

Supporting Staff Well-Being During and After the Pandemic

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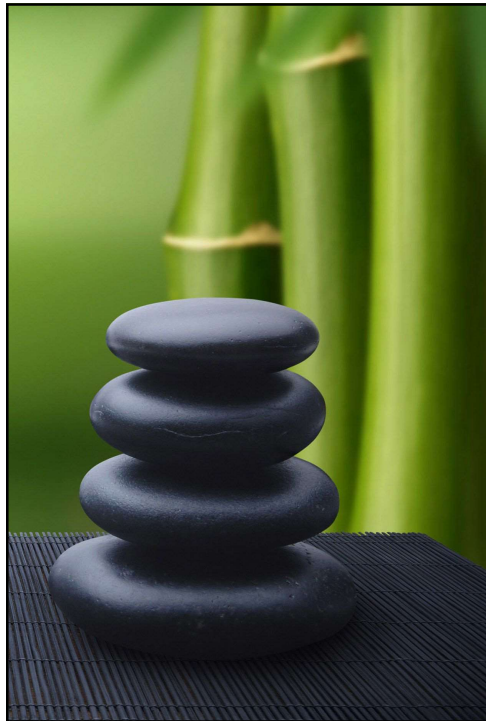
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Topics

Compassion fatigue and burnout

Guilt and survivor guilt

Trauma-informed care

Biological stress response

Emotional intelligence

Self awareness of overwhelm

Connection between feelings and needs

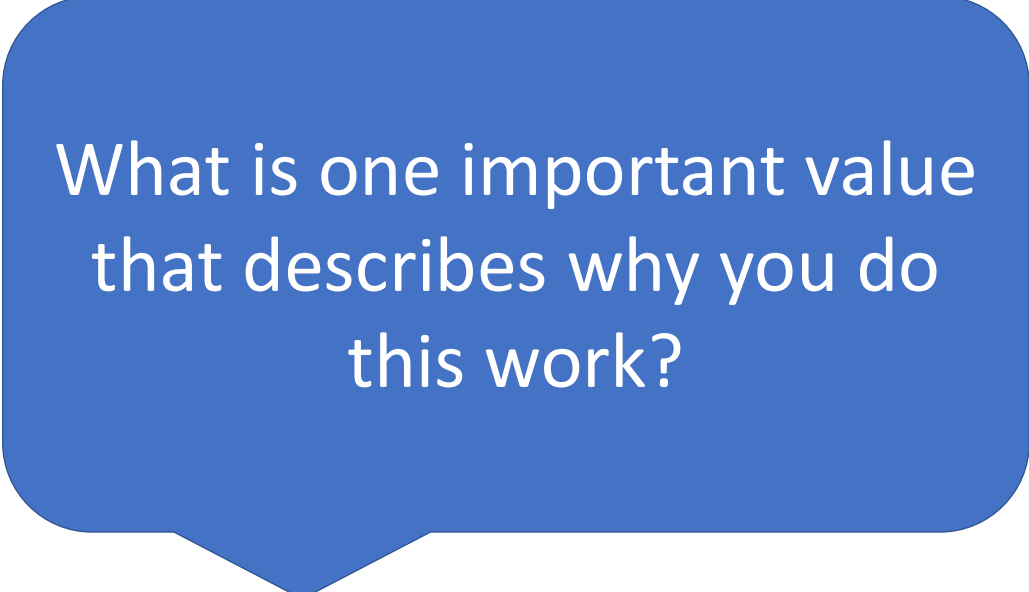
Resource development

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Poll: Who's In the Room?

- NF/SNF - Executive Director or Administrator
- ALF/RCF – Executive Director or Administrator
- NF/SNF - Department Manager
- ALF/RCF – Department Manager
- NF/SNF – Staff Member
- ALF/RCF – Staff Member

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What is one important value
that describes why you do
this work?

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Healthcare Professionals Values: Strengths and Vulnerabilities

Strength	Value	Vulnerability
Place other's needs over own	Selflessness/ Other-Oriented	Fail to ask for help when it's needed
Deeply committed to the work and to patients	Loyalty/ Commitment	Attachment-> Complicated bereavement, resistance to change
Value doing the right thing	Strong moral compass	Easily frustrated when others fail
High achieving, high standards	Excellence	Shame if unable to help
Steady	Calm in face of crisis	Unaware of own symptoms
Compassionate	Empathy	Poor boundaries- fatigue/ burnout

Adapted from Stress First Aid (Watson, Westphal & Gist, 2020)

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It Hurts.

- Moral Distress** – I know what to do but I am restrained from doing it
- Moral Injury** – I witness or engaged in behavior against moral norms
- Vicarious/secondary trauma** – Others' trauma may impact us

Definitions courtesy of Carla Cheatham, MA, MDiv, PhD, TRT

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Burnout and Compassion Fatigue: *What's the Difference?*

Burnout:

work overload
 lack of control* (Maslach, Schaufeli & Leiter, 2001)
 lack of reward
 lack of community
 lack of fairness
 value conflict

Compassion Fatigue:

more care going out than coming in; it can be acute or chronic

Definitions courtesy of Carla Cheatham,
 MA, MDiv, PhD, TRT

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Word of Caution

Emphasis on 'self-care' has become commonplace, yet the framework and systems to support staff to engage in self care are lacking.

If what staff are experiencing is burnout, telling them to 'practice self-care' is essentially blaming them when it is the system that needs repair.



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When Staff Feel
Like This...

Caring for
themselves and
others is very
difficult

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Do you ever say, “*I feel guilty that...*”?

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Reframe as an experience of sadness or helplessness, not guilt.

I feel sad that I can't take away the pain.
I feel helpless that....



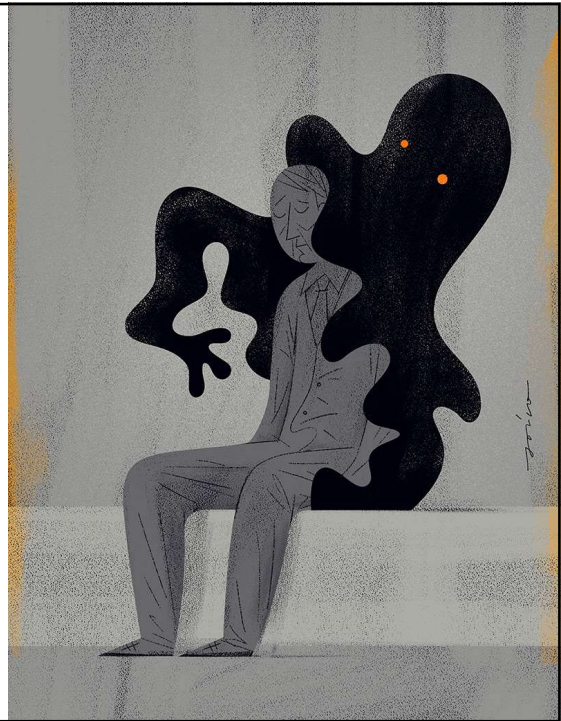
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Survivor Guilt

Emotional repercussions as people struggle to understand events and find meaning.

