

Enhancing Violence Against Women Work: An Exploration of the Complexities of Trauma

Sponsored by: VAW Forum – Central West Region in partnership with The Social Innovation Research Group – Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University

Friday, November 23, 2012

Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University
120 Duke St W, Kitchener

AGENDA

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|---------------|---|--------------|
| 9:00 – 9:30 | Registration and Refreshments | |
| 9:30 – 10:00 | Opening Remarks | Auditorium |
| | Leslie Josling, Co-Chair, VAW Forum
Dr. Nick Coady, Dean, Faculty of Social Work – Wilfrid Laurier University
Marg Rappolt, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Community & Social Services
Dr. Ginette Lafrenière, Faculty of Social Work – Wilfrid Laurier University | |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Keynote by Ian DeGeer, M.S.W. Ph.D. (can.)
<i>Learning from Other Jurisdictions: Niagara's Domestic Violence Report Card</i> | |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | Health Break | |
| 10:45 – 12:15 | Concurrent Workshops | Check Room # |
| 12:15 – 1:00 | Lunch | Auditorium |
| 1:00 – 1:30 | Showcase of Public Awareness Initiatives Taking Place in Central West Region | |
| 1:30 – 3:25 | Dr. Kristen Trotter, Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work
<i>Vicarious Resilience and Trauma Work: An Important Conversation to Engage</i> | |
| 3:25 – 3:30 | Concluding Remarks | |

Ian DeGeer, M.S.W. Ph.D. (can.) Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work

Learning from Other Jurisdictions: Niagara's Domestic Violence Report Card

The life of Ian DeGeer has been full of obstacles similar to those faced by thousands of men everyday. Raised in a mid-size city, in a home where violence was one of the norms and taught to embody the very masculine identities that trouble our society, he understands that he was fast-tracked for failure in his relationships. However, through knowledge building, hard work, perseverance and a desire to be different he began to challenge all the things he thought he should be.

Over the past 15 years, Ian has been on a journey to understand why domestic violence continues to be a social issue in our society. His entry point into this issue has been facilitating groups for men who abuse their partners. Over the past 12 years he has worked with men to help reduce violence in their relationships. His innovative program development has resulted in consultations with both the RCMP and the National Offender Management Service in England about working with men who are violent. His work has taken him to international conferences in New York City and Montreal Quebec. Ian has worked in child welfare in both Ontario and British Columbia and continues to research and examine how systems of child welfare respond to the issue of violence against women. Most recently he has facilitated domestic violence training for clinical agents of the Office of the Children's Lawyer. Ian is currently a PhD candidate in the Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University. His current research, the Niagara Region Domestic Violence Report Card, is an award winning examination of the Niagara Region's community-based response to violence against women.

Since 2008, the Niagara Coalition to End Violence Against Women (CEVAW) has been involved in attempting to document the community-based response to domestic violence in the Niagara Region. The Niagara Region Domestic Violence Report Card is a series of documents focused on understanding how one community is working on the issue of violence against women. Ian DeGeer has been the lead researcher for all three documents, the most recent being "The System Matters" released in 2012. In this talk, Ian will provide an overview of the project, lessons learned on the way and thoughts on the importance of these projects as a way of improving service to families where domestic violence has occurred.

Morning Concurrent Workshops:

Workshop A

Room – 201

Dr. Carol Stalker Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work

How Trauma Makes Us Physically Sick and What We Can Do to Help

Carol Stalker MSW, PhD, RSW is Professor and Associate Dean: PhD Program in the Faculty of Social Work at Laurier University. Prior to joining the Faculty of Social Work, she practiced in adult mental health settings in London, Ontario. Her doctoral research built on her extensive experience working with women survivors of childhood sexual abuse. Her current research interests include learning more about the effectiveness of single-session therapy provided in walk-in counselling clinics, improving the effectiveness of mental health counselling and interprofessional practice in primary health care, promoting sensitive practice by health professionals when they work with survivors of trauma and abuse, and improving social work practice with refugees and immigrants.

This workshop will review the evidence showing that intimate partner violence and other forms of trauma are significant risk factors for a wide range of physical illnesses including chronic pain, sexually transmitted infections and gastrointestinal problems, and that these physical health problems can be severe enough to lead to disability. Together we will discuss the implications of these findings for those working with victims of partner violence, and how we can support women to access needed health care and derive maximum benefit from it. Suggestions from research about how to help women survivors of child sexual abuse prepare for consultations with healthcare providers will be considered.

Workshop B

Room – 210

Laurie Robinson M.S.W. kidsLINK - Consultant, Project Management & Program Development

Understanding the Theory and Practice of Trauma-informed Services

Laurie Robinson has been working in the Child and Youth Services field for over 30 years with clinical and management experience in both the Child Welfare and Children's Mental Health sectors. She is currently working with kidsLINK delivering presentations and training designed to promote increased understanding and knowledge sharing in the area of Trauma-informed Systems of Care.

