EXPLORING TRAUMA + A BRIEF INTERVENTION FOR MEN & GENDER DIVERSE PEOPLE

By Stephanie S. Covington, PhD; Shane S Pugh, BA LADC; Roberto Rodriguez, MA LADC

> Presented by Shane S Pugh, BA, LADC

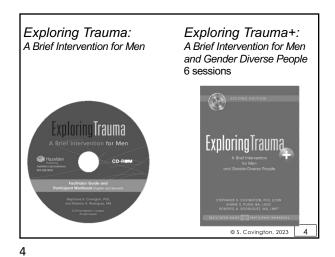
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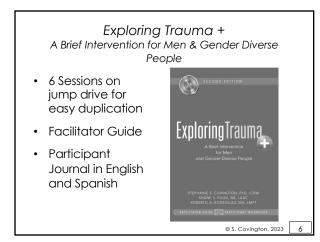






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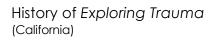






- 8 10 Participants per group
- Variety of lectures, break out groups, creative and kinesthetic activities.
- An increased accessibility for trans masculine, transgender, and gender nonconforming participants

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- Beyond Violence (women)
- Peers trained
- Peers participated
- Peers as facilitators

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History of Exploring Trauma (cont.) (California)

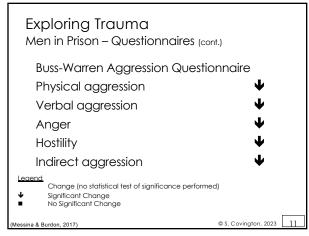
- Success of trauma with women expanded to men's facilities
- Five research-based projects
 - 3 prisons
 - 2 secure housing units

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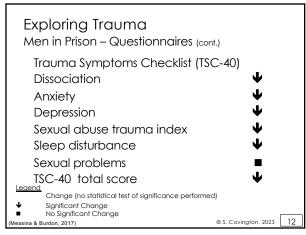


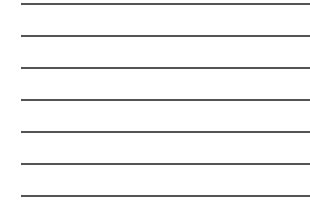












Research

For research updates: www.stephaniecovington.com Select "Research" navigation button

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Updates to this version: ET +

- Language used through the curriculum.
- Expanded discussion regarding gender messages.
- Updated and inclusive statistics.
- Optional worksheet identifying types of trauma experienced by those who identity as LGBTQIA+

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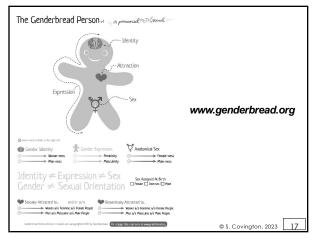
Facilitation

- Become familiar with basic terminology and have a current understanding of the constructs of gender identity and gender expression
- Acknowledge the gender, sexuality, and experiences of all individuals in the group using their language
- As a facilitator, you may need to grow in your understanding of issues related to gender and identity, including your own

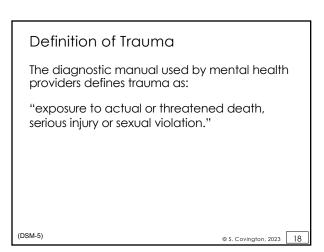
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Definition of Trauma

The exposure must result from one or more of the following scenarios in which the individual:

- directly experiences the traumatic event;
- witnesses the traumatic event in person;

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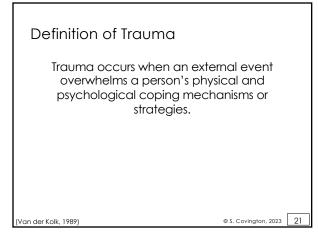
Definition of Trauma

The exposure must result from one or more of the following scenarios in which the individual:

- learns that the traumatic event occurred to a close family member or close friend;
- experiences first-hand repeated or extreme exposure to aversive details of the traumatic event (not through media, pictures, television or movies unless workrelated).