Survivor guilt around COVID-19 may sound like this:

- I feel guilty that I haven't gotten sick.
- I feel guilty that I got well.
- Why did I live, and others died?



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Supportive
Facility Culture
is Critical

- Create a safe place for staff to talk about feelings, to express emotions like survivor guilt.
- Normalize feelings, "I can hear the pain in your voice (see it on your face). Thank you for talking with me about these difficult feelings."
- Name it. Survivor Guilt.
 - Often when people have a name for something they're struggling with, it becomes more manageable.
- Let staff know that if they are experiencing survivor guilt, they are not alone.
- Help is available.

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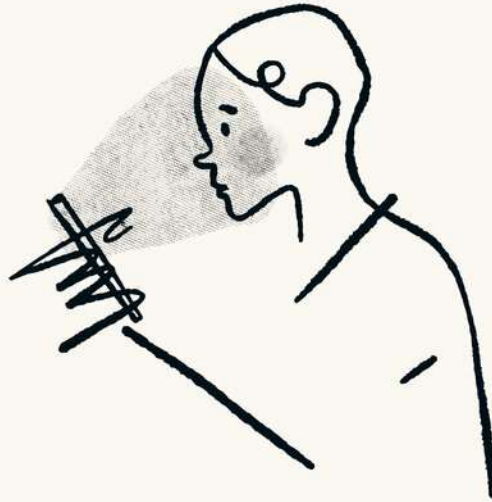


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Get professional help if needed



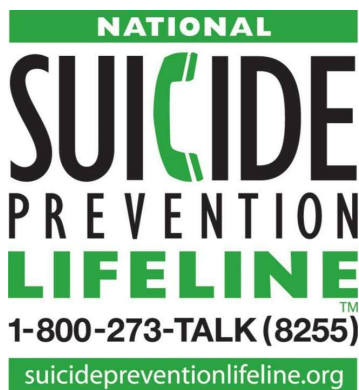
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Important Resources



1-800-799-7233

Or, if unable to speak safely,
text LOVEIS to 22522



1-800-662-4357

For help finding treatment

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How Does
Trauma Fit In?

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Trauma Definition

Individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

(SAMHSA, 2014)

CMS uses this definition of trauma

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Emotional and Psychological Trauma

“Result of **extraordinarily stressful events** that shatter your sense of security, making you feel **helpless** in a dangerous world. Often involve a threat to life or safety, but any situation that leaves you **feeling overwhelmed** and **isolated** can result in trauma, even if it doesn’t involve physical harm. The more **frightened and helpless** you feel, the more likely you are to be traumatized.”

(emphasis added)

Emotional and Psychological Trauma

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/ptsd-trauma/coping-with-emotional-and-psychological-trauma.htm>

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Dr. Van der Kolk

Psychiatrist, trauma researcher, and author of *The Body Keeps the Score: Brain, Mind, and Body in the Healing of Trauma*

The Virus is a Pre-Traumatic Condition: Two Core Variables

1. **Immobilization** – cannot move (quarantine, shelter-in-place)
2. **Unpredictability** – not knowing what is going to happen next, cannot say tomorrow will be a different day or the day after

When the world is unpredictable and you cannot move, then the vulnerability to become traumatized is very great.

Lifelines: How COVID-19 Creates 'Pre-Traumatic Conditions' in the Brain
By ALEX MCOWEN & PETER BIELLO • MAY 4, 2020

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Stress Response & Our Body



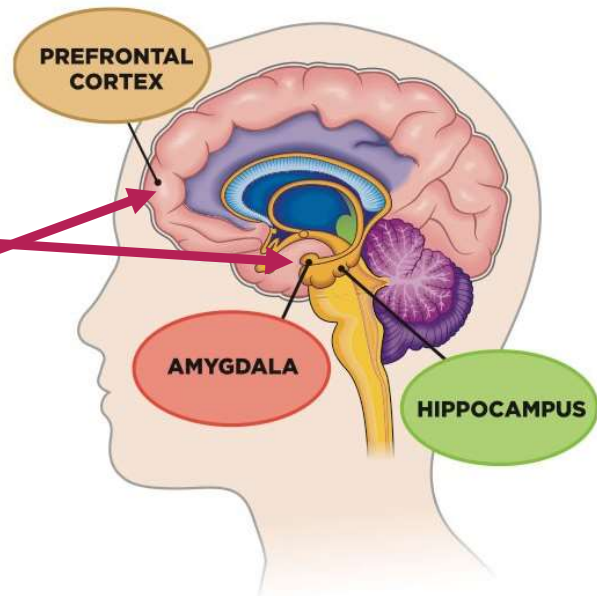
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AMYGDALA

The part of our brain that keeps us safe. It is considered our emotional brain and when we are stressed, anxious or angry, it TAKES OVER. It turns on flight, fight or freeze states. You CAN'T control it!

PREFRONTAL CORTEX

The logical part of our brain that helps us with decision-making. But, it goes "off-line" when the amygdala is in charge. It SHUTS down!



