

### Training Description

SAMHSA's GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation, operated by Policy Research Associates, Inc. (PRA), is known nationally for its work in regard to people with behavioral health needs involved in the criminal justice system.

#### Overview

Although prevalence estimates vary, there is consensus that high percentages of justice-involved women and men have experienced serious trauma throughout their lifetime. The reverberating effects of trauma experiences can challenge a person's capacity for recovery and pose significant barriers to accessing services, often resulting in an increase risk of coming into contact with the criminal justice system.

#### Objectives

*How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Judicial Decision-Making* is a training program for court professionals to:

- Increase understanding of trauma
- Create an awareness of the impact of trauma on behavior
- Develop trauma-informed responses

Trauma-informed court responses can help to avoid re-traumatizing individuals, and thereby increase safety for all, decrease recidivism, and promote and support recovery of justice-involved women and men with serious mental illness. Partnerships across systems can also help to link individuals to trauma-informed services and treatment for trauma.

#### Program Participants

This highly interactive training is specifically tailored to community-based criminal justice professionals including:

- Judges
- Court personnel
- Other court professionals

#### Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this program, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss why court professionals should learn about trauma
2. List examples of traumatic events
3. Define trauma
4. Discuss how trauma is often ongoing for many individuals involved in the criminal justice system
5. Describe the pervasive impact trauma can have on an individual's life
6. List examples of the types of trauma reported by women and by men
7. List attributions that women and men ascribe to traumatic events
8. Describe the cycle of violence as a response to childhood physical abuse
9. Describe how the impact of trauma can be experienced throughout life and affect various aspects of functioning and behavior
10. Describe how trauma relates to mental health and substance use disorders
11. Describe how certain behaviors may reflect a person's attempt to survive
12. Discuss how a history of trauma may result in problematic behavior
13. Discuss how some behaviors and symptoms related to trauma can be a challenge
14. Understand that there should be a universal assumption of trauma for justice-involved individuals
15. List and describe ways in which the court system may re-traumatize trauma survivors
16. Discuss how to improve policies and procedures to make them trauma-informed

### GAINS Center Resources

#### GAINS Center Website

SAMHSA's GAINS Center's website is the online home for the GAINS Center – a national locus for the collection and dissemination of information about effective mental health and substance abuse services for people with co-occurring disorders in contact with the justice system. The website houses pages for the Jail Diversion and Trauma Recovery – Priority to Veterans, Adult Treatment Court Collaborative, and Mental Health Transformation Grant Programs, as well as information about trauma trainings, national databases of adult and juvenile mental health courts, resources for peers, and topical resources on a variety of topics. You can join the GAINS Center listserv, sign up for the eNewsletter, access the Virtual Learning Community, and contact us through the website. The GAINS Center website can be found at <http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov>.

#### GAINS Center eNewsletter

The GAINS Center eNewsletter is a monthly emailed newsletter that reports on developments in the fields of behavioral health and criminal justice, announces upcoming events and publications, and spotlights SAMHSA-funded grant projects supported by the GAINS Center. The eNewsletter fills subscribers in on grant and training opportunities, as well as all upcoming GAINS Center webinars. To sign up for the eNewsletter, please visit [http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/forms/join\\_eNews.asp](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/forms/join_eNews.asp).

#### Virtual Learning Community

The GAINS Center's Virtual Learning Community is an online forum established to foster conversation, information sharing, and dialogue among the various SAMHSA-funded grant projects supported by the GAINS Center and the larger behavioral health and criminal justice communities. For people passionate about behavioral health and criminal justice, this community provides a space to share ideas on topics such as trauma-informed care, and obtain and access a variety of resources that may improve the way you do business. Discussion posts about trauma are added to the VLC weekly. To join the GAINS Center Virtual Learning Community, please visit [http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/forms/join\\_virtual\\_learning.asp](http://gainscenter.samhsa.gov/forms/join_virtual_learning.asp).

#### Social Media

The GAINS Center Facebook and Twitter pages share current information on what our team is doing, developments in the fields of behavioral health and criminal justice, research breakthroughs, policy changes, training and webinar opportunities, and available grants. The GAINS Center Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/GAINSCenter> and our Twitter page is located at <https://twitter.com/GAINSCenter>.