

What is stress?

Stress is a term used to describe the wear and tear the body experiences in reaction to everyday tensions and pressures. Change, illness, injury or career and lifestyle changes are common causes of stress. It's how we respond, however, to the emotional pressure and tension we feel from the little everyday hassles-rush-hour traffic, waiting in line and too many e-mails-that do the most damage.

How does stress affect health?

Stress affects people physically, mentally and emotionally. According to the American Institute of Stress, up to 90% of all health problems are related to stress. Too much stress can contribute to and agitate many health problems, including heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke, depression and sleep disorders.

How stressed are you?

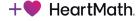
Everyone responds to stress differently. Take this quick test to see if you are experiencing stress. The items you check will reveal how much stress is affecting your life.

- □ I feel overly tired or fatigued.
- □ I often am nervous, anxious or depressed.
- □ I have sleep problems.
- □ I have repeated headaches or minor aches and pains.
- □ I worry about my job, finances, relationships.

What can I do about it?

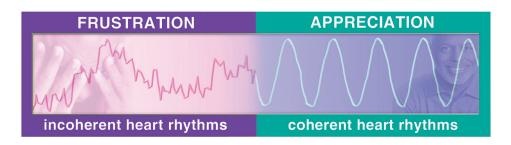
The first step is to understand how stress works. It's not the events or situations that do the harm, but rather how you respond to those events. More precisely, it's how you feel about them that determines whether you are stressed.

Emotions, or feelings have a powerful impact on the human body. Positive emotions like appreciation, care and love not only feel good, they are good for you. They help your body's systems synchronize and work better, as a well-tuned car. Research at the Institute of HeartMath has shown that when you intentionally shift to a positive emotion, heart rhythms immediately change. This shift in heart rhythms creates a favorable cascade of neural, hormonal and biochemical events that benefit the entire body. The effects are both immediate and long lasting.



How does it work?

When you're stressed, your body is out of sync. Negative/depleting emotions we feel when stressed such as anger, frustration, anxiety and worry lead to increased disorder in heart rhythms and the nervous system. In contrast, positive/renewing emotions like joy, appreciation, care and kindness create harmony in heart rhythms and the nervous system. Other bodily systems sync up to this rhythm, a process scientists call coherence. Because coherence leads to more mental clarity, creativity and better problem-solving abilities, it's easier to find solutions and better ways of handling stressful situations.



How can I create and practice physiological coherence?

The HeartMath[®] System introduces you to a powerful tool to help you increase physiological coherence. Use the Quick Coherence[®] Technique in your daily life to reduce the effects of stress and the emWave[®] technology to enhance your coherence practice.

The Quick Coherence® Technique

The Quick Coherence Technique is an easy way to interrupt the stress response and quickly bring your system into coherence. Practice this tool four or five times a day, every day for a minimum of three weeks. Use it as a quick stress manager prior to or during challenging events or situations. Good times to practice the Quick Coherence steps are first thing in the morning, before going to sleep at night and break time in the middle of the day, but you can use it anytime you want to rebalance or get an energy boost.

The Steps

Step 1. Focus your attention in the area of the heart. Imagine your breath is flowing in and out of your heart or chest area, breathing a little slower and deeper than usual.

Suggestion: Inhale 5 seconds, exhale 5 seconds (or whatever rhythm is comfortable).

Step 2. Make a sincere attempt to experience a regenerative feeling such as appreciation or care for someone or something in your life.

Suggestion: Try to re-experience the feeling you have for someone you love, a pet, a special place, an accomplishment, etc., or focus on a feeling of calm or ease.