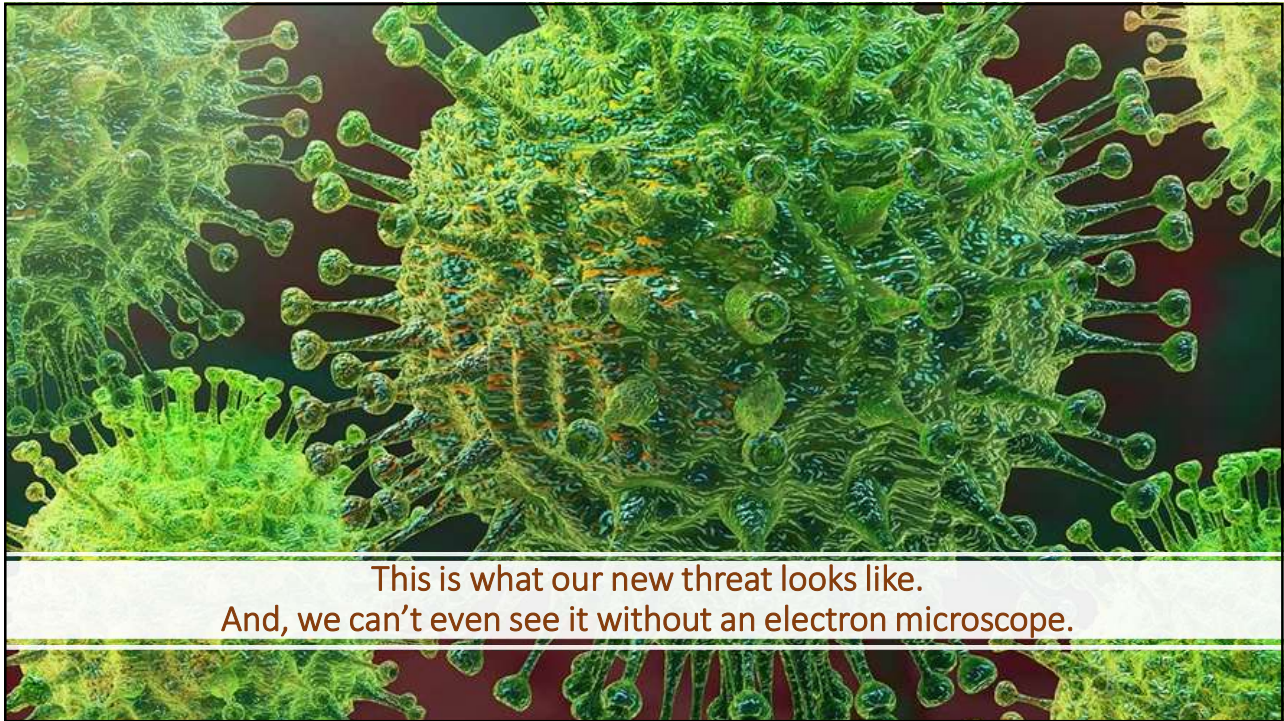
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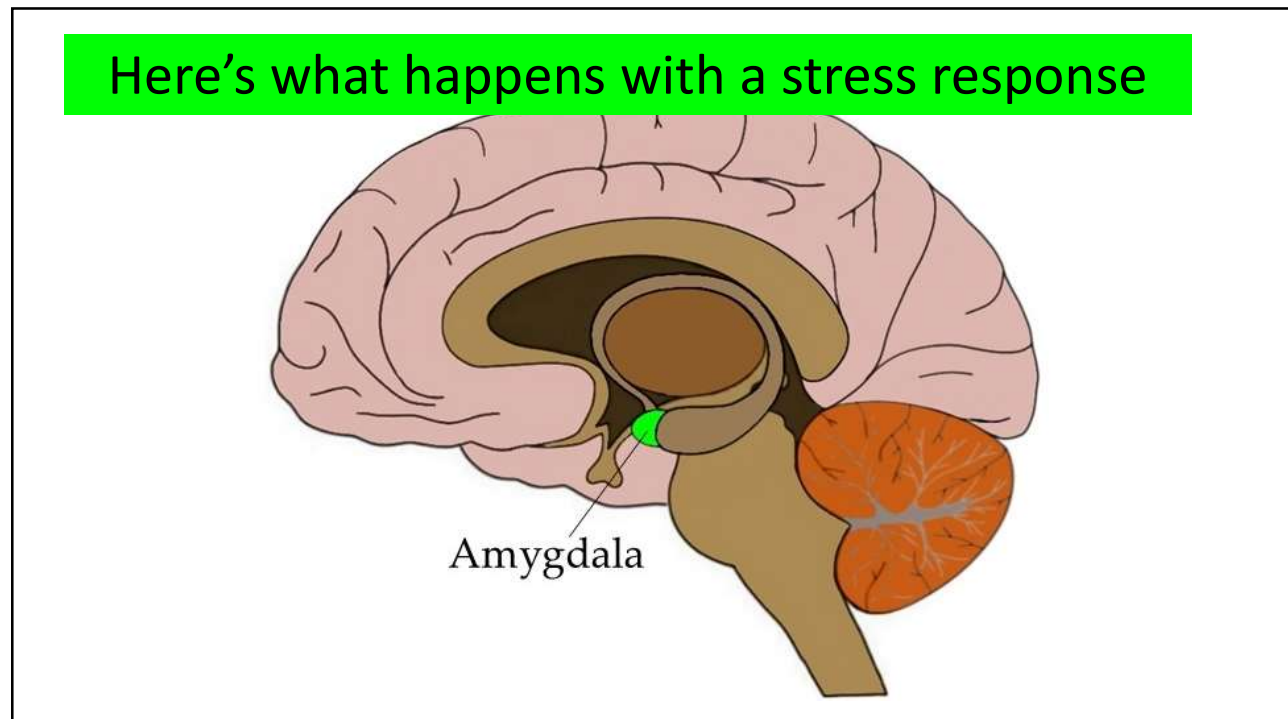
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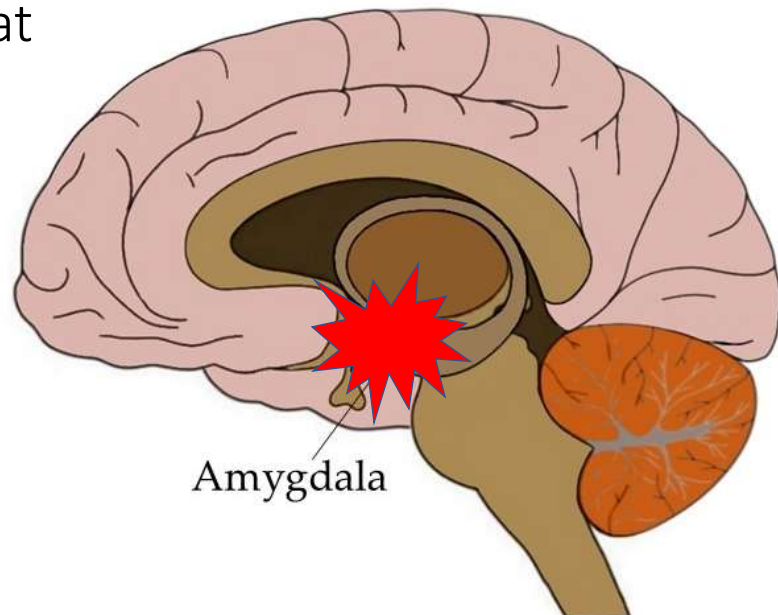


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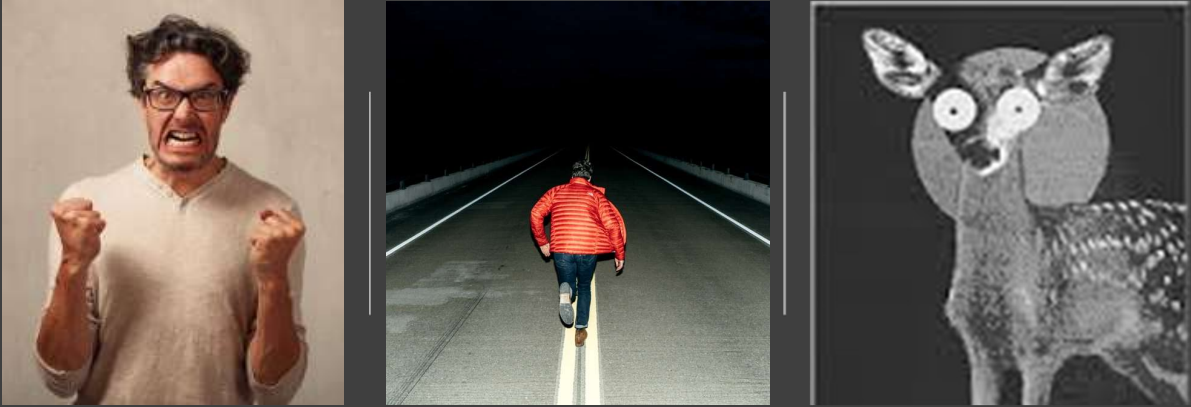