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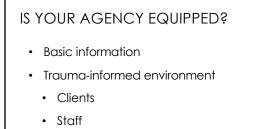




- Is our agency equipped to effectively deal with trauma?
- Are the facilitators properly trained and prepared?
- Do we have the right programs?

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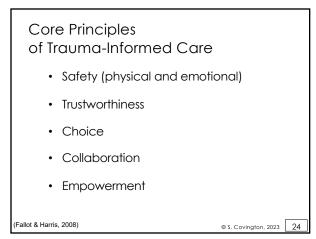
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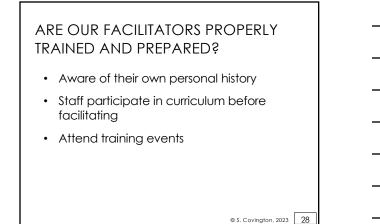


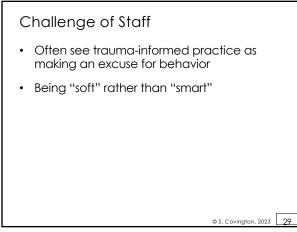
Core Values of Trauma-Informed Environment		
Safety:	Eye contact; consistency; explanations; procedure to report abuse	
Trustworthiness:	Following through; modeling openness; maintaining appropriate boundaries; and making tasks clear	
Choice:	Emphasizing individual choice and control; informed consent es.covington, 2023 25	
(adapted from Fallot & Harris, 2008)	© 3. Covingion, 2023 ZJ	

Core Values of Trauma-Informed Environment (cont.)		
Collaboration:	Solicit input; acknowledge insights about her/himself; explain options	
Empowerment:	Teaching skills; provide tasks where a person can succeed	
(adapted from Fallot & Harris, 2008)	© S. Covington, 2023	

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Changing the Question "What is wrong with them?" to "What has happened to them?" 27



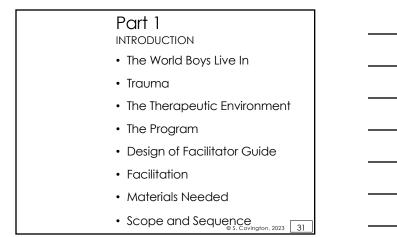


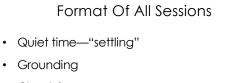
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KEY ELEMENTS (STAFF AND CLIENT)

- Learn what trauma/abuse is
- Understand typical responses
- Develop coping skills

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- Check-in
- Review of between-sessions activity
- Discussions
- Lectures
- Interactive exercises
- Closing, grounding exercise

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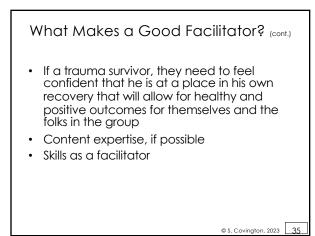
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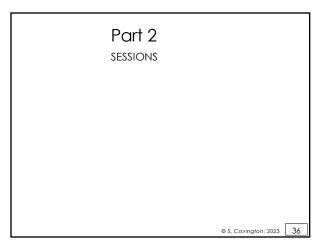
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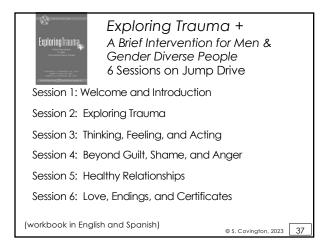
The following qualities in a facilitator will help to ensure a positive group experience:

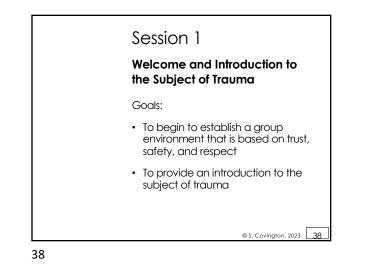
- Trustworthy
- Credible
- Available
- Reliable, consistent
- Hopeful
- Warm, compassionate
- Emotionally mature











Session 1 ACTIVITIES • Big "T", little "t" • Group Agreements • Introductory Word Cloud • Five Senses • Reflection

Big "T" Trauma

Big "T" traumas are those we associate with PTSD and may include a person's experience with the death of another, being physically abused, being assaulted, being sexually abused, and surviving a disaster.