Once you have become familiar with these two steps, use the quick steps:

- 1. Heart-Focused Breathing
- 2. Activate a positive or renewing feeling





Introduction to iRest Yoga Nidra Meditation

Linda Chamberlain PhD MPH

iRest is a science-based, mind-body approach that integrates Yoga Nidra meditation with relaxation techniques. Initially developed and evaluated with the U.S. military, participants are guided through a process of self-inquiry and mindfulness training. iRest is a secular (non-religious) practice that is used in a wide range of community settings. There are ten steps in the iRest protocol. Each step is a tool that can be used by itself or with other steps to build resilience, cope with stress, help regulate emotions and experience well-being. Research has shown the iRest protocol to be effective for helping people with a wide range of challenges including depression, anxiety, panic attacks, sleep problems, chronic pain and traumatic stress. If you are under the care of a physician, therapist or counselor, please check with your provider to ask if Yoga Nidra meditation and relaxation techniques would be appropriate for you at this time.

This practice can be done in any comfortable position including sitting, lying down on a mat or blanket, or while walking. No special equipment or clothing is needed. While a typical, guided practice is 25-30 minutes, you can practice any tool for just a moment or two. Practicing a little and often can be very effective. In the workshops I offer, we do some brief practices to experience specific steps of iRest and when time allows, a longer practice combining several steps.

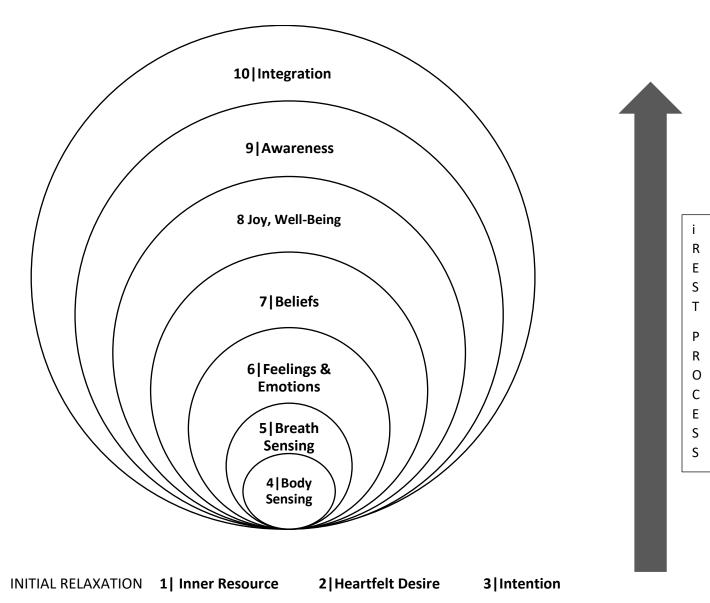
iRest can be done as a self-practice at your own pace by using an app, by accessing online resources or reading books. Group classes are offered online and in-person when it is safe to do so again. iRest is often taught as a six- or eight-week series to explore each tool in the protocol.

You can find more information and resources at <u>www.irest.org</u>

ABOUT ME

I am a public health scientist specializing in the effects of stress and trauma on the brain and body. My work current focuses on mind-body approaches that can be easily learned by adults and children to buffer the effects of stress, strengthen emotional regulation and build resilience. I have trained in several mind-body modalities and was exposed to iRest through my work with the military. I am a certified iRest teacher. You can contact me at <u>drlindachamberlain@gmail.com</u>

10 Tools of iRest Protocol



Adapted from Integrative Restoration Institute, 2017

PROFESSIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE SCALE (PROQOL)

COMPASSION SATISFACTION AND COMPASSION FATIGUE

(PROQOL) VERSION 5 (2009)

When you [*help*] people you have direct contact with their lives. As you may have found, your compassion for those you [*help*] can affect you in positive and negative ways. Below are some-questions about your experiences, both positive and negative, as a [*helper*]. Consider each of the following questions about you and your current work situation. Select the number that honestly reflects how frequently you experienced these things in the <u>last 30 days</u>.