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The amygdala **BURSTS** into action when it perceives a threat



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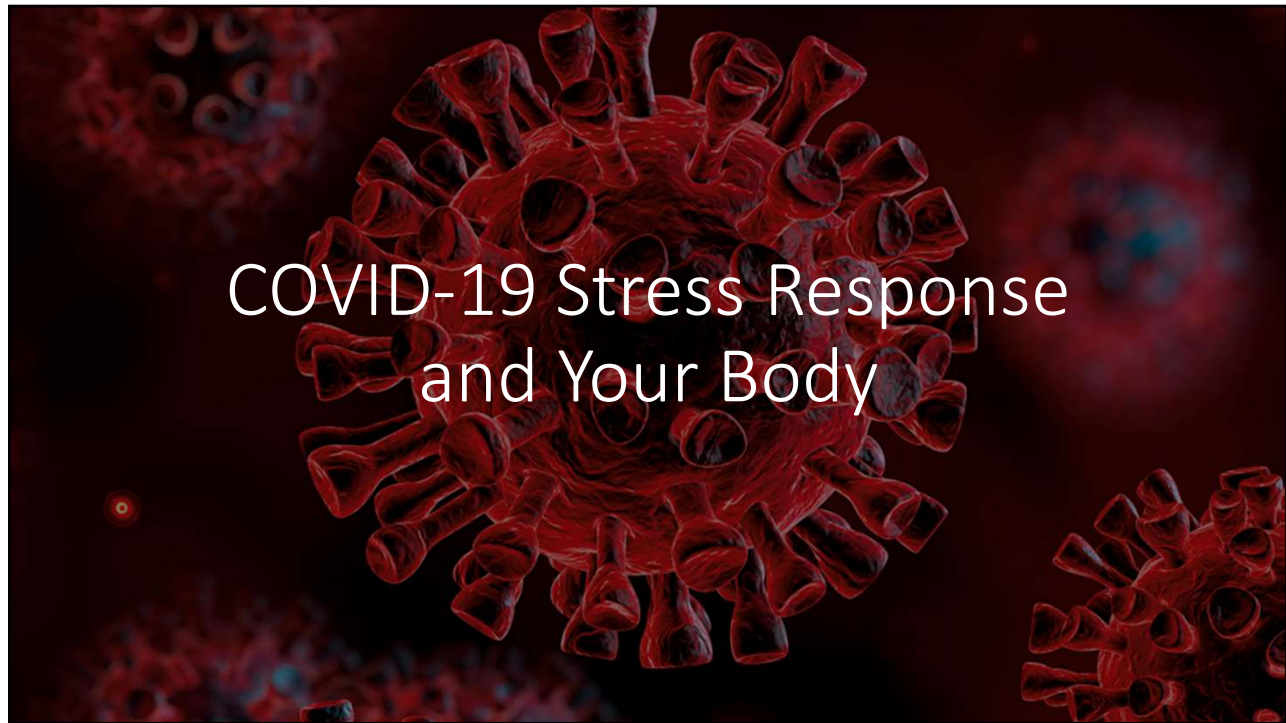
Fight **Flight** **Freeze**

Our Biology Picks One of These

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Our Biology **REACTS** the **SAME**,
no matter if the threat is perceived or real.

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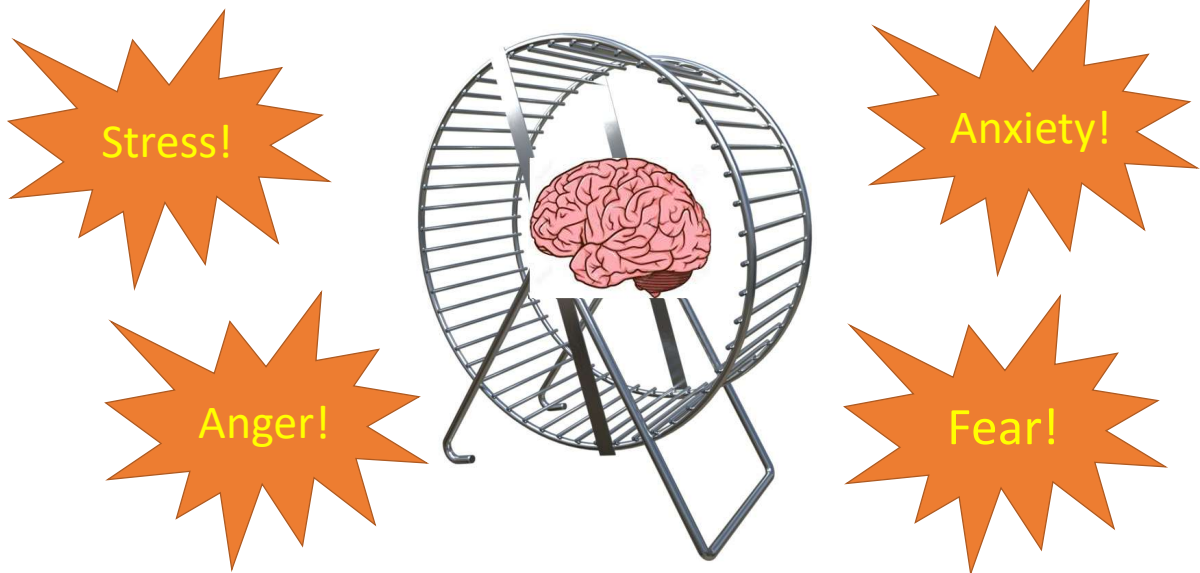


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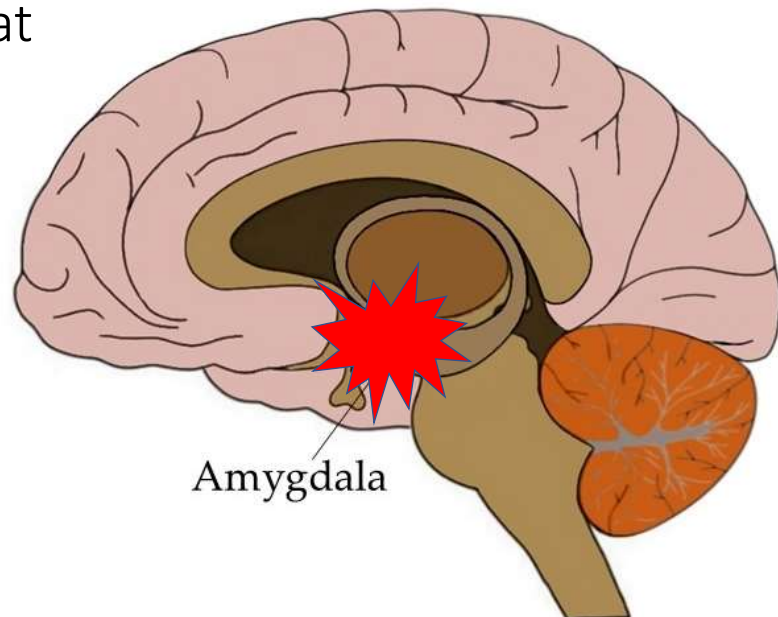
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Racing thoughts, around-and-around we go!

