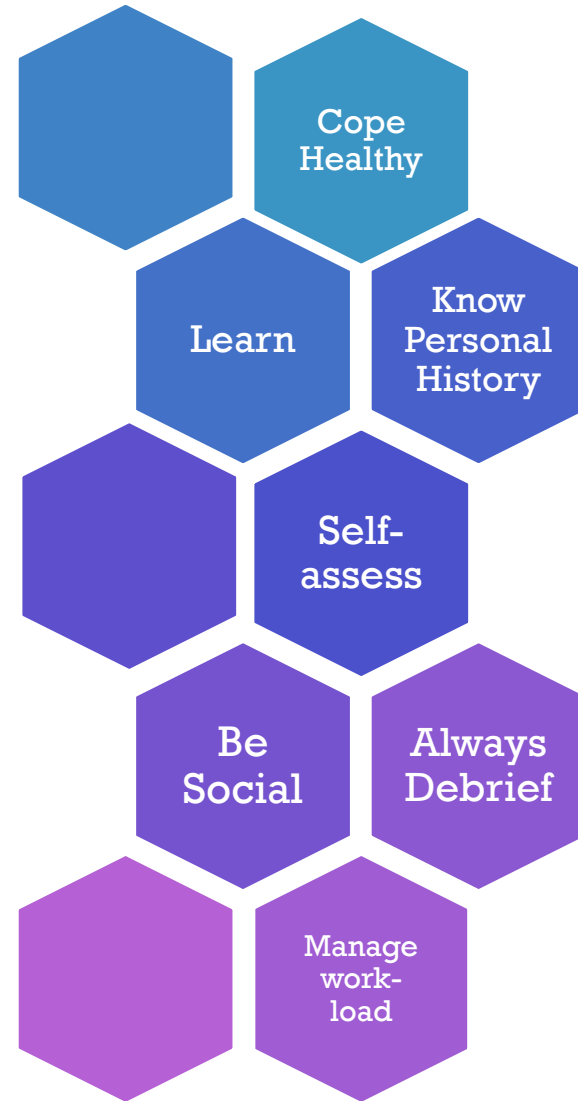**Secondary**

Compassion Fatigue

Burnout

(Whit-Woosley and Sprang, 2018)
(Van der Merwe and Hunt, 2019)

Evaluator preparation

Take care of yourself

Cope Healthy

Learn

Know Personal History

Self-assess

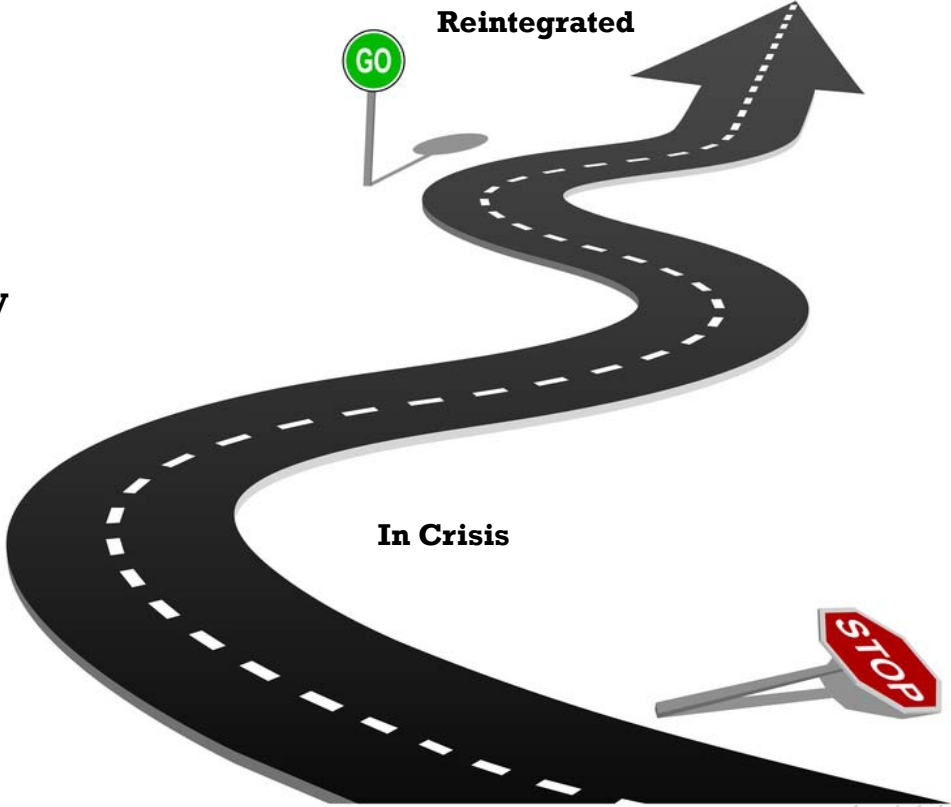Be Social

Always Debrief

Manage work-load

Participant Recruitment & Selection

GO

Reintegrated

In Recovery

In Crisis

STOP

Data collection

Individual interview

Pros:

- In-depth data

- Easy to schedule

Cons:

- Inequality of power
- Topic sensitivity: i.e., police treatment, sex experience,
- Gender sensitivity

Data collection

Group discussion/interview

- In some cultures, people are more comfortable sharing in groups than alone
- Encourage responses
- Normalizes their experiences
- Reduce social desirability bias

Data collection

Facilitating a group discussion

- Emphasize voluntary participation. Get consent to record the group!

