Crossing Worlds – Intersecting Services:
Context in Which Treatment Takes Place

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Please raise your hand if you …

- Have ever written a letter to the editor
- Have ever voted in an election
- Have ever joined a students’ organization
- Have ever participated in a demonstration
- Belong to an identified religious group
- Do not belong to an identified religious group
- Are a woman
- Belong to an identifiable racial/ethnic group
- Have, or are personally close to someone who has, a sexual orientation other than heterosexual
Context – Opening Exercise

• Please consider and list 5 of the most important things in your life – things that “make life worth living.”
Triple-Trauma Paradigm

- Pre-Flight
- Flight
- Resettlement
Recurrent - Reinforcing Traumatic Events

- Social Dislocation;
- War / Conflict
- Capture
- Torture
- Internal displacement;
- Refugee in third country - Refugee camps?
- Detention centers?
- NYC

• Post – Traumatic Stress Disorder ?
Common Reactions to Torture and Refugee Trauma

- Cognitive
- Spiritual
- Physical
- Emotional
- Behavioral
Trauma Affects...

- A person’s ability to process information
- A person’s ability to talk about memories
- A person’s ability to relate to other people
- A person’s ability to think about the future
- A person’s feelings about the world
- A person’s feelings about him or herself

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Spheres of Marginalization

- Educational Functioning
- Social Service Provision (logistical/financial)
- Legal Advocacy
- Vocational/Professional
- Social Functioning
Possible Contextual Barriers to Service Provision

- **Logistical Barriers**
  - Transportation; physical setting; Inadequate time

- **Physical Barriers**
  - Pain, fatigue, sensory deficits

- **Psychological Barriers**
  - Fear, anxiety/depression

- **Sociocultural Barriers**
  - Gender issues, linguistic issues/interpreters

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Service Provision Tasks

- Information Gathering / Assessment
- Emotion Management / Crisis Intervention
- Providing Information / Psycho-education
- Delivery of Concrete Services
- Facilitating Effective Referrals
Trauma-Informed Principles

• Recognizing the challenges inherent in our collaborative tasks
• Resilience/ Strength based approach
• Holistic/Humanistic approach to service provision
• Navigating cultural differences and assumptions of cultural similarity
Trauma-Informed Approach to Service Provision

• Safety
• Empowerment

“IT does not have to be therapy to be therapeutic.”