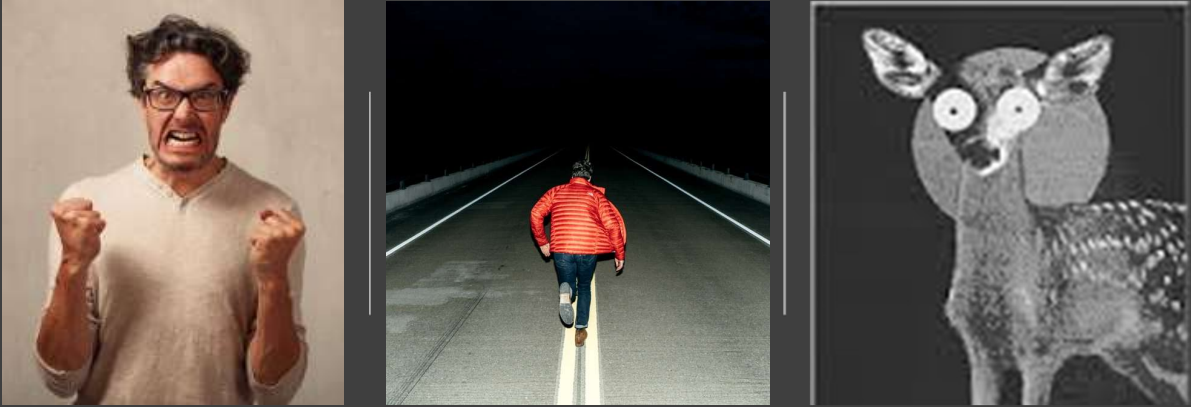


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Fight **Flight** **Freeze**

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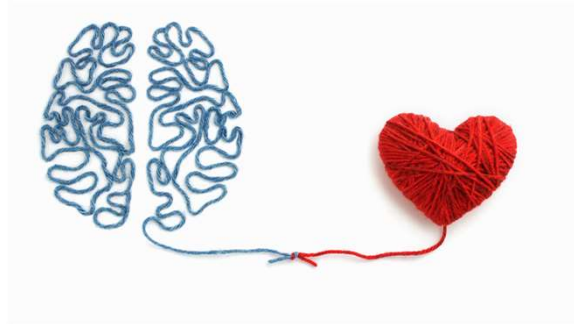
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Our Biology **REACTS** the **SAME**,
no matter if the threat is perceived or real.

Anxiety causes a mis-trigger which essentially
 means the amygdala is stuck in the “on” mode

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What is Emotional Intelligence?



- The ability to understand and manage your own emotions.
- The ability to communicate, read and navigate social situations and conflicts.

7 Tips to Raise Your Emotional Intelligence

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/liking-the-child-you-love/202101/7-tips-raise-your-emotional-intelligence>

What You Need to Know About Emotional Intelligence,

<https://www.healthline.com/health/emotional-intelligence>

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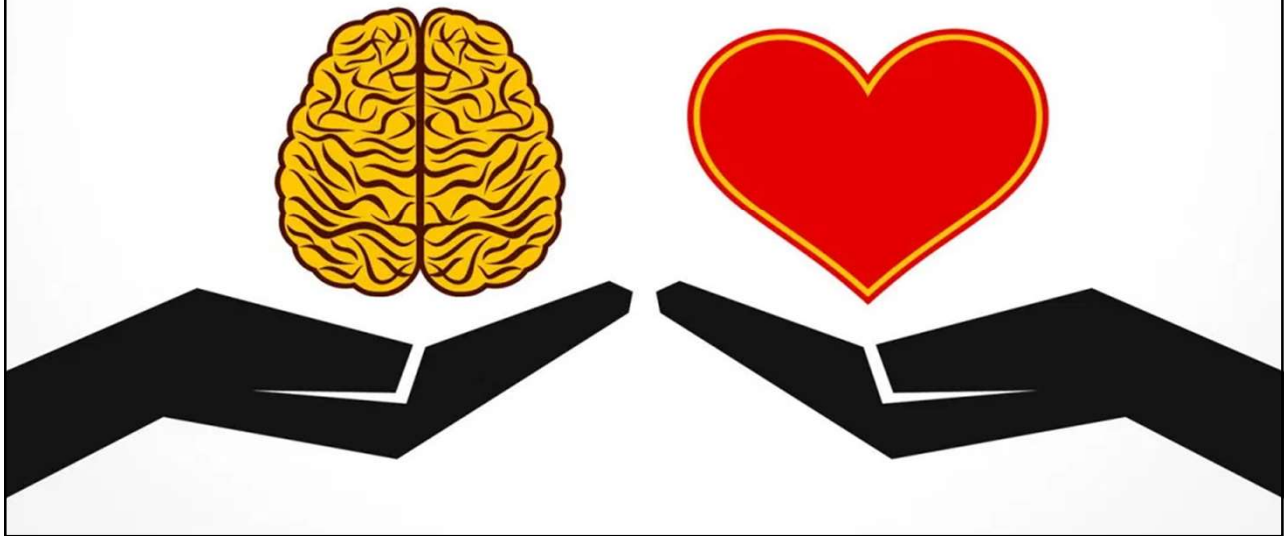
Emotional Intelligence Includes...

- **Self-awareness** - Being conscious of your emotions, how they affect you and others
- **Mood-management** – consider consequences before acting, reacting appropriately
- **Empathy** – able to listen deeply, not judge, understand needs/wants of others, seek to understand ‘why’
- **Social skills** – ability to collaborate, demonstrate leadership skills and ability to be present in relationships



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How do we increase our emotional intelligence?



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Intentional Noticing

Where is the discomfort showing up?



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Self Awareness – How Does YOUR Body Communicate Overwhelm?