I=Neve	er 2=Rarely	3=Sometimes	4=Often	5=Very Often
Ι.	l am happy.			
2.	I am preoccupied with more	e than one person I [help].		
3.	l get satisfaction from being	• • • •		
4.	I feel connected to others.			
5.	I jump or am startled by une	expected sounds.		
6.	I feel invigorated after work	ing with those I [help].		
7.	I find it difficult to separate r	ny personal life from my life a	as a [helper].	
2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8.	l am not as productive at wo [help].	ork because I am losing sleep	over traumatic ex	periences of a person I
9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14.	I think that I might have bee	n affected by the traumatic st	ress of those I [hel	þ].
10.	I feel trapped by my job as a	[helþer].		
11.	Because of my [helping], I ha	ave felt "on edge" about vario	ous things.	
12.	I like my work as a [helper].			
13.	I feel depressed because of t	he traumatic experiences of	the people I [help].	
14.	I feel as though I am experie	ncing the trauma of someone	e I have [helped].	
15.	I have beliefs that sustain me	2.		
16.	I am pleased with how I am	able to keep up with [helping]	techniques and pr	rotocols.
17.	I am the person I always war	nted to be.		
18.	My work makes me feel sati	sfied.		
19.	I feel worn out because of m	ny work as a [helþer].		
15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22.	I have happy thoughts and fe	elings about those I [help] an	d how I could help	them.
21.	I feel overwhelmed because	my case [work] load seems e	endless.	
22.	I believe I can make a differe	nce through my work.		
23.	I avoid certain activities or s people I [help].	ituations because they remine	d me of frightening	experiences of the
24.	I am proud of what I can do	to [helþ].		
25.	As a result of my [helping], I	have intrusive, frightening the	oughts.	
26.	I feel "bogged down" by the	system.		
27.	I have thoughts that I am a "	success" as a [helper].		
24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30.	I can't recall important parts	of my work with trauma vice	tims.	
29.	I am a very caring person.			
30.	I am happy that I chose to d	o this work.		

YOUR SCORES ON THE PROQOL: PROFESSIONAL QUALITY OF LIFE SCREENING

Based on your responses, place your personal scores below. If you have any concerns, you should discuss them with a physical or mental health care professional.

Compassion Satisfaction ____

Compassion satisfaction is about the pleasure you derive from being able to do your work well. For example, you may feel like it is a pleasure to help others through your work. You may feel positively about your colleagues or your ability to contribute to the work setting or even the greater good of society. Higher scores on this scale represent a greater satisfaction related to your ability to be an effective caregiver in your job.

The average score is 50 (SD 10; alpha scale reliability .88). About 25% of people score higher than 57 and about 25% of people score below 43. If you are in the higher range, you probably derive a good deal of professional satisfaction from your position. If your scores are below 40, you may either find problems with your job, or there may be some other reason—for example, you might derive your satisfaction from activities other than your job.

Burnout_

Most people have an intuitive idea of what burnout is. From the research perspective, burnout is one of the elements of Compassion Fatigue (CF). It is associated with feelings of hopelessness and difficulties in dealing with work or in doing your job effectively. These negative feelings usually have a gradual onset. They can reflect the feeling that your efforts make no difference, or they can be associated with a very high workload or a non-supportive work environment. Higher scores on this scale mean that you are at higher risk for burnout.

The average score on the burnout scale is 50 (SD 10; alpha scale reliability .75). About 25% of people score above 57 and about 25% of people score below 43. If your score is below 43, this probably reflects positive feelings about your ability to be effective in your work. If you score above 57 you may wish to think about what at work makes you feel like you are not effective in your position. Your score may reflect your mood; perhaps you were having a "bad day" or are in need of some time off. If the high score persists or if it is reflective of other worries, it may be a cause for concern.

Secondary Traumatic Stress

The second component of Compassion Fatigue (CF) is secondary traumatic stress (STS). It is about your work related, secondary exposure to extremely or traumatically stressful events. Developing problems due to exposure to other's trauma is somewhat rare but does happen to many people who care for those who have experienced extremely or traumatically stressful events. For example, you may repeatedly hear stories about the traumatic things that happen to other people, commonly called Vicarious Traumatization. If your work puts you directly in the path of danger, for example, field work in a war or area of civil violence, this is not secondary exposure; your exposure is primary. However, if you are exposed to others' traumatic events as a result of your work, for example, as a therapist or an emergency worker, this is secondary exposure. The symptoms of STS are usually rapid in onset and associated with a particular event. They may include being afraid, having difficulty sleeping, having images of the upsetting event pop into your mind, or avoiding things that remind you of the event.

