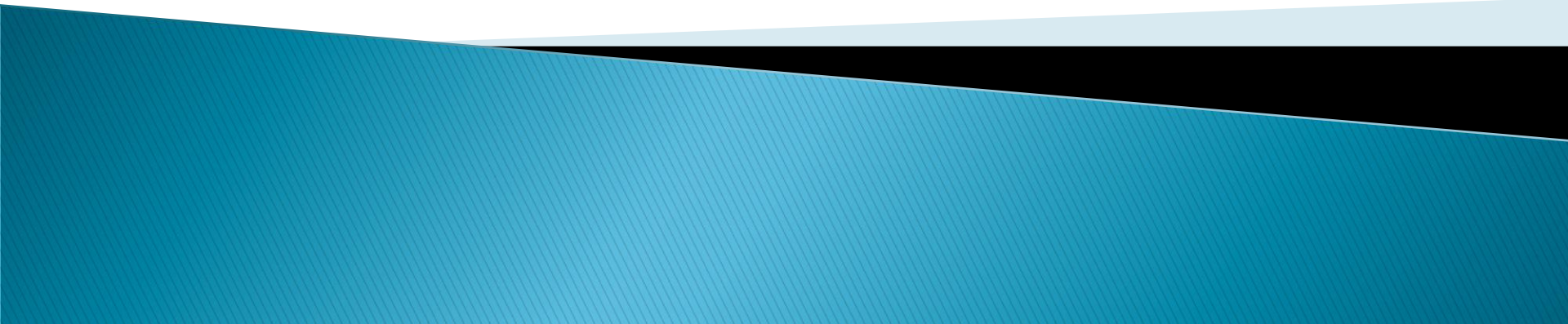


EARLY TRAUMA:

The Effects on African American Men



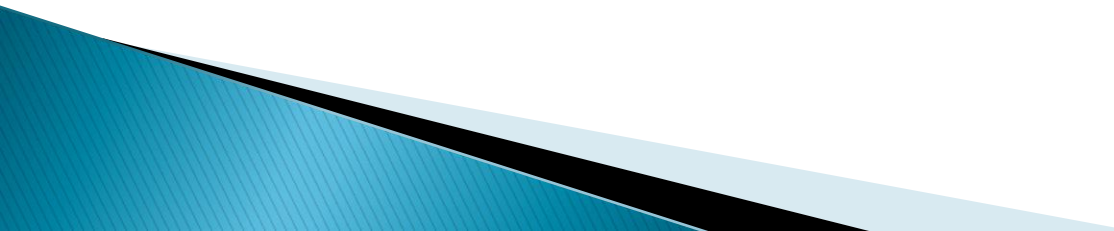
Historical Trauma in African American Community

POST TRAUMATIC SLAVE SYNDROME

BY DR. JOY LEARY

- ▶ “Consequence of multigenerational oppression of Africans and their descendants resulting from centuries of chattel slavery”

STUDY TO PREDICT VIOLENCE IN AFRICAN AMERICAN MEN

- ▶ Five Variables
 - Violence Victimization
 - Violence Witnessing
 - Urban Hassle
 - Racial Socialization
 - Respect Scale
- 

URBAN HASTLE

- ▶ Sirens
- ▶ Gun shots
- ▶ Fear of walking the street

RESPECT SCALE

- ▶ Respect needed among peers, family, institutions and authority figures

COMMUNITY TRAUMA

- ▶ Trauma from living in a community that experiences poverty, high levels of mobility and violence

FAMILY AND PERSONAL TRAUMA

- ▶ Domestic violence, child abuse, aggressive anger in household, emotional abuse, sexual assault, etc.

- ▶ When a very young child or pre-verbal child experiences trauma it does have a more profound impact on them than older children.

- ▶ When a child is exposed to trauma they invest energy level into survival instead of developmental mastery.