Physical

- Shallow breathing
- Increased heart rate
- Clenched teeth
- Upset stomach, nausea
- Headache
- Shoulders at “your ears”
- Creased facial expression
- Tense muscles

Behavioral and Emotional

- Anger
- Blame
- Fearful
- Irritability
- Frustration, impatience
- Exhaustion
- Hopelessness
- Edgy, jittery

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Cognitive Symptoms of Anxiety (Overwhelm)

- Fear of losing control, being unable to cope
- Fear of physical injury or death
- Fear of “going crazy”
- Frightening thoughts, images, or memories
- Poor concentration, confusion, distractibility
- Narrow attention, hypervigilance for threat
- Poor memory
- Difficulty in reasoning

COVID-19 Anxiety Workbook
<https://health.uark.edu/coronavirus/caps-covid-19-resources-anxiety-workbook.pdf>

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HALT: hungry, angry, lonely, tired

- Being in one of those states clouds the decision-making process, causing *reaction* rather than the preferred *response*
- When you realize (“catch”) that you are experiencing one of those states, HALT!
- Do. Not. React.
- Stop what you are doing and tend to you own needs
- “I cannot respond right now. I will get back to you.”

H.A.L.T. 4 Signs to STOP for Self-Care & How to Refuel
<http://www.pathofpresence.com/practice/4-signs-to-halt-for-self-care-and-how-to-refuel-you-need-to-know>

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Signs of HUNGER

Feeling of emptiness in stomach

Gurgling, rumbling or growling in stomach

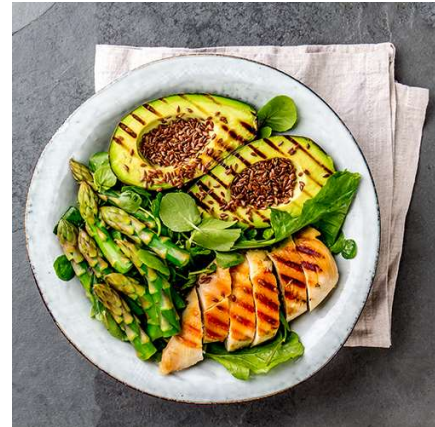
Dizziness, faintness or light-headedness

Headache

Irritability, easily agitated

Lack of concentration

Nausea



H.A.L.T. 4 Signs to STOP for Self-Care & How to Refuel

<http://www.pathofpresence.com/practice/4-signs-to-halt-for-self-care-and-how-to-refuel-you-need-to-know>

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Signs of ANGER

Clenching your jaws or grinding your teeth

Headache

Stomachache

Increased and rapid heart rate

Sweating, especially your palms

Feeling hot in the neck/face

Shaking or trembling

Dizziness



H.A.L.T. 4 Signs to STOP for Self-Care & How to Refuel

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Signs of LONLINESS (lack of meaningful connection)

You would do anything rather than being alone.

When you are alone, you distract yourself from being with your thoughts and feelings.

You are always connected (wi-fi, social media).

You feel panicky at the thought of being alone.



H.A.L.T. 4 Signs to STOP for Self-Care & How to Refuel
<http://www.pathofpresence.com/practice/4-signs-to-halt-for-self-care-and-how-to-refuel-you-need-to-know>

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Signs of Feeling TIRED

Headache, Dizziness, Blurry vision

Sore or aching muscles

Slowed reflexes and responses

Appetite loss

Moodiness, such as irritability

Impaired decision-making and judgment, low motivation

Reduced ability to pay attention to the situation at hand



H.A.L.T. 4 Signs to STOP for Self-Care & How to Refuel
<http://www.pathofpresence.com/practice/4-signs-to-halt-for-self-care-and-how-to-refuel-you-need-to-know>

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What is the function
of physical pain?

Bielak-Smith P. *Dementia Together*. Encinitas, CA: Puddle
Dancer Press; 2020.

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What is the function
of *feelings*?

- Inform you something within isn't okay (out of balance)
- Something requires attention
- Point you in the direction of what you need
- Feelings keep you informed!



Bielak-Smith P. *Dementia Together*. Encinitas, CA: Puddle Dancer Press; 2020.

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Being Curious and Increasing Awareness

How am I feeling?

I'm scared.
 I'm confident.
 I'm irritable.
 I'm relieved.
 I'm exhausted.
 I'm compassionate.
 I'm disappointed.

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What do I need?

I'm feeling irritable. I need time alone and a snack.

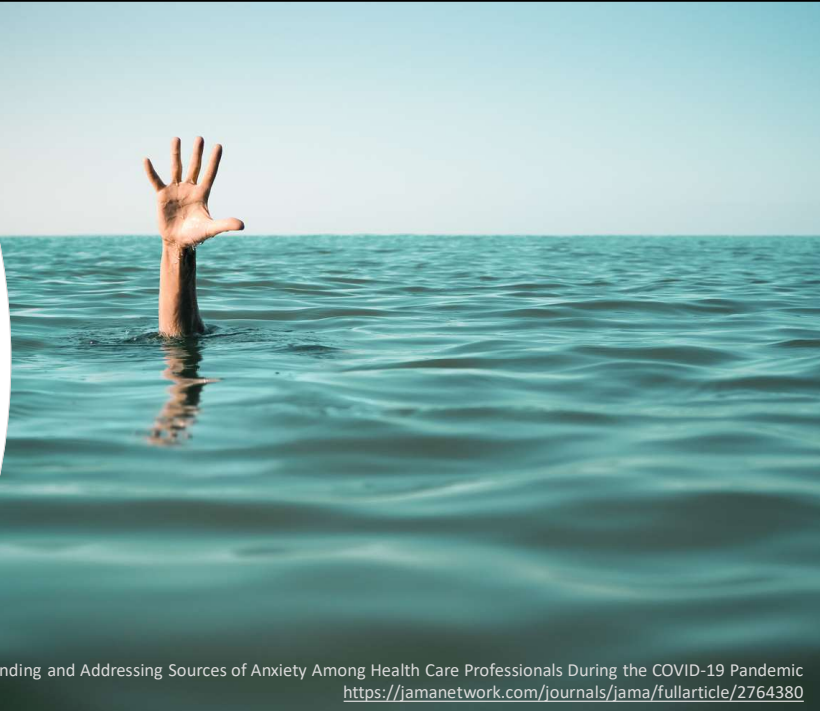
I'm feeling scared. I need more information.

I'm feeling overwhelmed. I need trust that I can ask for help and receive it.