The presentation reviews the research on the prevalence of child trauma across sectors, the psycho-biology of trauma, and defines the difference between trauma-specific treatments and trauma-informed care. Ms Robinson will present a review of the advances being made across North America in bringing the science of trauma-informed care to mental health and a range of other behavioural health systems. Future considerations and local advances in Ontario and Canada will be discussed.

Workshop C

Room – 203

Joan Tuchlinsky Public Education Manager, Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region

Sexual Assault and Vicarious Trauma amongst Working Professionals: Deconstructing Impact

Joan is passionate about working with others to educate for social change in our community. She facilitates workshops on a variety of topics related to sexual violence and has been involved in peace and justice work for over 25 years. Joan coordinates the Male Allies Against Sexual Violence (MAASV) program which engages men and boys in the work of ending gendered violence. Joan also provides counseling to clients struggling with faith

issues and co-facilitates the Supporters of Survivors group. Joan is recognized as a diaconal minister by the United Church of Canada with a focus on education, social justice and pastoral care. She has a Diploma in Diaconal Ministries: Studies in Transformation and Action from a feminist theological school, the Centre for Christian Studies, and a Bachelor of Theology degree from the University of Alberta.

Recognizing that many clients we encounter in VAW work have experienced sexual violence, we will deconstruct various factors that contribute to Vicarious Trauma (including current trends observed in the sexual assault sector). Participants will also explore strategies that can be employed on an individual, peer/collegial and organizational/agency level to manage it. This workshop is interactive and provides opportunity to apply the strategies to one's own context.

Workshop D

Room – 108

Dr. Magnus Mfoafo-McCarthy Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work & Santiago Grande M.S.W. Mosaic Family Counselling Services

Exploring the Impact of Trauma on the Mental Health of Immigrants & Refugees: Case Studies from the Field

Dr. Magnus Mfoafo-M'Carthy is an Assistant Professor at the Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University. He has extensive experience working with marginalized groups specifically individuals diagnosed with mental illness, HIV and sex offenders. Until recently, he was a post-doctoral fellow with the Social Aetiology of Mental Illness (SAMI) Post-Doctoral Research Program at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

Santiago Grande is an indigenous Salvadorian and, due to the civil war, was displaced to Mexico. He immigrated to Canada in 1988 to join his extended family in Waterloo Region. His path to earning his master of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier included learning English, as well as earning bachelor's degrees in psychology and social work. Santiago currently works at Mosaic Counselling and Family Services as project coordinator for "The promise of Partnership: Aligning Mental Health Services for Government and Privately assisted Refugees" in the Region of Waterloo. He accompanies in counselling refugees who have experienced torture, trauma and resettlement issues, and works to create processes for linking refugees to seamless community services needed. He is a member of the "Strengthening Mental Health in Cultural Linguistic Communities" working group. He facilitates training on men's issues, parenting, diversity and oppression, conflict resolution, effective communication skills in the prison system for the last 15 years, as well as counselling male victims of sexual abuse.

According to Statistics Canada, Canada's foreign born population grew by 13.6% between 2001 and 2006. Majority of Canada's immigrant population are ethnic groups that have the highest per capita immigration rate. A large percentage of the immigrant population in Canada, include refugees from war torn countries and those fleeing abuse. Research speaks to the fact that a high percentage of refugees from war torn countries tend to be victims of abuse and torture. Contrary to the norm in Canada, where most immigrants settle in the three known big cities (Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver), smaller communities like the Kitchener-Waterloo Region are becoming a magnet to immigrant communities. The settlement of immigrants in smaller communities requires the availability of services for those impacted either by war or abuse. Trauma is one condition that can have a multi-dimensional impact on our lives. The focus of this workshop explores the cases of two immigrants in the Kitchener –Waterloo region whose experiences with trauma would have had dire consequences but for the intervention of mental health professionals.

Dr. Kristen Trotter, Lyle S. Hallman Faculty of Social Work

Vicarious Resilience and Trauma Work: An Important Conversation to Engage

Kristin Trotter is a member of the Faculty of Social Work, Wilfrid Laurier University, where she has taught many of the clinical courses including a course on trauma. Kristin also has a private practice where she works with individuals, couples, and families. She works extensively with trauma survivors including survivors of war, rape, and adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse.

Her presentation will deal with the construct of vicarious resilience in clients and in clinicians through a discussion of precisely what is meant by the term 'vicarious resilience,' how that term is supported by various theories of trauma, and through a case presentation of a drug facilitated sexual assault. As well, two experiential exercises will be offered. The first exercise is designed to centre practitioners and the second one is intended to teach practitioners how to use themselves as transformational vehicles when faced with horrific trauma stories. This second exercise is an adaptation of the Buddhist practice of Tonglen.