



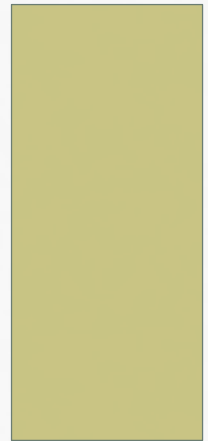
if you don't

IMAGINE

NOTHING
ever HAPPENS *at all*

**LET'S WORK TOGETHER
OPTIMAL CARE FOR YOUNG CHILDREN IN
FOSTER/KINSHIP CARE - A CONFERENCE FOR
PEDIATRICIANS AND INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS
WITH A LOOK TO THE FUTURE**

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NOVEMBER 18, 2016



OUTLINE FOR TODAY'S TALK

- Brief Overview of Attachment Theory
- Types of Trauma and Definitions
- Complex Trauma/Interpersonal Trauma
- Toxic Stress and the Brain
- Infant Mental Health Services
 - Comprehensive Assessment
 - Infant Mental Health /Dyadic Treatment

WHAT IS ATTACHMENT

- Attachment is the biologic/genetic predisposition that connects an infant and their caregiver and is about physical and emotional protection.
- Infants come into the world with remarkable capacities to establish and regulate human relationships. They are surprisingly competent and endowed with predispositions toward **Attachment promoting** behaviors; Crying, clinging, gaze behavior;
- It is through those attachment behaviors that an infant can be soothed, calmed, **regulated** and made to feel safe if things are awry developing the ability to trust
- The attachment system helps the baby to maintain closeness to a special person (most often the mother) in order to feel himself as physically and emotionally secure.