Early Childhood Developmental Tasks

Milestones	Effect of Trauma
Multiple physical and cognitive tasks, e.g. walking, talking	Delays or regression, e.g. baby-talk, bedwetting
Attachment with primary caregiver	Excessive clinginess or withdrawal from primary caregivers
Becoming independent e.g. dressing, eating	Helplessness expressed by agitation or excessive temper tantrums

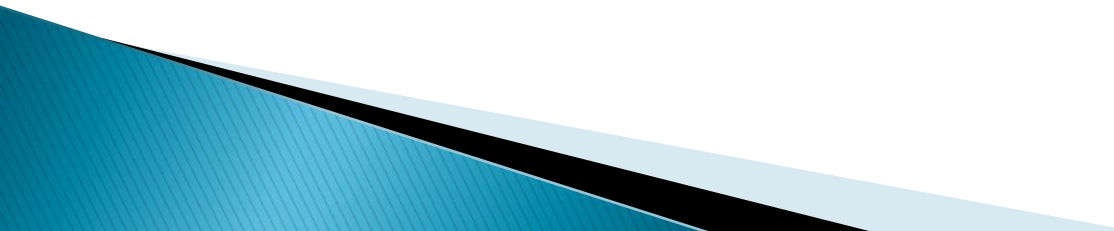
Attachment

Secure Attachment	Insecure Attachment
Secure “container”	Lack of availability and predictability
Provides for basic needs and security	Lack of safety and security
Freedom to explore and learn	Diminished ability to develop trusting relationships and coping skills

Interventions Should Be

- ▶ Comprehensive and Continuous
- ▶ Individualized
- ▶ Family Oriented

Tools

- ▶ Family work: consistently modeling developmentally appropriate parenting skills
 - ▶ High quality therapeutic early childhood
 - ▶ Play Therapy
- 

Malik*

- ▶ 4 year old African American boy

* Not real name

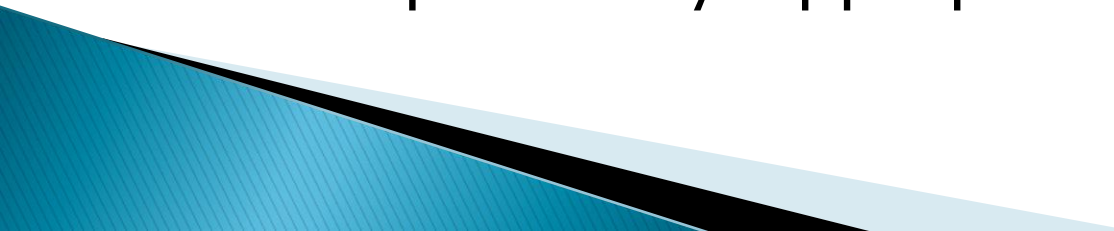
Primary Trauma

- ▶ Out of home placement with non African American Family

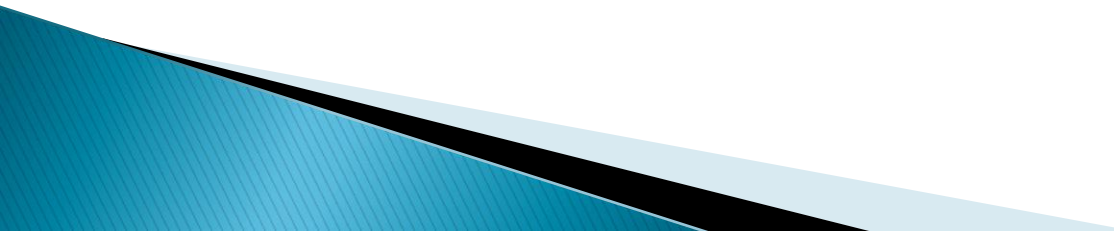
Secondary Trauma

- ▶ Witness to domestic violence

Intervention

- ▶ Built trusting relationship; weekly parent child interactions
 - ▶ Non-judgmental, non-shaming education on trauma and its effects on children
 - ▶ Psychosocial treatment for Mom dealing with large amounts of guilt and shame
 - ▶ Play Therapy for Malik
 - ▶ Provided support and an ability to see traumatic incident as something to heal from and move forward from into the ability to solve own problems in appropriate, safe, and developmentally-appropriate ways.
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HOPE

- ▶ Recognize and point out trauma in the African American community
 - ▶ Do not ignore trauma of African American boys and others as “par for the course” it is not
 - ▶ Advocate for intervention and treatment for young African American boys as opposed to expulsions, medications, etc.
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Questions?

