

Traditional Human Services Paradigm*

Understanding of Trauma

- PTSD as organizing model
- Impact of trauma predictable & obvious
- Trauma is an event
- Trauma impact follows definable course

Understanding of Child/Youth Survivor

- Different system, different view of child & problem
- Understood out of context as individual difficulty
- The problem is the symptom, so treat symptom
- Responsibility not allocated appropriately

Understanding of Services

- Primary goal is stability & absence of symptom
- Crisis-Driven
- Time limits economically & administratively driven

Understanding of Service Relationship

- Child/youth/family passive recipients of services
- Child/youth/family's safety & trust taken for granted
- Provider/Consumer relationship uniformly hierarchical

**Based on Using Trauma Theory to Design Service Systems, eds. Fallot and Harris*

Trauma-Informed Human Services Paradigm*

Understanding of Trauma

- Complex PTSD as organizing model
- Impact of trauma is complex & seen in apparently unrelated life domains over life course
- Trauma a core event changing one's development

Understanding of Child/Youth Survivor

- Integrated, whole person view of child & challenges
- Contextual, relational view of challenges & solutions
- "Symptoms" seen as coping & survival strategies
- Developmentally appropriate allocation of responsibility

Understanding of Services

- Primary goals are growth, empowerment, resilience & life skill development
- Service priorities are prevention driven
- Service time limits are determined by child's needs

Understanding of Service Relationship

- Each child, youth, family member & service provider has a unique & valuable perspective
- Young voices need to be drawn out in empathic relationships, sensitized to the silencing impact of trauma
- Young person's safety must be ensured & trust developed over time
- Service relationships involve developmentally appropriate collaboration