The average score on this scale is 50 (SD 10; alpha scale reliability .81). About 25% of people score below 43 and about 25% of people score above 57. If your score is above 57, you may want to take some time to think about what at work may be frightening to you or if there is some other reason for the elevated score. While higher scores do not mean that you do have a problem, they are an indication that you may want to examine how you feel about your work and your work environment. You may wish to discuss this with your supervisor, a colleague, or a health care professional.

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WHAT IS MY SCORE AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

In this section, you will score your test so you understand the interpretation for you. To find your score on each section, total the questions listed on the left and then find your score in the table on the right of the section.

Compassion Satisfaction Scale

Copy your rating on each of these questions on to this table and add them up. When you have added then up you can find your score on the table to the right.	3 6 12 16 18 20.	The sum of my Compassion Satisfaction questions is	So My Score Equals	And my Compassion Satisfaction level is
	22 24	22 or less	43 or less	Low
	27 30	Between 23 and 41	Around 50	Average
	Total:	42 or more	57 or more	High

Burnout Scale

On the burnout scale you will need to take an extra step. Starred items are "reverse scored." If you scored the item 1, write a 5 beside it. The reason we ask you to reverse the scores is because scientifically the measure works better when these questions are asked in a positive way though they can tell us more about their negative form. For example, question 1. "I am happy" tells us more about e effects

Change	the effects
to	of helping
5	when you
4	are <i>not</i>
3	happy so
2	you reverse
I	the score
	to 5 4 3

*1. ____ = ____ *4. ____ = ___ 8. 10. *15. ____ = _ *17. ____ = ___ 19. 21. 26. ___ *29. =

The sum of my Burnout Questions is	So my score equals	And my Burnout level is
22 or less	43 or less	Low
Between 23 and 41	Around 50	Average
42 or more	57 or more	High

Total: ____

Secondary Traumatic Stress Scale

Just like you did on Compassion	2			
Satisfaction, copy your rating on each of	5	The sum of	So My	And my
these questions on to this table and add	7	my	Score	Secondary
them up. When you have added then up	9	Secondary	Equals	Traumatic
you can find your score on the table to the right.	II	Trauma		Stress level
the right.	13	questions is		is
	14 23	22 or less	43 or less	Low
	25 28	Between 23 and 41	Around 50	Average
	Total:	42 or more	57 or more	High

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The power of the Quick Coherence Technique comes from positive emotions. When you engage positive feelings, in the moment, you replace depleting emotions with ones that can renew your system. The technique is easy, but each step is important. With practice, the coherence you establish in your system becomes your new reference point making the shift easier and more automatic.

Step 1. Focus your attention in the area of the heart. Imagine your breath is flowing in and out of your heart or chest area, breathing a little slower and deeper than usual.

Suggestion: Inhale 5 seconds, exhale 5 seconds (or whatever rhythm is comfortable).

Step 2. Make a sincere attempt to experience a regenerative feeling such as appreciation or care for someone or something in your life.

Suggestion: Try to re-experience the feeling you have for someone you love, a pet, a special place, an accomplishment, etc., or focus on a feeling of calm or ease.

Once you have become familiar with these three steps, use the quick steps:

- Heart-Focused Breathing
- Activate a positive or renewing feeling

Use the Quick Coherence steps anytime you want to:

- Gain the benefits of positive emotions.
- Have a quick 30 second emotional adjustment.
- Get an extra energy boost.

List some everyday depleting situations and how you can benefit from applying the Quick Coherence Technique.

SITUATION	DEPLETING RESPONSE	How QUICK COHERENCE CAN HELP

Specific applications.

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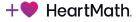
Consider any stress triggers or potentially depleting reactions you experienced. Write down the situation and what happened.

