



## THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF FORENSIC STUDIES (AIAFS) *presents*

### *The Expression of Trauma Vulnerabilities in Individuals with Executive Dysfunction: How we Interpret and Assign Meaning to Our Stories*

**Presenters: Jerrod Brown, Ph.D. and Nicole Kimberley-Staeheli, MATS**

**This is in an on-demand training event worth 6.0 CEU hours**

#### **Training Description**

Much of the healing work for trauma survivors involves interpreting and assigning meaning to the traumatic events in their lives and their experience of these events. Integral to this healing work is recognizing and understanding their unique trauma vulnerabilities; the protective, adaptive responses survivors frequently adopt to keep themselves safe in a world they have come to perceive as inherently threatening. These trauma responses or vulnerabilities take many forms including neuro-biological adaptations, cognitive and emotional effects, and interpersonal and behavioral struggles. Trauma survivors with executive dysfunction present unique challenges in their ability to both express and interpret their trauma vulnerabilities. This training will focus on the unique expression and specific vulnerabilities most often documented in working with this population. It is a population that includes clients with numerous and varied (often co-morbid) challenges including significant trauma histories, developmental disabilities, serious and persistent mental illness, criminal justice involvement, chronic addiction, and traumatic brain injuries.

We will begin by exploring a definition of trauma and trauma vulnerabilities. We will then move to the topic of executive dysfunction, providing both a definition and examples of the varying impacts of executive dysfunction on areas of higher cognitive functioning. The relationship of how trauma vulnerabilities are expressed by individuals with executive dysfunction will be examined with practical, evidence-based recommendations on how to best be responsive when working with this population. Finally, we will explore how best to apply this knowledge; how do we help our clients assign meaning and share their stories to promote improved functioning and healing.

#### **Training Objectives:**

1. Provide an overview of the definition of trauma and resulting trauma vulnerabilities
2. Define and provide examples of the concept of executive dysfunction
3. Explore the possible cause and effect relationship of executive dysfunction and the experience of trauma
4. Understand the unique expression of trauma vulnerabilities for varied individuals with executive dysfunction including individuals with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorder, developmental disabilities, and traumatic brain injuries
5. Examine best practices in being responsive to individuals with executive dysfunction who have also experienced significant trauma

#### **Presenter Biographies**

**Nicole Kimberley Staeheli, MATS.**, is the lead consultant for Nicole Ranae Consulting, LLC and has over 25 years of experience in the criminal justice field. The primary focus for much of her career has been in the training, facilitation, and implementation of evidence-based practices with a specific emphasis on trauma informed and cognitive behavioral programming. Nicole is a certified Motivational Interviewing trainer and curriculum trainer for numerous evidence-based programs including Thinking for A Change, the Domestic Violence Education Program, Decision Points, and Moving On. She has written and trained extensively on trauma-informed interventions and is a facilitator of several trauma informed curriculum including Beyond Trauma, Healing Trauma, VOICES, and Beyond Violence. Currently, Nicole is an independent trainer, facilitator and implementation specialist for county, community-based, and non-profit agencies serving criminally justice involved individuals. She also works as an independent contractor and trainer with the Decision Points Authors, LLC. For Nicole's full biography see [www.aiafs.com/expert-trainers.asp](http://www.aiafs.com/expert-trainers.asp).

**Jerrod Brown, Ph.D.**, is an Assistant Professor for Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota and has extensive experience teaching courses at the undergraduate and graduate level. Jerrod has also been employed with Pathways Counseling Center in St. Paul, Minnesota for the past seventeen years. Pathways provides programs and services benefiting individuals impacted by mental illness and addictions. Jerrod is also the founder and CEO of the American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies (AIAFS) and the Editor-in-Chief of Forensic Scholars Today (FST). Jerrod has completed four separate master's degree programs and holds graduate certificates in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Other Health Disabilities (OHD), and Traumatic-Brain Injuries (TBI). Jerrod is also certified as a Youth Firesetting Prevention/Intervention Specialist, an Anger Resolution Therapist (CART), a Thinking for a Change (T4C) Facilitator, a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Trainer, an Autism Specialist, and a Mental Health Integrative Medicine Provider (CMHIMP).

**COST: \$99.00 (Individual Rate)**

**REGISTRATION:** Online at <https://www.aiafs.com/trainingsod.asp>. This event is a recorded, on-demand training event with participants able to watch at their convenience. Details on how to access each on-demand event will be sent after registration is complete. Note: Participants will not have the ability to do a Question and Answer session or interact with the presenter and this may affect CEU approvals.

**For additional info, contact Darian @ 612-250-5432 - or - Email: [aiafsassoc@gmail.com](mailto:aiafsassoc@gmail.com)**