Francine Shapiro, founder of EMDR

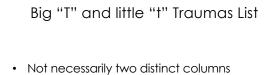
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	Little "t" Traur	na
	Little "t" traumas are those that as serious or intense at first but person feeling shameful. Exam humiliated or bullied, and bein social media.	may leave a Iples are being
Fre	rancine Shapiro, founder of EMDR	@S Covinction 2023

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- Beginning of process of mutual acceptance for participants
- You will guide this process by honoring men's responses and exhibiting flexibility

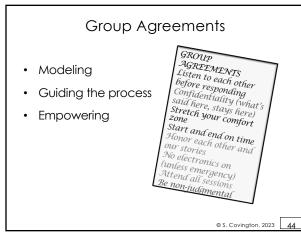
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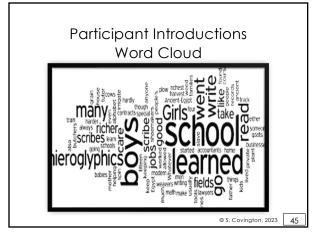
EXAMPLES OF BIG "T" AND LITTLE "t"

- Big "T"
 - Watching a friend die while doing drugs together
 - Sexual abuse
- Little "t"
 - Being called a "sissy" when you cried as a boy
 - Bullying

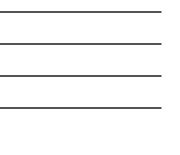
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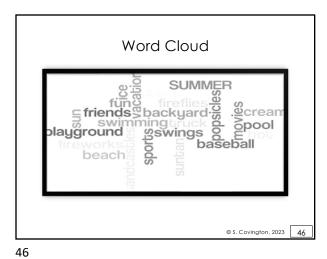
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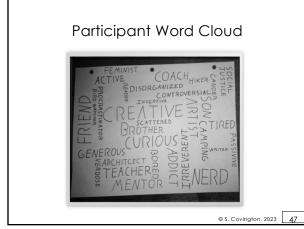






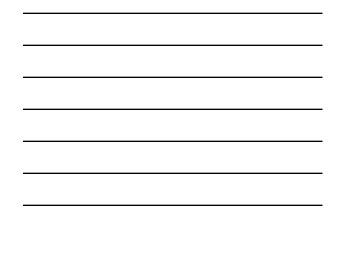






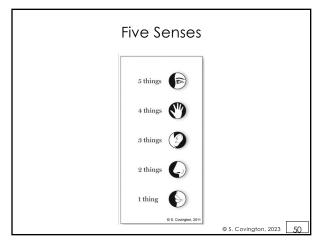








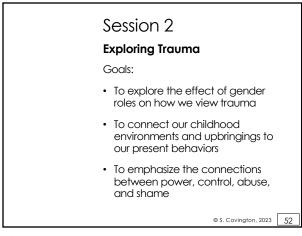




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So Far...

- We have helped participants explore trauma's prevalence and impact
- Helped them create an environment conducive to deeper sharing
- Helped them to more deeply know each other
- Modeled and helped them demonstrate mutual empathy and compassion
- Began to establish an expectation of continued work between sessions
- Begun the process of empowerment
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Session 2

ACTIVITIES

- Mindfulness Grounding
- Traumatic Events
- Gender Expectations
- ACE Questionnaire
- Power and Control Wheel
- Container Grounding
- Breath of Joy Yoga

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TRAUMATIC EVENTS

Trauma can take many forms:

- Emotional abuse
- Sexual or physical abuse including domestic violence, assault, and rape
- Catastrophic injuries and illnesses
- Extremely painful and frightening medical procedures

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TRAUMATIC EVENTS

- Witnessing violence, such as a parent harming another parent
- Automobile accidents
- Mugging and burglary
- Witnessing murder
- Abandonment (especially for small children)
- Loss of a loved one (even of a pet)

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TRAUMATIC EVENTS

- Immigration
- Natural disasters
- Human trafficking
- Kidnapping
- Combat & other experiences of war
- Terrorism
- Gang activity
- Intergenerational (cultural) trauma
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TRAUMATIC EVENTS (CONT.)

