



Patrick Doherty

*ABUSE IN LATER LIFE EDUCATION SERIES FOR ADVOCATES:*  
**PROVIDING TRAUMA-INFORMED  
ADVOCACY FOR OLDER  
SURVIVORS**

Module 11

National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life

2017

## Office on Violence Against Women Abuse in Later Life Program

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## As a Result of This Training, Participants Will Be Better Able to:

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- Identify the effects of trauma on trauma survivors
- Provide trauma-informed advocacy when working with older survivors

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## Trauma-Informed Advocacy

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- Requires clear understanding of trauma and its effects over a lifetime
- Recognizes diversity and cultural differences
- Takes the time necessary to listen and build trust
- Understands how an individual may respond to trauma during and after the event
- Recognizes the power imbalance that may exist between victim and helping agencies

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## Tips for Working with Persons Affected by Trauma

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## Traumatized Mind

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- Trauma: freeze, fight, flight
- During traumatic incident, “doing” brain responds, “thinking” brain is under-used
- Memories of event may be scattered
- Trust may be difficult

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## How to Approach a Victim of Trauma

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## Listening to Trauma Survivors

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- Allow survivor to have one or two sleep cycles before interview
- Allow victim to tell their experience without interruption
- Say “I’m sorry this happened to you” and “I’m glad you’re here”
- Don’t ask “why?” but instead say “tell me more about that”
- Listen without judgment or skepticism, even if victim’s account sounds confusing

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## Trauma and Power Imbalance

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## A Change in Perspective

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*From*

“What’s Wrong With You”

*to*

“What Have You Experienced?”

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## Trauma: Expect the Unexpected

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## Summary

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- Older survivors may have experienced harm throughout their lifetime
- Understanding the impact of trauma can help service programs create trauma informed services
- Trauma aware advocates can better meet the needs of older survivors

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## Video Presenters

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- Amy Judy  
Senior Program Associate, Center on Victimization and Safety,  
Vera Institute of Justice

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## Thank You

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- Special thanks to Terra Nova Films for the ongoing working partnership with NCALL and the beautiful video production
- [www.terranova.org](http://www.terranova.org)

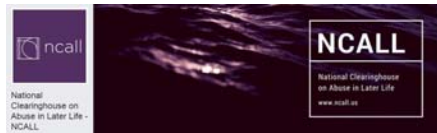


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## Staying Connected to NCALL and Other Advocates

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- Sign up for our enewsletter: <http://oi.vresp.com/?fid=03fcc93262>
- Join our listserv for advocates serving older survivors: [ncall@ncall.us](mailto:ncall@ncall.us)
- Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ncall.us](http://www.facebook.com/ncall.us)
- Join us on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ncall\\_us](http://www.twitter.com/ncall_us)



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## National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)

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National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life,  
a project of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin:  
(Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence)

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