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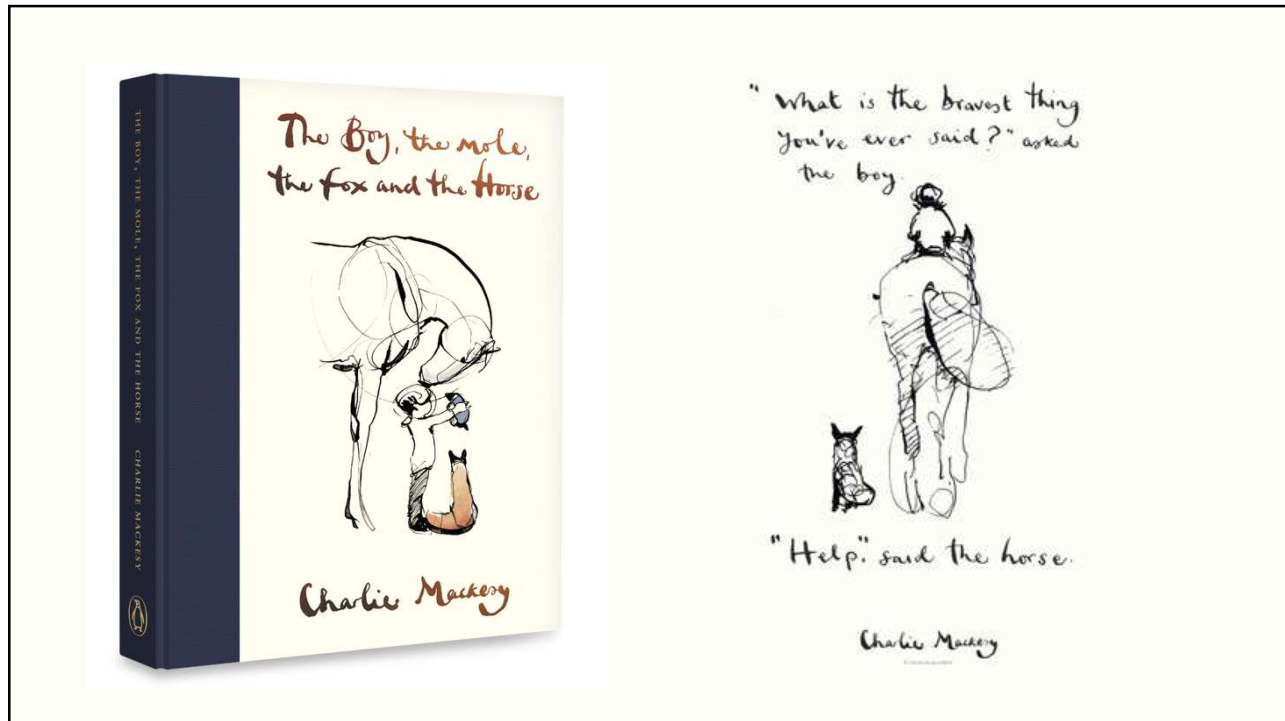
Healthcare professionals struggle with asking for help

- Help them prioritize
- Give permission to defer less important activities
- Help determine when delegation is appropriate
- Support them and help them make these decisions



Understanding and Addressing Sources of Anxiety Among Health Care Professionals During the COVID-19 Pandemic
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2764380>

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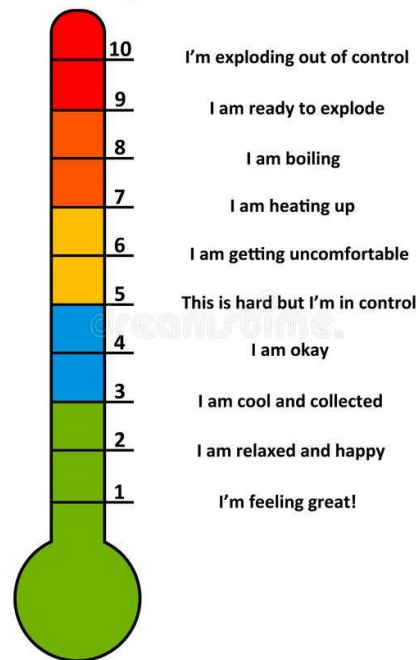


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What's Your
Temperature?



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We do not have to be therapists
to be therapeutic.

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Resilience

Adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats or significant sources of stress.

American Psychological Association
<https://www.apa.org/topics/resilience>



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Selfishness or *Self Care*?

I will do for me *at the expense of you.*



I will take care of me so *that I can*
bring my best self to you.



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Focus on what you *ARE ABLE* to do

. . .rather than what you aren't able to do

- Help an individual with daily care
- Offer a smile, a kind word
- Listen and communicate clearly
- Connect a family with their loved one
- Be present
- Get through the day

Moral Injury in Health Care and COVID-19, Scott Janssen

https://www.socialworktoday.com/archive/exc_040620.shtml



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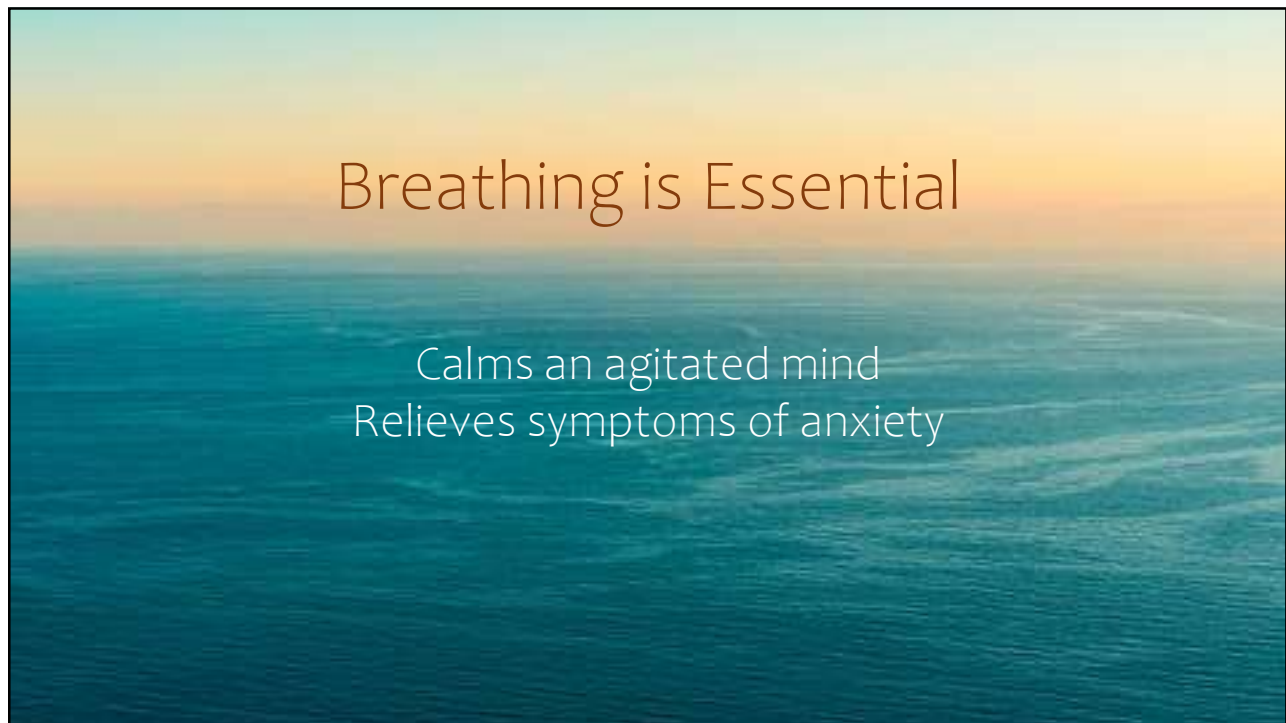
Validate yourself for
the care you are
giving, for showing up