- Being outed (having your sexuality or gender identity shared) without consent
- Being deadnamed (having people use your birth name instead of your chosen name)
- Rejection by family, friends, or a religious community because of your sexuality, gender expression or gender identity
- Getting kicked out of the house and/or living on the streets

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Deciphering messages about manhood

- What are we taught about what it means to be a a man?
- What do these messages imply about women? About gay men?
- What do these messages say about anyone who is not "masculine" enough?
- What about privilege, power and control?

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ACE STUDY (ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES)

Before age 18:

- 1. Recurrent and severe emotional abuse
- 2. Recurrent and severe physical abuse
- 3. Contact sexual abuse
- 4. Emotional neglect
- 5. Physical neglect

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ACE STUDY

(ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES)

Growing up in a household with:

- 6. Both biological parents not being present
- 7. Your mother being treated violently
- 8. An alcoholic or drug-user
- 9. A mentally ill, chronically depressed, or family member attempting suicide
- 10. A family member being imprisoned

(N = 17,000)

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ACE STUDY (ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES)

<u>Results</u>

ACEs still have a profound effect 50 years later, although now transformed from psychosocial experience into organic disease, social malfunction, and mental illness.

- Smoking
- Alcoholism
- Injection of illegal drugs
- Obesity

(Felitti, V.J.: Origins of Addictive Behavior: Evidence from the ACE Study. 2003 Oct:52(8): 547-59, German, PMID: 14619682 (PubMed-indexed for MEDLINE). © S. Covington, 2023

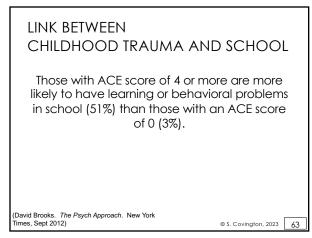
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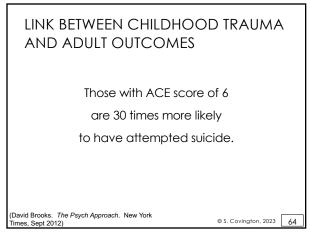
ACE STUDY (ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES) Chronic Health Conditions • Heart disease • Autoimmune diseases

- Lung cancer
- Pulmonary disease
- Liver disease
- Skeletal fractures
- Sexually transmitted infections
- HIV/AIDS

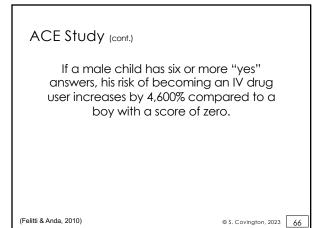
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ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES UNDERLIE ALCOHOLISM
People with an ACE score of 4 or more are over 5 times more likely to struggle with alcoholism than people with an ACE score of 0.
(Ann Jennings, Ph.D.) © S. Covington, 2023 65

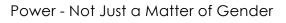


Power - Not Just a Matter of Gender

- Have any of you witnessed the maltreatment of children, of women, of persons in minority groups, or of people of different sexual orientation?
- Have you ever seen people of different religious beliefs being mistreated? Have any of you had the experience of someone having power over you? Have any of you been abused as a child or experienced abuse as an adult? Have any of you witnessed discrimination in the workplace?
- Have any of you been discriminated against?

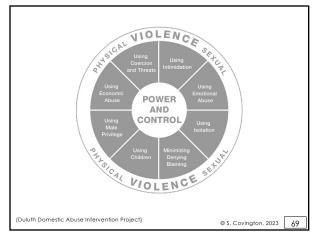
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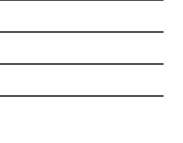


- If any of you have felt oppressed or been denied equal treatment, what was it like living in a world where you felt that you had little or no power?
- How did this affect your emotions, your behaviors, and your self-esteem?
- If you haven't experienced any of these issues, can you try to put yourself in the place of someone who has? What would it feel like?