Date	Situation	Response	Observations

Write down any successes you are having with your practice.

Write down any challenges you are having with your practice.

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The Heart-Focused Breathing[™] step shifts your attention away from your depleting thoughts to your heart or chest area increases coherence in your system. Because changing the rhythm of your breathing changes the rhythm in your nervous system, when you breathe deeper and slower, 5 seconds in and 5 seconds out or 6 complete breaths per minute, you bring more order to your nervous system and the rhythm of your heart. Doing this anytime you feel stress has a powerful soothing effect on the entire body and will help you start to feel calmer.

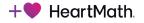
Activate a positive or renewing emotion. Making a sincere attempt to experience a renewing feeling such as appreciation or care for someone or something in your life helps you sustain the coherence started with the Heart-Focused Breathing step, without having to remain focused on your breath. Many people find that when they experience positive feelings like care, love or appreciation while practicing heart-focused breathing through the heart or chest area, they immediately feel uplifted and regenerated. We call these *heart feelings* because they change how your heart is beating and because people often describe these feelings or emotions as *coming from the heart*.

If you are accustomed to having more negative, depleting feelings than positive, renewing feelings, breathing this way may feel uncomfortable at first because it's unfamiliar. For now, simply make a sincere effort to feel and hold the renewing emotions by recalling a positive or fun time in your life and reexperiencing it.

If it's hard for you to recall anything positive, write down some occasions when you felt an uplifting, positive feeling. This will help you remember how to recall one of them when you practice the Quick Coherence Technique. Even a sincere attempt to feel a positive emotion will reduce the drain and replenish your system.

Practice makes it easier to sustain coherence for longer periods of time. Coherence will become more natural and familiar to your system, making it much easier to remain calm and balanced in challenging or stressful times.

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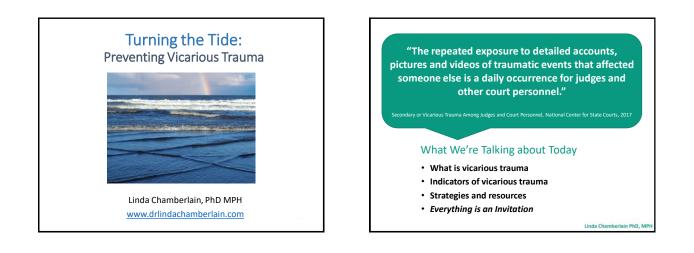
TURNING THE TIDE: Preventing Vicarious Trauma

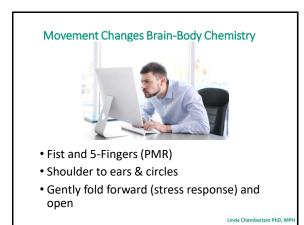
Linda Chamberlain PhD MPH www.drlindachamberlain.com

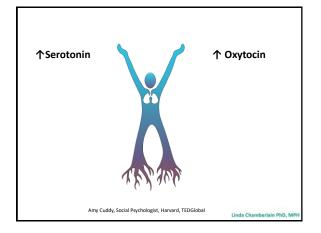
Questions to Consider

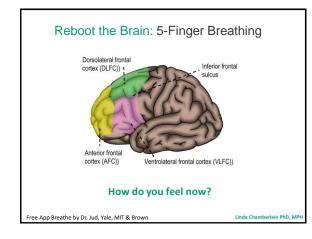
Ask yourself, as a result of the work I do:

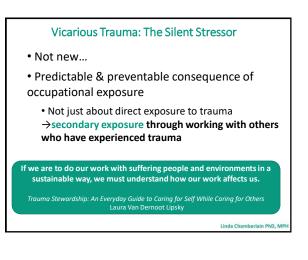
- 1. How have my identity and personal beliefs about myself changed?
- 2. Have the reasons that I chose to do this work changed from when I started?
- 3. Am I using my strengths and resources to keep growing with the work or am I in survival mode?
- 4. Has my perception of things that are under my control changed since I started doing this work?
- 5. Think about a critical situation in the last few months that affected how your thinking/how you felt outside of work.