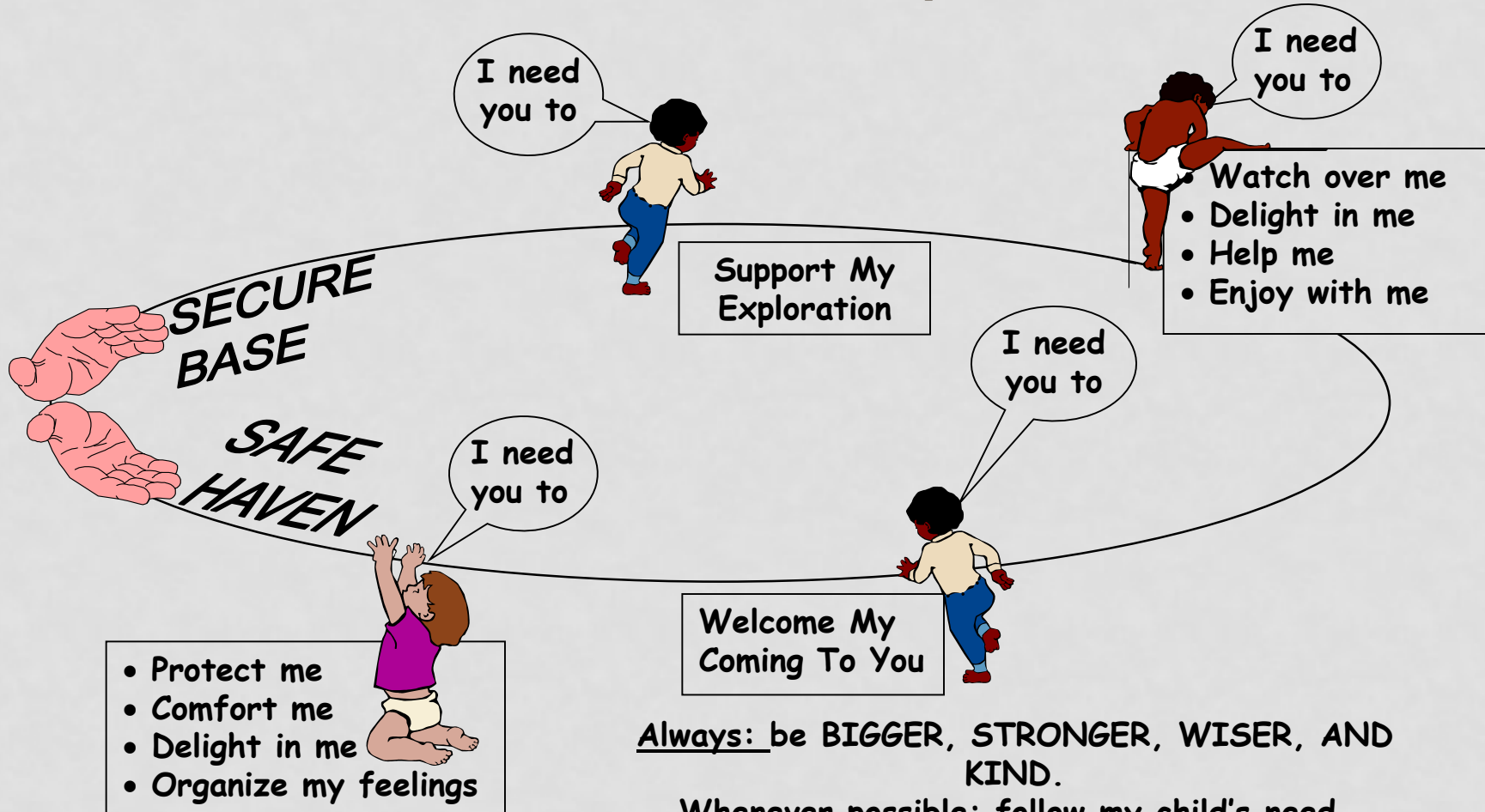


How Attachment Develops

Circle of Security/Serve and Return

Parent Responsively Attending to the Child's Needs

© Cooper, Hoffman, Marvin, & Powell, 1999

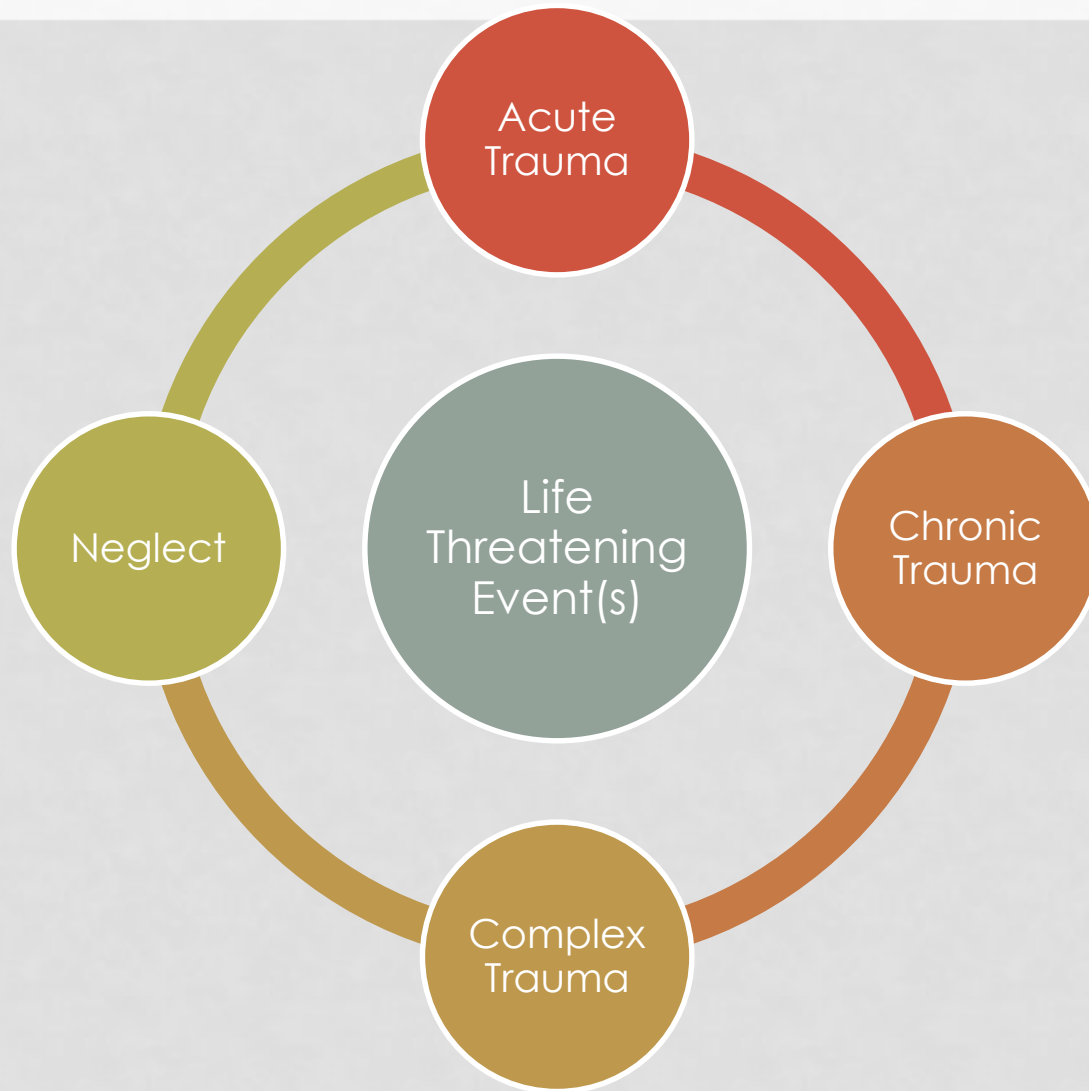


Always: be BIGGER, STRONGER, WISER, AND KIND.

