

Human Centric Investigations and Prosecutions – Beyond Trauma Informed

Traumatic experiences, particularly multiple experiences over the course of a lifetime, can result in a range of behavioral health problems beyond and including tension reduction behaviors, substance abuse, depression, anxiety problems, childhood behavioral disorders, psychosis and some personality disorder diagnoses are all common traumatic responses. In other words, people who have experienced trauma(s) may respond to the experience(s) in a variety of ways and can be challenging to work with and understand. Several decades ago, the criminal justice system began to incorporate the principles of being “trauma informed” into the work we do. This recognition has been essential in moving the criminal justice field forward.

Being trauma informed is vital step forward – but is only a single step in making our system better. It is essential to stand on a foundation of “being” trauma informed and move forward to the next logical step of being human centric and healing inspired. Crimes against persons are always committed by one or more human being on other human beings. We have a responsibility to meet the needs of the people we serve who experience genuine human responses to real-world psychological/emotional damage. Human connection is essential to make a true difference not only on the lives of those we serve but also makes for a much better case to bring forward to the trier of fact.

A human centric investigation and prosecution differs from the traditional approach in that it incorporates an understanding and application of how high stress and trauma impacts the human body and behavior and how to incorporate human centric evidence in our work. This presentation will provide up-to-date research, case studies, and emphasize preserving, corroborating, and presenting human centric evidence within the context of the whole experience of being a human being.

There are tangible changes we can make to continue to improve how we identify experiences and context in which they occur. By refining the manner in which we corroborate impact, evidence of trauma and fear, understand and document changes in behavior, understand the human experience, and properly identify and present human centric evidence - we can make all the difference in the world.

Objectives:

- Define being human centric and healing inspired
- Explore the differences between traditional and human centric investigations
- Incorporate human centric principles in investigation and prosecution processes and culture
- Identify ways to corroborate, preserve, and effectively present human centric evidence
- Weave tangible strategies to help victims reach post traumatic growth