Burn-Out \neq Vicarious Trauma

Stress and frustration due to toxic work environment

- Unrealistic demands, heavy workload
- Poor management, inadequate support
- Feelings of depersonalization



Linda Chamberlain PhD, MPI

Vicarious Trauma

• Repeated exposure to suffering of others related to work

• Symptoms similar to PTSD (D.W. Smith, Trends in State Court, NCSC, 2017)

• Change in how we view ourselves, our work, others, the world



Linda Chamberlain PhD, N







Vicarious trauma is a change in one's thinking due to exposure to other people's traumatic stories. Dr. David Berceli, TRE

Linda Chamberlain PhD, MP



vicarious trauma
"can't bounce back" don't enjoy things I used to poor follow-through istiluioned sleep/appetite changes intrusive thoughs ow motivation bow self-confidence no one understands me intrability powerless VICARIOUS TRAUMA absenteeisme tardiness can't get anything done obsessed with detail hopelessness can't make a difference negative attude impatient self-medicating withdrawn from co-workers

Linda Chamberlain PhD, MP

Indica	tors of Vicarious Trauma	
Category	Description	
Physical	Rapid pulse/breathing; headaches, impaired immune system, fatigue	
Psychological/Emotional	Feeling no one understands you, powerless-can't make a difference, fearfulness, disillusionment, "can't bounce back", don't enjoy things you used to	
Behavioral	Irritability, sleep/appetite changes, isolating from friends/family, self-medicating	
Cognitive	Cynicism, pessimism, intrusive thoughts and images, preoccupation with clients	
Performance	Low motivation, task avoidance or obsession with detail, working too hard and getting less done	
Morale	igstarrow confidence, negative attitude	
Interpersonal	rpersonal Detached/withdrawn from co-workers, poor communication; 个 conflict, impatient	
Workplace	Absent/tardiness, poor follow-through, overwork	

Ask yourself, as a result of the work I do (see handout):

- 1. How have my identity and personal beliefs about myself changed?
- 2. Have the reasons that I chose to do this work changed from when I started?
- 3. Am I using my strengths and resources to keep growing with the work or am I in survival mode?
- 4. Has my perception of things that are under my control changed since I started doing this work?
- Think about a critical situation in the last few months that affected how your thinking/how you felt outside of work.

Linda Chamberlain PhD, MF

Resource: Professional Quality of Life Scale

Validated scale measures negative and positive effects of helping others experiencing trauma

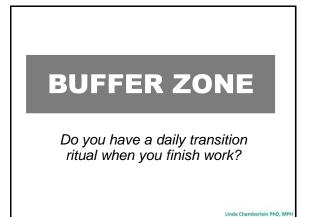
- Burn-out
- Compassion fatigue (VT)
- Compassion satisfaction

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www.proqol.org and see handout

Linda Chamberlain PhD, MPH

Linda Chamberlain PhD, N



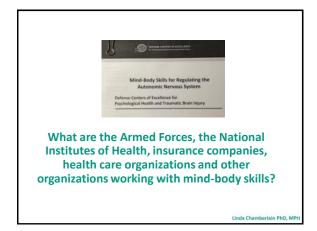


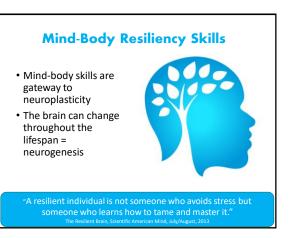


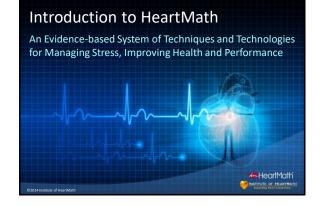
1920's: FIGHT, FLIGHT, FREEZE =STRESS RESPONSE FOR SURVIVAL

~Half a Century Later

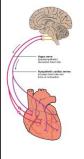
RELAXATION RESPONSE (RR)= SURVIVAL MECHANISM FOR HEALING







QUICK COHERENCE BREATHING



- 1. Focus attention on your heart
- Imagine your breath flowing in and out through your heart as you inhale and exhale (equal length) to the count of 5 or whatever is comfortable
- 3. Focus on positive feeling such as gratitude or something in your life

Linda Chamberlain PhD, MPH





What is iRest?