Whenever possible: follow my child's need.

Whenever necessary: Take charge.

WHAT IS TRAUMA



ACUTE TRAUMA

- Acute trauma - single traumatic event that is limited in time (natural disaster, dog bite, car accident,, physical assault, school shooting).
- Even during a brief traumatic event a child can go through a number of feelings, thoughts and physical reactions as s/he reacts to the danger and thinks about how to find safety.
- It isn't always clear which part of the trauma was the scariest - for some children the scariest part is their parents reactions.

CHRONIC TRAUMA

Experience of multiple traumatic events (like when children are exposed to ongoing gang and community violence, witnessing and hearing about multiple shootings, ongoing).

The effects of chronic trauma can be cumulative and each event reminds the child of earlier trauma and reinforces its negative impact.

Overtime, chronic trauma can impair one's ability to tolerate ordinary everyday stress.

NEGLECT

Neglect is trauma that is both the absence of something necessary as well as for a child who is dependent on an adult for care and is left alone, in a dirty diaper, suffering from hunger and left to cry for hours, it is also traumatic as it can feel and be life threatening.

COMPLEX TRAUMA

Prolonged social or interpersonal trauma that is caused by the people children depend on for survival and safety.

Trauma that is complex usually begins before a child is 5 as a result of the actions of a caregiver (chronic physical and sexual abuse, witness to domestic violence, profound ongoing neglect, living with an alcoholic, mentally ill abusive parent).

Toxic Stress is a consequence of Complex Trauma



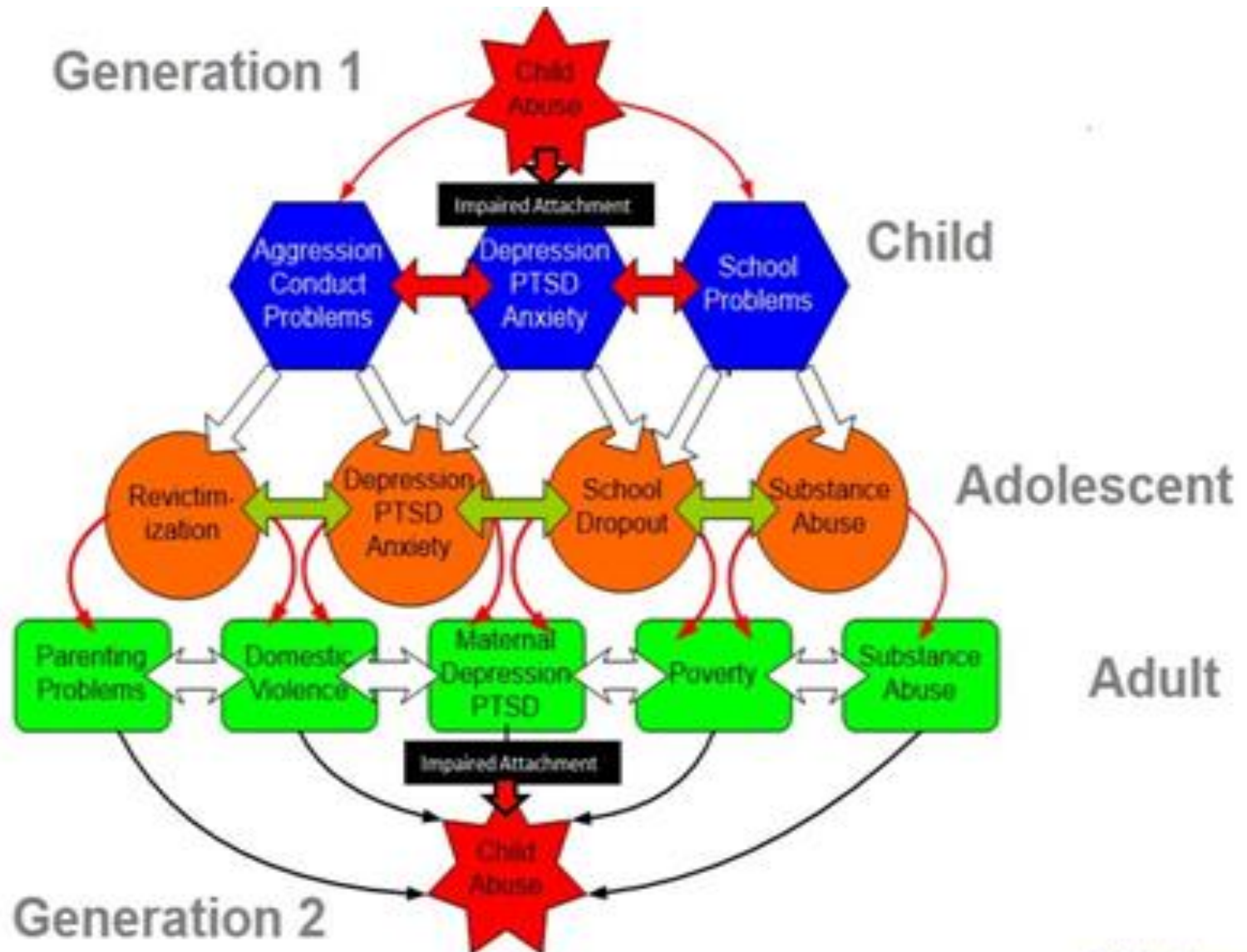
THE COST TO THE CHILD: STRESS AND TRAUMA
EFFECT THE PHYSICAL ARCHITECTURE OF A
YOUNG CHILD'S BRAIN