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Containment Exercise

- We may have begun to trigger old trauma
- We want to help them access their own inner strength
- We want to help them begin to explore containment
- We want to help them gain courage in delving into the work that is yet to come

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So Far...

- Become more comfortable with mindfulness practices
- We've helped participants identify how gender messages affect how they see themselves and others
- Helped them explore the impact of ACE
- Helped them gain courage in exploring past troubling events and behaviors, by providing them the tools for containment and creating a feeling of safety

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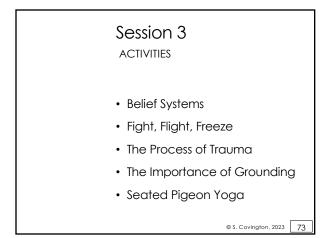
Session 3

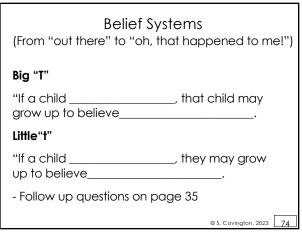
Thinking, Feeling and Acting

Goals

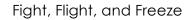
- To explore how belief systems affect a person's response trauma triggers
- To explore the (mal)adaptive behaviors used to cope with trauma and possible alternatives
- To explore the use of grounding techniques to manage trauma trigger

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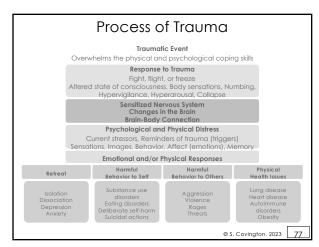
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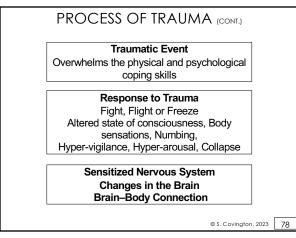


- Scenarios created to assist in eliciting a gut response.
- Creating the opportunity for the participants to begin connecting/reconnecting to their internal awareness.
- Small group processing

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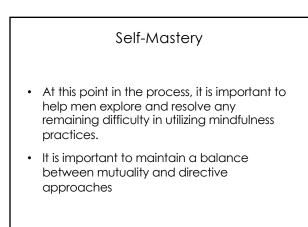








F	PROCESS OF	TRAUMA	(CONT.)
Psychological and Physical Distress Current stressors, Reminders of trauma (triggers) Sensations, Images, Behavior, Emotions, Memory			
Emotional and/or Physical Responses			
Retreat Isolation Dissociation Depression Anxiety	Harmful Behavior to Self Substance use disorders Eating disorders Deliberate self- harm Suicidal actions	Harmful Behavior to Others Aggression Violence Rages Threats	Physical Health Issues Lung disease Heart disease Autoimmune disorders Obesity



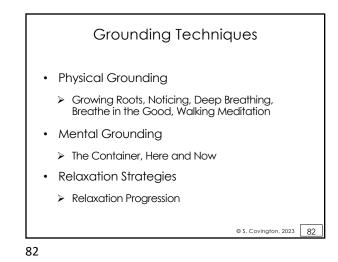
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The Importance of Grounding

- A way for participants to effectively manage triggers
- Creating new pathways in the brain
- Different strokes for different folks
- The connection between grounding, meditation and effective, long-term recovery
- Self-Mastery through teaching others

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So Far...

