Brooklyn Heights Behavioral Associates presents:

Utilizing Evidence-Based Treatment (BBT) to Target Trauma Responses & Providing Brief Demonstrations of BBT for Workforce Fatigue

> A workshop by licensed clinicians Susan Snyder, LCSW & Brianna Sculley, LMSW Research contribution by Weldon Lummus, LMSW



- Review of workforce fatigue and implications of burnout
- Overview and demonstration of EBT to target trauma responses:
  - Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT Stage 2)
  - Prolonged Expose (PE)
  - Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)
  - Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EMDR)
  - Mindfulness & Somatic (body-oriented) approaches
  - Psychopharmacology

# Dialectical Behavior Therapy

- A combination of eastern Zen practice and traditional cognitive/behavioral therapies
- Considered the front-line treatment for emotional dysregulation, acute and chronic suicidal behavior, and non-suicidal self injury.
- **5 Modes:** individual therapy, skills group, team consultation, phone coaching, and ancillary services
- 4 domains of skill development: mindfulness, distress tolerance, interpersonal effectiveness & emotional regulation



## Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Mindfulness

The act of consciously focusing the mind in the present moment without judgment and without attachment to the moment

Linehan, 1993

## Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Distress Tolerance

The ability to accept both oneself and the current situation



# Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Interpersonal Effectiveness

- 1. Obtaining objectives while maintaining relationships and self-respect
- 2. Developing and maintaining relationships
- 3. Walking the "middle path": balancing acceptance and change in relationships

# Dialectical Behavior Therapy: Emotion Regulation

- 1. Understanding and naming emotions
- 2. Changing unwanted emotions
- 3. Reducing vulnerability to extreme emotions
- 4. Managing extreme emotions when they arise

#### TIPP (Changing your body chemistry to reduce extreme emotion *fast*)

т	<ul> <li>Tip the Temperature of your face with cold water (to calm down fast)</li> <li>Holding your breath, put your face in a bowl of cold water, or hold a cold pack (or zip-lock bag of cold water) on your eyes and cheeks.</li> <li>Hold for 30 seconds. Keep water above 50°F.</li> </ul>
I	<ul> <li>Intense exercise (to calm down your body when it is revved up by emotion)</li> <li>Engage in intense exercise, if only for a short while.</li> <li>Expend your body's stored up physical energy by running, walking fast, jumping, playing basketball, lifting weights, etc.</li> </ul>
Р	<ul> <li>Paced breathing (pace your breathing by slowing it down)</li> <li>Breathe deeply into your belly.</li> <li>Slow your pace of inhaling and exhaling way down (on average, five to six breaths per minute).</li> <li>Breathe out more slowly than you breathe in (for example, 5 seconds in and 7 seconds out).</li> </ul>
Ρ	<ul> <li>Paired muscle relaxation (to calm down by pairing muscle relaxation with breathing out)</li> <li>While breathing into your belly, deeply tense your body muscles (not so much as to cause a cramp).</li> <li>Notice the tension in your body.</li> <li>While breathing out, say the word "Relax" in your mind.</li> <li>Let go of the tension.</li> <li>Notice the difference in your body.</li> </ul>

## DBT Demo: TIP & Paced Breathing

- 1. Using temperature to quickly change the body's chemistry
- 2. Paced breathing to increase vagal tone, stimulating your ANS

Linehan, 2015

# Prolonged Exposure (PE)

- Subset of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) that teaches individuals to gradually approach trauma-related memories, feelings, and situations
- Typically takes place over approximately three months with weekly individual sessions (8-15 sessions overall)
- 60 to 120-minute sessions are recommended so that the participant can effectively engage in exposure and process the experience
- Treatment includes psychoeducation, assessment, and collaboratively developed imaginal exposures and in vivo exposures

American Psychological Association (APA), 2017

# Prolonged Exposure (PE) Demo

- Case example
- Written imaginal exposure
- Deep relaxation technique (paired muscle relaxation) taught to help mitigate distress

## Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)

- Short-term treatment that helps participants reorient thinking, belief systems, and emotional responses that stem from traumatic experiences
- Assists clients in changing cognitive associations that lead to maladaptive functioning and problems in living
- Theoretical underpinnings: emotional processing theory and social cognitive theory
- Incorporates psychoeducation, cognitive coping skills, relaxation techniques, desensitization, gradual exposure, developing a trauma narrative, and cognitive processing

#### **TF-CBTDemo:** Cognitive Triangle



# Eye Movement Desensitization & Reprocessing (EVDR)

- Eight phase treatment that incorporates eye movements or bilateral stimulation while processing a targeted trauma memory
- Over 30 positive controlled outcome studies have been done to review the efficacy of EMDR. Some have shown that 90% of single-trauma victims no longer meet PTSD criteria after three 90-minute sessions
- Simulated eye movements during trauma processing help to alleviate disturbed feelings and process the memory more efficiently

EMDR Institute, 2020

#### **EVDR** Demo

• Example of an EMDR script eliciting a distressing event

## Mindfulness & Somatic (body-oriented) approaches

- Somatic Experiencing (SE) focuses on resolving symptoms of chronic and posttraumatic stress
- Directs a client's focus and awareness to internal sensations
- Does not require clients to directly evoke traumatic memories (unlike exposure)
- Indirectly targets historically-charged memories while introducing more adaptive interoceptive experiences that contradict those of an immobilized threat response and feelings of helplessness
- Shares principles with eastern Zen practices like mindfulness and meditation

Payne, Levine, & Crane-Godreau, 2015

#### Demo: Body Scan Meditation

## Psychopharmacology

- Evidence-based medication for PTSD:
  - selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs): sertraline, paroxetine, and fluoxetine
  - selective serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs): venlafaxine
- Only sertraline (Zoloft) and paroxetine (Paxil) are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for PTSD

\*Always refer to a board-certified physician to administer appropriate medications and medication management services.

# Finding BT& Closing



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