- Ice breaker games and introductions

- Ask participants to set ground rules

- Allow participants to choose their own names for nametags

- Round-robin question asking

- Always use "is there anything else you like to add?"

- Provide breaks (both planned and at request of participants)

- Have a trained mental health professional at hand (mental health first aid)

- Provide tissues and water and light refreshments

Ethical
Dissemination

National Human
Trafficking Hotline

1-888-373-7888

Helpful Resources

Sign up to receive these via email!

Self Assessments:

- Know your own ACE score

- Maslach Burnout Inventory (MBI)

- Professional Quality of Life scale (ProQOL)

AEA Guiding Principles

https://www.eval.org/p/cm/ld/fid=51

Trauma-informed evaluation tip-sheet by Wilder Foundation

https://www.wilder.org/sites/default/files/imports/TraumaTipSheet_10-16.pdf

Contact Us

- Jennifer.klauth@wmich.edu
- Bo.klauth@wmich.edu

Resources

Beck, B., Halling, S., Mcnabb, M., Miller, D., Rowe, J. O., & Schulz, J. (2003). Facing up to Hopelessness: A Dialogal Phenomenological Study. Journal of Religion and Health, 42(4), 339–354. https://doi.org/10.1023/A:1025816827553

Beck, B., Halling, S., Mcnabb, M., Miller, D., Rowe, J., & Schulz, J. (2005). On Navigating Despair: Reports from Psycho- therapists. Journal of Religion and Health, 44(2), 187–205. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10943-005-2777-x

Code of Ethics: English. (n.d.). Retrieved November 4, 2019, from https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics- English

Davy, D. (2016). Anti–Human Trafficking Interventions: How do we know if they are working? *American Journal of Evaluation*, *37*(4), 486–504. https://doi.org/10.1177/1098214016630615

Greer, B. (2014). Balancing the equity of mental health injuries: Examining the "trauma exception" for sex trafficking T-VISA applicants. International Journal of Migration, Health, and Social Care, 10(3), 159–191. https://doi.org/10.1108/IJMHSC-11-2013-0042

Harle, M., Cruz, R., Veloso, G., Rock, J., Faulkner, J., & Cohen, M. (2007). The Experience of Filipino American Patients With Cancer. Oncology Nursing Forum, 34(6), 1170–5.

Human Trafficking Checklist for Healthcare Providers and Dentists. (n.d.). Retrieved November 4, 2019, from https://swmihumantrafficking.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/ChecklistforHealthcareProfs-1-1.pdf

Kendall, P. L., & Merton, R. K. (1946). The Focused Interview. American Journal of Sociology, 51(6), 541–557. https://doi.org/10.1086/219886

Kendall, P. L., Fiske, M., & Merton, R. K. (1956). The focused interview: A manual of problems and procedures. Free Press.

Resources

Legerski, J. P., & Bunnell, S. L. (2010). The risks, benefits, and ethics of trauma-focused research participation. *Ethics and Behavior*, *20*(6), 429–442. https://doi.org/10.1080/10508422.2010.521443

Mcgarry, J., & Ali, P. (2016). Researching domestic violence and abuse in healthcare settings: Challenges and issues. Journal of Research in Nursing, 21(5–6), 465–476. https://doi.org/10.1177/1744987116650923

OHCHR | Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. (n.d.). Retrieved November 4, 2019, from https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx

Professional Burnout, Vicarious Trauma, Secondary Traumatic Stress, and Com...: EBSCOhost. (n.d.). Retrieved November 2, 2019, from http://web.b.ebscohost.com.libproxy.library.wmich.edu/ehost/detail/detail?vid=0&sid=e7f237b5-9418-47a1-9c37-6086a52f0d97%40pdc-v-sessmgr01&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWhvc3QtbGl2ZQ%3D%3D#AN=60132515&db=a9h

Secondary distress in violence researchers: A randomised trial of the effectiveness of group debriefings - ProQuest. (n.d.). Retrieved November 2, 2019, from https://search-proquestcom.libproxy.library.wmich.edu/docview/1906143910?accountid=15099&rfr_id=info%3Axri%2Fsid%3Aprimo

Taylor, N. C., & Robinson, W. D. (2016). The Lived Experience of Young Widows and Widowers. The American Journal of Family Therapy, 44(2), 67–79.

Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. (n.d.). Retrieved November 4, 2019, from https://2001-2009.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2008/105392.htm

Trauma / SAMHSA-HRSA. (n.d.). Retrieved November 4, 2019, from https://www.integration.samhsa.gov/clinical-practice/trauma

Wilkinson, S. (1998). Focus Groups in Health Research: Exploring the Meanings of Health and Illness. Journal of Health Psychology, 3(3), 329–348. https://doi.org/10.1177/135910539800300304