

TRAUMA-INFORMED VICTIM ADVOCATE CERTIFICATION COURSE

DELIVERY METHOD:

One pre-work paper and two onsite intensive days-
9 am to 3 pm each day



PROGRAM DETAILS:

The Trauma-Informed Victim Advocate Certification is one of a kind- offering professionals the tools to work with clients in crisis and to safeguard themselves from the impacts of secondary trauma. This certification blends trauma-informed care theory with real-world application customized to the realities of what advocates and their clients face in navigating legal and social realities. This course is taught by instructors who are both survivors and former VAs.

This certification goes far beyond trauma-informed 101 and gives participants a number of unique advantages:

- Participants leave as distinguished experts in how trauma impacts their clients and how to use TI principles for self-preservation and sustainability.
- Victim advocates differentiate themselves as industry leaders providing next-level competencies of care to their survivors and team members.
- Certified professionals differentiate their services by offering intersectional and research-informed care in all aspects of their work- from hospital escorts, to trial emotional support, and long-term care planning.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion participants will be able to:

- Explain what the neurobiological impacts of trauma are and how they intersect with client response- from the brain to the polyvagal body system.
- Understand how intersectionality and bias play into the advocacy field.
- Use coping and compartmentalizing strategies to improve side-effects from vicarious/secondary trauma.
- Create clear messaging around what being a trauma-informed is/is not and clearly define how it looks in their daily lives.

ABOUT YOUR INSTRUCTOR:

Dr. Laura McGuire is a nationally recognized sexuality educator, trauma-informed specialist, inclusion consultant, and founder of The National Center for Equity and Agency. She has worked as an instructor, presenter, educator, consultant, and trainer. In 2015, she served as the first Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program Manager at the University of Houston, and in 2017, she became the first Victim Advocate/Prevention Educator at the US Merchant Marine Academy. In both roles, she worked simultaneously as a victim-advocate and restorative practice provider for respondents. As a survivor navigating the legal system, Dr. McGuire saw the major gaps between what research showed and what those reporting experienced. She utilizes her experience and scholarly expertise to give insight and actionable tools to attorneys and providers across the country.

Topics Covered

Understanding Trauma-Informed Care

Types of Trauma

Intersectionality & Inclusion

Vicarious Trauma & Resiliency

Application of ACE Scores and Polyvagal Theory

De-escalation

Unconscious Bias

Restorative Practices

Longterm planning

Co-regulation & Effective Communication

Resiliency & Spoon Theory

The Trauma-Informed Workplace

Using Your Certification

SOURCES

McKenna, N. C., & Holtfreter, K. (2021). Trauma-informed courts: A review and integration of justice perspectives and gender responsiveness. *Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma*, 30(4), 450-470.

Kulkarni, S. (2019). Intersectional trauma-informed intimate partner violence (IPV) services: Narrowing the gap between IPV service delivery and survivor needs. *Journal of family violence*, 34(1), 55-64.

Ghahramanlou, M., & Brodbeck, C. (2000). Predictors of secondary trauma in sexual assault trauma counselors. *International journal of emergency mental health*.

Figley, C. R. (2013). *Compassion fatigue: Coping with secondary traumatic stress disorder in those who treat the traumatized*. Routledge.

Zehr, H. (2015). *The little book of restorative justice: Revised and updated*. Simon and Schuster.

Miserandino, C. (2017). The spoon theory. In *Beginning with Disability* (pp. 174-178). Routledge.

Bonnes, S., & Palmer, J. H. (2020). The US Marine Corps' Response to Intimate Partner Sexual Violence: An Analysis of the Family Advocacy Program and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program. *Armed Forces & Society*, 0095327X20974397.