- We've helped them become more comfortable in talking about how their belief systems were formed
- Introduced the process of trauma
- Helped them explore the costs and benefits of their adaptive strategies, while contemplating changes

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Session 4

Beyond Guilt, Shame and Anger

- Goals
- To explore the emotional and physical effects of guilt, shame, anger, and other emotions
- To understand the Spiral of Trauma, Addiction, Recovery, and Healing
- To learn ways to identify and manage emotions that may surface as a result of traumatic experiences

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Beyond Guilt, Shame, and Anger

- Participant-Led Grounding Activity
- Working Through Guilt, Shame, and Anger
- Spiral of Trauma, Addiction, Recovery and Healing
- More than Survivors
- Art Activity: Creating Healing Stories
- Trauma and the Body

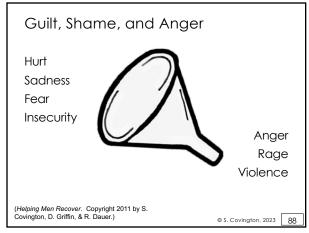
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FEELINGS AND THE BODY

- Maleness is equated with the lack of emotion
- Trans and nonbinary folks can adopt a stoic demeanor as a response to perceived social expectations.
- Connecting emotion to the physical allows for access to the emotional landscape.

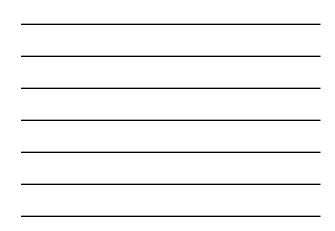
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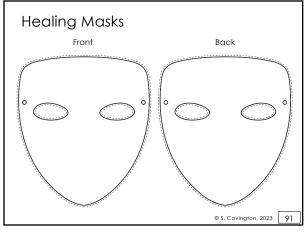




Creating Healing Stories

- Emphasize the power of visualization
- Explore the power of creation
- Help participants begin to visualize a different future
- Help group members share their vision with others

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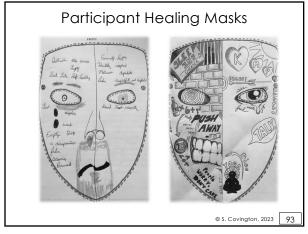


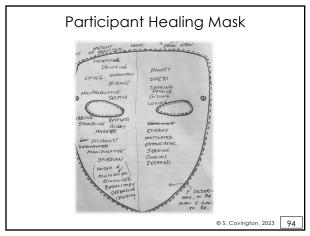
Creating Your Healing Mask

- The front represented the Outer Self...behavior and relationships.
- The back represents the Inner Self...thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Draw a line down the middle.
- Left side is the past. Right side is the future.

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• Use words, symbols, and drawings.







Creating your Healing Mask

- The front represents our Outer Self: Our actions, relationships, behaviors.
- Draw a vertical line down the front, forming two equal halves.
- The left side represents your outer self in the past, while under the grips of your addiction.
- The right represents what you want your outer self to be in the future.
- Use words, symbols, drawings to describe what you want to represent on either half.

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Creating your Healing Mask

- The back represents your Inner self: Your thoughts, beliefs and emotions.
- Draw a vertical line down the back, forming two equal halves.
- The left side represents your Inner self in the past, while under the grips of your addiction.
- The right represents what you want your inner self to be in the future.
- Use words, symbols, drawings to describe what you want to represent on either half.

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Trauma and The Body

- Activities designed to help individuals think about the connection between the mind and the body
- Helps participants become more aware of the connection between body sensations and triggering of past traumatic events
- Helps them talk about their past attempts at "numbing" emotional pain
- Helps reinforce the importance of calming and self-regulation techniques

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EMOTIONAL WELLNESS LIST

- 1. Become aware of when and how you're feeling. Tune in to yourself.
- 2. Name the feeling; label it.
- 3. Try to locate the feeling in your body. Where are you experiencing the sensation?
- 4. Express the feeling appropriately.
- 5. Contain the feeling.

