Finding your voice and Bearing witness to Healing: Butterfly Medicine

- Healing the individual and community from trauma. A psychological and social justice perspective the individual and community from trauma. A psychological and social justice perspective.
Prevalence of PTSD Alameda

- Alameda County diagnosed 1100 children with Post traumatic stress disorder in fiscal year 2011-2012. It is estimated that PTSD is at 5% of the population, Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Ruiz (East Bay Express) reports that African American and Latinos comprise more than half of Oakland’s populations and 20% live in poverty.
Prevalence

―The city’s robbery rate is the highest in the nation, and in 2012, about 2000 violent crimes were committed per 100,000 people, according to data from the FBI. By contrast, nationwide there were 387 violent crimes per 100,000 (Ruiz, 2013).‖
Neurobiology of Trauma

- Hyper aroused excited limbic systems: flashbacks-nightmares
- Left brain: seat of reasoning and language
- Frontal lobe executive decision making
- Primitive functioning, no cortex involvement
- Practice requires being in the present, using right brain methodologies to calm the hyper aroused central nervous system.
El Cerebro Triuno

Neocortex  Intelectual
Límbico     Emocional
Reptil      Supervivencial

IES

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Attachment Theory

- **Structure** and function of the brain are directly shaped by interpersonal experience.

- **Human** connections create neuronal connections (Siegal, 1999)

*It is these connections and the developing brain that allow for the *regulation of affect*, thus establishing the context for relationships*
Hypothalamic Pituitary-Adrenal Axis.

Stress results in the release of CRH.

Excessive HPA is maladaptive.

Extended exposure to Cortisol is toxic and the Adrenal switch cannot be turned off.
Attachment Theory

Adverse social experience during early critical periods such as neglect, abuse, abandonment, violence and chaotic chemically dependent behavior seriously impair the functioning of the LIMBIC SYSTEM.
Attachment Theory

- Secure.
- Anxious-avoidant: Dismissing.
- Anxious-ambivalent: Preoccupied.
- Disorganized: Fearful.
Allopathic Mental Health System

- Left Brain dominated
- Logical approaches
- Cognitive behavioral
- Medication driven
Clinical Practice

- Co occurring disorders and conditions
- Comprehensive diagnostic evaluation: Wilson;
- SEPCT studies or other brain imaging procedures.
- Trauma informed psycho education: seeking safety, beyond trauma,
- Chemical dependency recovery: harm reduction
- Individual, family, group, and specialized menu driven services.
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

- Cognitive behavioral approaches
- Prolonged Exposure therapy
- Virtual Reality research (Navy)
- EMDR- eye movement desensitization and reprocessing
Traumatic event & core psychological process

- Biological:
  - CNS, sympathetic system/parasympathetic
  - Neuroendocrine system
  - Serotonergic system
  - Attention
  - Concentration
  - Retention

- Psychology
- Learning
- Memory
- Cognitive
- Perceptions
- Self-ego processes
- Personality
- Emotions
- Unc mental processes

Assessing Psychological Trauma and PTSD: A Practitioner's Handbook with Dr. Terence Keane
PTDS Symptom clusters not present prior to trauma

- Re experiencing traumatic memory
- Avoidance –numbing (coping)
- Hyper arousal (physiological)
- Self (ego processes) identity
- Interpersonal (affiliation) and attachment
Traditional Medicine and Trauma

- Right brain and integration of neuroplasticity
- Holistic approach
- Data indicates whole brain functioning correlates with increased intelligence, improved learning, enhanced moral reasoning, psychological stability, and emotional maturity (Hagelin, 2007)
- Mohr-Almeida (2010); Integration of American Nontraditional and Mesoamerican Traditional approached for Traumatic Stress and PTSD
“Within the collective dignity, love, trust and respect of all people, exists the wisdom and resources for a beautiful, harmonious tomorrow.”

-Jerry Tello
-FOUR SACRED TEACHINGS-

- You are WANTED… You are SACRED
- You have a SACRED PURPOSE
- You have TEACHINGS (VALUES) and TEACHERS to guide
- You are PROTECTED – SAFETY and SECURITY
Traditional Medicinal Approaches

- Butterfly Medicine
- Limpia
- Soul retrieval
- Temescal/sweat lodge
- Avuncular acupuncture
- Meditation
- Ohms: deep breathing
- Yoga
- In conjunction with western methodologies:
  - Cognitive behavioral psycho-ed
  - EMDR
Theoretical Framework

- Physical
- Social
- Psychological
- Spiritual
Sense of Self

- Martin-Baro (1994): A society that becomes accustomed to using violence to solve its problems, both large and small, is a society in which the roots of human relations are deceased (p112).
- Herman (1997): After a traumatic event, a person’s fundamental assumptions about who they are... lose their sense of trust and safety, the person finds themselves isolated because of the sense of betrayal and lack of community to protect their safety.
Bear Witness

- Re establishment of social and community ties crucial to healing.
- There must be a community willing to listen to these testimonies of violence.
- “Conflict between the will to deny horrible events and the will to proclaim them aloud” (Herman, 1997, p1)
- Bearing witness is the process by which a community acknowledges, revindicates, and provides justice for the trauma endured (Escobar, 2013)
Movement for Memory: Collective Memory

- Memory practices as a strategy for social justice
- Politics of Trauma: shifting the focus from Individual to social and political roots of trauma
- Complex PTSD; Herman (1997) persons’ sense of self (impact on personality) and relationship with others (attachments)
- Symptom based diagnosis pathologizes survivors experience
- Martin-Baro (1994) mental health is relational not just individual symptomology: explore the roots of trauma; social and political conditions
- Bearing witness: dehumanizing relationships; cause/result of trauma.
Research Potential

- Will traumatized individuals and communities recover more effectively with right brain oriented methods?
- Will developing social justice methods to have them bear witness allow them to have a voice and assist in the healing of the trauma?
- Will community building assist with the healing of social isolation and shame associated with the trauma?
- How do we hold society accountable for trauma that occurs in their respective areas?
The Altar
Traditional Medicine Workshops

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Grupo de Luto: Nichos
Altar de Flautas
Youth training on cleansing
Childrens Chachra cleansing
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