



Trauma Response and the Criminal Justice System: A Virtual Summit on Knowledge, Healing, and Resilience

“Translating Trauma-Informed Care Principles Into Practice with Justice-Involved Clients”

This presentation will describe how those working in criminal justice (CJ) can apply SAMHSA’s trauma-informed principles in clinical, forensic, and correctional settings. Research has consistently found that trauma can have long-term effects on social, emotional, cognitive, relational, and behavioral functioning. This 75-minute session will summarize research describing the prevalence and impact of trauma and its contributions to criminality, self-regulation problems, and addictions. Participants will learn to view criminal behavior problems through the lens of trauma. Trauma Informed Practices (TIPs) will be offered to enhance service delivery across a variety of professional and clinical roles in the CJ system.

Learning Objectives: 1. Participants will become informed about cross-disciplinary research describing the impact of early childhood trauma on neurocognitive, social, emotional, and behavioral development. 2. Participants will be able to identify and describe SAMHSA’s principles and components of trauma informed practices. 3. Participants will learn to conceptualize criminal behavior problems through a trauma lens, and to utilize Trauma Informed Care (TIC) practices that help clients improve self-regulation and decrease risk for recidivism.

Presenter: Jill S. Levenson, Ph.D., LCSW

Dr. Jill Levenson is a Professor of Social Work at Barry University in Miami, FL. She is a SAMHSA-trained (USA) trauma-informed care instructor, and Lead Coordinator for the Trauma-informed Training Initiative at Barry’s Center for Human Rights & Social Justice. She has published 5 books and over 100 articles, many about adverse childhood experiences and trauma-informed care in forensic and clinical settings. Her research has been funded by the National Institutes of Justice, CDC, and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Dr. Levenson is a licensed clinical social worker in Florida and counsels survivors and perpetrators of sexual assault and interpersonal violence. She has provided TIC training in more than 20 US states, Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong, Australia, and New Zealand.