

Brian Pierson retreat 14



We Are In this Together

Presented by:
Brian Pierson MS, RN, CHWC



Brian Pierson

12 years Army National Guard

Corrections RN

Critical Care RN and EMT

- CCU, ED, critical care transport

Community-based care

- Street medicine, moms & babies, healthy living, CTAP

The First Responders Bridge

1973 Chevy Nova

What to expect & What you will Learn





Introduce yourself

- Your name
- Your community
- Your profession and/or agency
- Your FIRST CAR!

Speed Dating





Meet great people
Broaden your
Understanding
Make Connections
Interventions are
Successful

What to expect?





Powerful speakers

Difficult stories and personal experiences

Amazing Support Available

- Peers
- Chaplains
- Clinicians
- Participants

*And possibly, psychological triggers...

Also expect...





A stimulus that activates recurring feelings of your trauma.

- Anniversary dates
- **Smells, sounds or sights**
- Feeling overwhelmed
- Family friction
- The end of a relationship
- **Spending too much time alone**
- Being judged, criticized, teased or yelled at
- Financial problems
- Aggressive noises
- Physical illness or the threat of illness
- Hearing the stories of others with similar experiences

Psychological Triggers



What will
you
Learn?






- **Re-experiencing**
- **Avoidance and emotional numbing**
 - Avoiding certain people or places.
 - Can lead to the person becoming isolated and withdrawn,
- **Hyperarousal (feeling 'on edge')**
 - It may also be accompanied by physical symptoms such as headaches, chest pain, dizziness and intestinal problems
 - Many people with PTS may also experience other problems, including depression, anxiety, phobias, **drug and/or alcohol misuse**

These are normal human responses to extraordinary human experiences

Post-Traumatic Stress



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- A state of complete or near-complete lack of contact between an individual and society.
 - High levels of Social Isolation are associated with PTSD
 - **Social isolation is one of the main risk factors associated with suicidal outcomes.**
 - Recent discoveries suggest that social pain is as real and intense as physical pain.

Social Isolation Risks





Moral Distress – A responder feels the ethically correct action to take is different than what he or she is either tasked to do or is required in the circumstance. (Syracuse University, 2009)

Moral Injury – The damage done to one's conscience or moral compass when that person perpetrates, witnesses, or fails to prevent acts that transgress one's own moral beliefs, values or ethical codes of conduct. (Syracuse University, 2009)

Symptoms - lasting emotional, psychological social, behavioral, and spiritual impacts including guilt, anger, shame

Moral distress and Injury





You're not in this alone
There is nothing "wrong with you"
Interventions WORK!!!
Therapy/EMDR
Peer Support
Chaplains
Your family, friends and even your employer (EAP)
First Responder Bridge

The Good News






Friday: Lived Experiences

- Patrick J. Kenny (Retired Fire Chief - Western Springs, IL)
"Taking the Cape Off"
- Grace Vaughn
"When the Badge Comes Off"
- Scott Geiselhart
"Trauma and it's Effect on First Resonders and their Family"
- Lisa Callander (Director, City of Columbus EAP)
- Adam Davis "Live Unconquered"

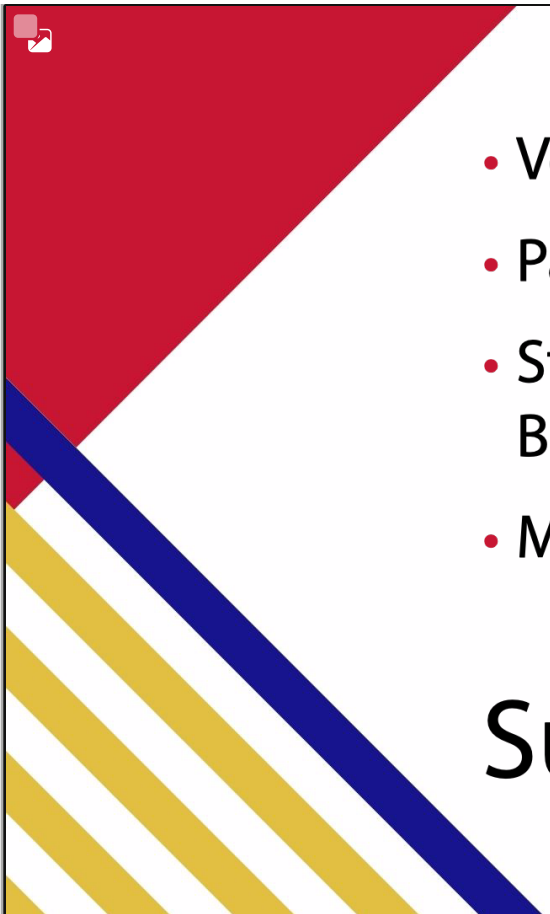
Friday Agenda



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- *Voluntary Chapel Service in Ballroom*
 - Self-Care and Well-being Discussion Groups
 - *Michael McSellers (Virginia State Trooper)
"Spiritual Survival for First Responders"*
 - Time to Connect With Each Other and Others
 - Panel Discussion: "Strengthening First Responder Relationships
& Parenting Strategies"
 - *Allison Uribe (Wives on Duty Ministries)*
 - Jimmy Dunn - Comedian - Food/ Drinks Provided

Saturday Agenda



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- Voluntary Stretching & Meditation
 - Panel Discussion: "Ask a Clinician"
 - Stan Partlow: "Post Retreat Planning- Building A Bridge"
 - Mick Yinger – Closing Remarks

Sunday Agenda



References

- Calati, R., Ferrari, C., Brittner, M., Oasi, O., Olié, E., Carvalho, A. F., & Courtet, P. (2019). Suicidal thoughts and behaviors and social isolation: A narrative review of the literature. *Journal of Affective Disorders*, 245, 653–667. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jad.2018.11.022>
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- Klimley, K. E., Van Hasselt, V. B., & Stripling, A. M. (2018). Posttraumatic stress disorder in police, firefighters, and emergency dispatchers. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 43, 33–44. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2018.08.005>
- Lukaschek, K., Baumert, J., Kruse, J., & Ladwig, K.-H. (2016). The association of social inhibition and posttraumatic stress disorder: A vicious circle?: Results from the population-based KORA F4 study with 1232 participants with trauma exposure. *Journal of Nervous and Mental Disease*, 204(4), 261–266. <https://doi.org/10.1097/NMD.0000000000000468>