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FEELINGS AND THE BODY, PART 2

- 1. Close your eyes or lower your eyelids.
- 2. Think about your body and begin to notice what you're feeling and where you can sense it in your body.
- 3. Also, notice the sensations you feel in your face when you have this feeling.
- 4. Open your eyes. Use a colored pencil or crayon to show on the body diagram where this feeling is located in your body.
- 5. Use a different colored crayon or pencil for each feeling. For instance, if you are mad or angry, maybe your heart is racing, your face is turning red, your ears are getting hot, or some parts of your body are becoming tense. You may want to use the color red for this feeling.
- If you find this activity difficult, be patient with yourself; this is hard to do, but we get better at it as we practice.
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Between Session Activity

- Participants use an Examples of Feelings list to begin monitoring the mind-body connection
- They are also asked to reflect on how they have attempted to manage these feelings and sensations

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So Far...

- We have begun to help the participants move from victim or survivor to beings capable of creating a different future
- Provided them with additional tools to begin manifesting desired changes
- Helped them see themselves as creative beings capable of desired changes

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Session 5 Healthy Relationships Gaals • To describe the elements of a healthy relationship • To introduce the qualities of love, boundaries, and other aspects of healthy relationships



Relational Neuroscience	
When we are cut off from others, our brains suffer. Can result in chronic irritability and anger, depression, addiction, and chronic physical illness.	
(Banks 2015) © S. Covington, 2023	104

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Boundaries

- Physical boundaries activity
- Psychological boundaries
- Intellectual boundaries
- Emotional boundaries
- Connection between our boundaries and those of others

Physical Boundary Activity

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Boundary Discussion

- 1. How do you feel when someone gets too close to you?
- 2. Is it different when it's someone you don't know versus a friend?
- Is it different if the gender of the person is the same as yours? What if the gender is different from your own?
- 4. Is it different if the person is LGBTQ+?
- 5. Is it different if the person is from a different culture? Have you noticed that people from different cultures often have different physical boundaries?
- 6. What is the problem if your boundary has the other person standing way across the room?

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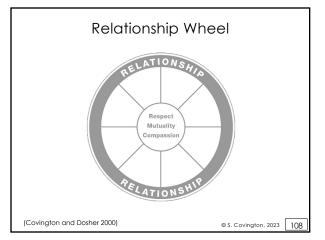
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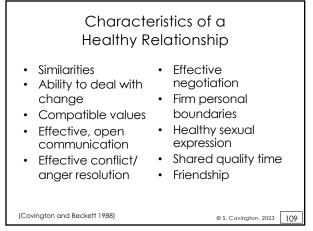
- Feel a greater sense of zest, vitality, and energy.
- Empowers you to act, and you feel free to take action in your life.
- Each person has a more accurate perception of himself and the other person.
- Each person feels a greater sense of self-worth.
- Each person feels more connected to the other person and feels a greater motivation for connection with other people beyond those in this specific relationship.

(Miller 1986, 1990)

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S.T.A.R.E Conflict Resolution Model

- Start positive.
- Tell the person how you are feeling about the EVENT, not about them personally. (No Blaming, Judging, Attacking, or Labeling)
- Ask for a solution.
- Review solution.
- End positive.

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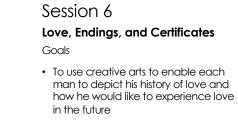
110

Between Session Activity

• Participants are asked to begin thinking about the elements and characteristics they want in their present and future relationships

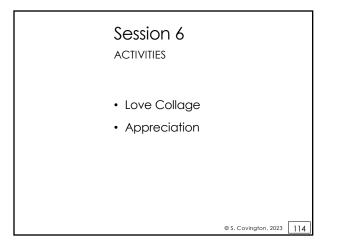
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- To explore how to end relationships
 respectfully
- To show appreciation for the group members and the group experience

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- What kinds of relationships do you want to have with others from now on?
- What do you want to offer or give to those relationships?
- How do you want to be and feel in your relationships?

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What is Love? -Love Collage

- Create your own Love collage, or think of a specific client of yours, and make one for that person.
- On the left side, use words, pictures from a magazine, or symbols to describe your experience with love while addicted.
- In the middle do the same, but for the present
- On the right side, use words, pictures from a magazine, or symbols to describe how you would like to experience love in the future

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Certificates and Appreciation
Please share one thing you have learned from someone else in our training or one thing you admire about another person in our training
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