TOXIC STRESS

- TOXIC STRESS: “Strong, frequent, and/or prolonged activation of the body’s stress-response system *in the absence of stable adult support*”
- Exponential growth of brain during early childhood
- Early childhood is sensitive period for many functions/processes
- Human brain has capacity to change, especially in the early years
- Experience changes the brain at the structural and process levels
- Compromised brain development in children experiencing toxic stress

HOW ATTACHMENT QUALITY AND TRAUMA ARE PASSED FROM ONE GENERATION TO ANOTHER



WHAT A BABY SHOWS US ABOUT WHAT HE/SHE EXPECTS FROM HIS/HER PRIMARY CAREGIVER



TREATMENT



NASSAU COUNTY BABIES CAN'T WAIT

- **Judicial Leadership**
- **Leadership Team**
- **Dedicated Foster Care 0-5 Unit**
- **Dedicated Team of Attorneys—DCA's, Parents' Attorney's and Attorneys for Children**
- **Court Team Coordinator**
- **Monthly Family Case Review Meetings**
- **Monthly Court Hearings**
- **Greater Community Court Team**
- **Infant Mental Health-Comprehensive Trauma, Relational, Behavioral and Developmental Assessments**
- **Dyadic Infant Mental Health Treatment /Child-Parent Psychotherapy with video feedback, Parent Guidance and Increased Visitation**
- **Functional Case Plans**
- **Concurrent Planning**
- **Evaluation**

INFANT MENTAL HEALTH-COMPREHENSIVE, RELATIONAL, DEVELOPMENTAL, BEHAVIORAL AND TRAUMA ASSESSMENT

- The assessment is comprised of 8-12 hours of face to face contact with the child and all of their “special and significant” relationships, such as the birth parent, foster parent, or grandmother, for example., in order to characterize each of the child’s relationships with their caregiver.
- The assessment includes home and clinic based observations, visit to daycare or preschool, standardized procedures and naturalistic observations, structured and unstructured interviews and self-report measures such as depression and trauma screens and the ACES questionnaire.
- The Infant-Toddler Developmental Assessment (IDA)

EXAMPLES OF MEASURES USED IN COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Observational Assessments

Crowell Relationship Assessment

Infant Toddler Developmental
Assessment (IDA)

School/or Daycare Visit

Home Visit

Child Measures

ASQ-SE

Child Trauma History Screen

Temperament

Parent Measures

Reflective Function

MSE

Depression and Anxiety Screens

ACEs and Trauma History Screen

Parental Stress Index

Social Supports

Cognitive Testing

Substance Abuse Screening

Family Resource Scale

OUR TREATMENT MODEL: CHILD-PARENT PSYCHOTHERAPY WITH VIDEO FEEDBACK

- Child can be treated in the context of the relationship with their biological parent, their foster parent, and/or both.
- Biological Parent-child dyads receive 5 hours of services per week. 2 dyadic treatment sessions, 2 supervised visits and one video feedback/adult mental health session. Treatment addresses the mental health and trauma of both parent and child and helps the parent better see the needs of their child through the video feedback.
- Foster parent-child dyads receive one dyadic session per week and one adult video feedback session focused on addressing the mental health needs of the child



Adelphi University

Institute for Parenting