•Trauma-informed, evidence-based protocol combines guided meditation & deep relaxation techniques

•Promotes self-regulation, resiliency and stress reduction

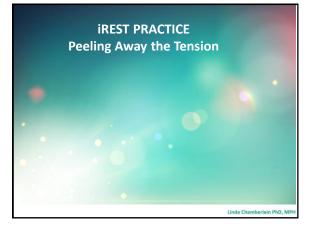
•Somatic practices to engage & restore instinct of body to balance and heal

•Enhances neural plasticity especially in areas of sensory, motor, limbic and prefrontal cortex

Linda Chamb

erlain PhD, MR

For information about online workshops and sessions, Contact <u>drlindchamberlain@gmail.com</u>



iRest (Integrative Restoration) Resiliency Training and Undoing Stress



https://www.irest.org/ www.drlindachamberlain.com

Linda Chamberlain PhD, MPH

Resilience is Not a Fixed Trait

• Gratitude is an essential tool for well-being & dealing effectively with grief

•Army calls it "hunting the good stuff"

•Write down 3 good things a day

•Ask yourself "Is what I'm doing helping or harming me?" (not just what you're doing but also what you're thinking...)

> Ordinary Magic- Ann Masten Resilient Grieving - Lucy Hone

Linda Chamberlain PhD, MP



Organizational Response

Having a prevention plan for vicarious trauma is a cornerstone of being trauma-informed





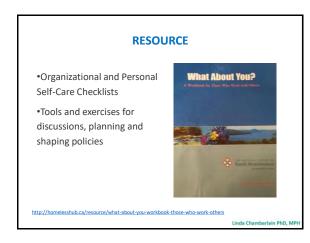


Strategies to Prevent Vicarious Trauma

- 1. Baseline assessment -- individual and organization
- System-wide training impact of vicarious trauma on workforce, organization and services
- 3. Proactive Plan
 - -begins during hiring process
 - -part of orientation
 - -continuing education
 - -exit interviews

We begin to turn the tide with systematic awareness

Strategies to Prevent Vicarious Trauma 4. Build toolkit of resiliency practices to integrate into organization -start and end meetings with 1-2 minute practice 5. Low impact debriefing after critical events ASAP 6. Staff Support Hotline/Resource page (list other existing resources), working with EAP to ensure best practices





VICARIOUS RESILIENCE

= Process of positive growth and empowerment that comes through working with clients who are coping with and overcoming adversity

Vicarious trauma and vicarious resilience co-exist

- -Recognizing people's capacity to heal
- -Reaffirming the value of the work you do

-Gift of HOPE

Vicarious Resilience: A Comprehensive Review, Hernandez-Wolfe, 2018 Vicarious Resilience, Vicarious Trauma and Awareness of Equity in Trauma Work, Hernadez-Wolfe & Killian, 2014

Linda Chamberlain PhD, MP

Vicarious resilience is only possible if <u>skills</u> and <u>strategies</u> are implemented by organizations and individuals to protect themselves.

Take a moment to think about the most rewarding moments you've had at your job—those moments that keep you coming back.

Activity 3.6 Dwelling on Days That Make You Want to Come Back

Source: "What About You?" page 44

Linda Chamberlain PhD, MPI

Essential Elements of Trauma-informed System to Promote Worker Resiliency

•Recognize exposure to trauma is a risk of the work you do •Recognize impact of vicarious trauma on workforce

•Trauma can shape culture of an organizations in same way that trauma can shape world view of individuals

•Trauma-informed organizations are less likely to retraumatize clients/families they serve

•Develop capacity to translate trauma-related knowledge into meaningful action, policy & improvements in practice

National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) Fact Sheet

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