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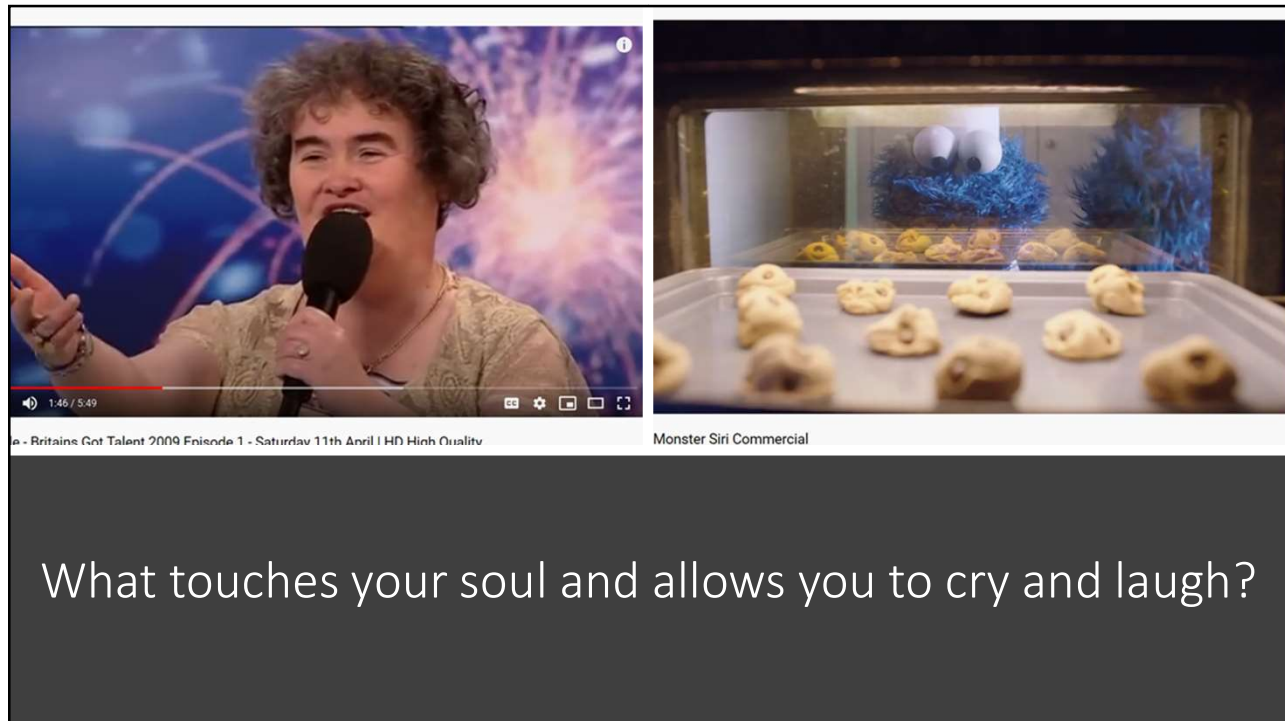
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Move your body!

Wiggle your bum, feel the chair beneath you
Move your feet, feel the floor beneath you



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Compassionate Self Talk

- Create mercy and gentleness with self-talk
- Place your hand over your heart (can even gently pat your chest)
- Express kindness to yourself as you would to others
- Recite words directed at *yourself*
 - “Oh, Paige, your soul is aching for peace and comfort today. It’s okay, it’s okay.”

Imam Jamal Rahman, 2016



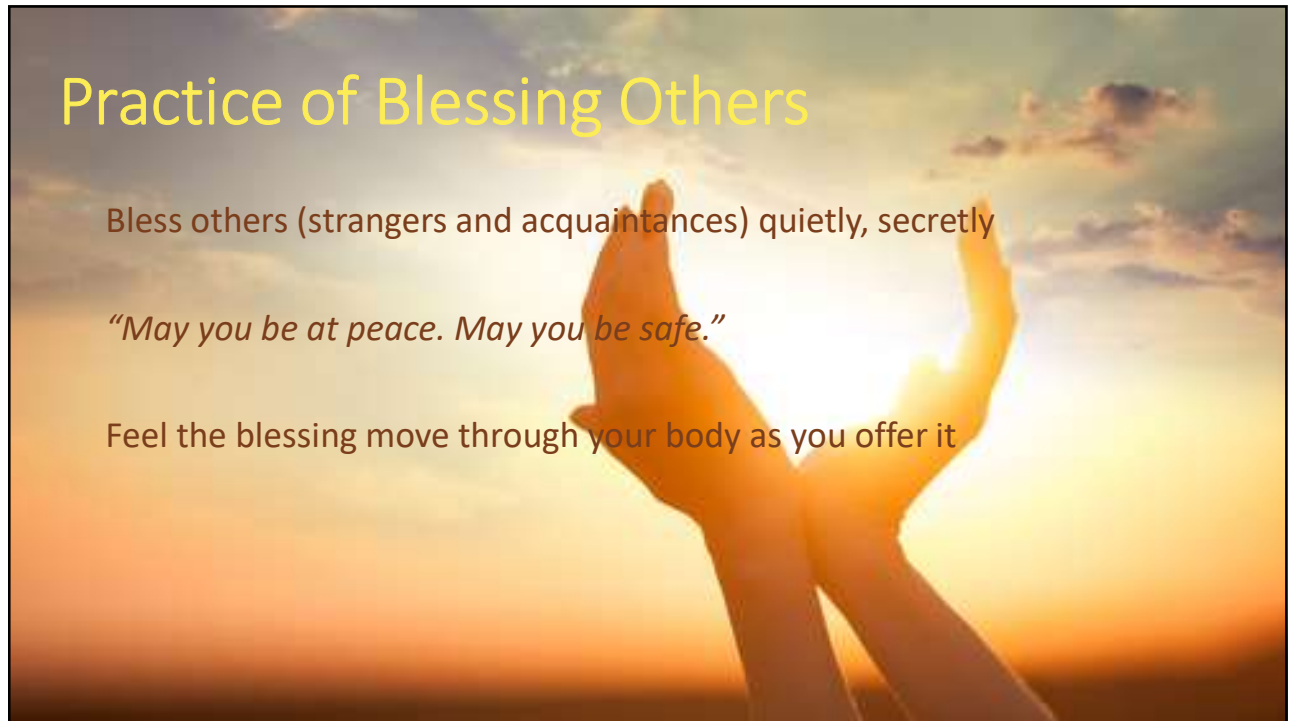
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Practice of Blessing Others

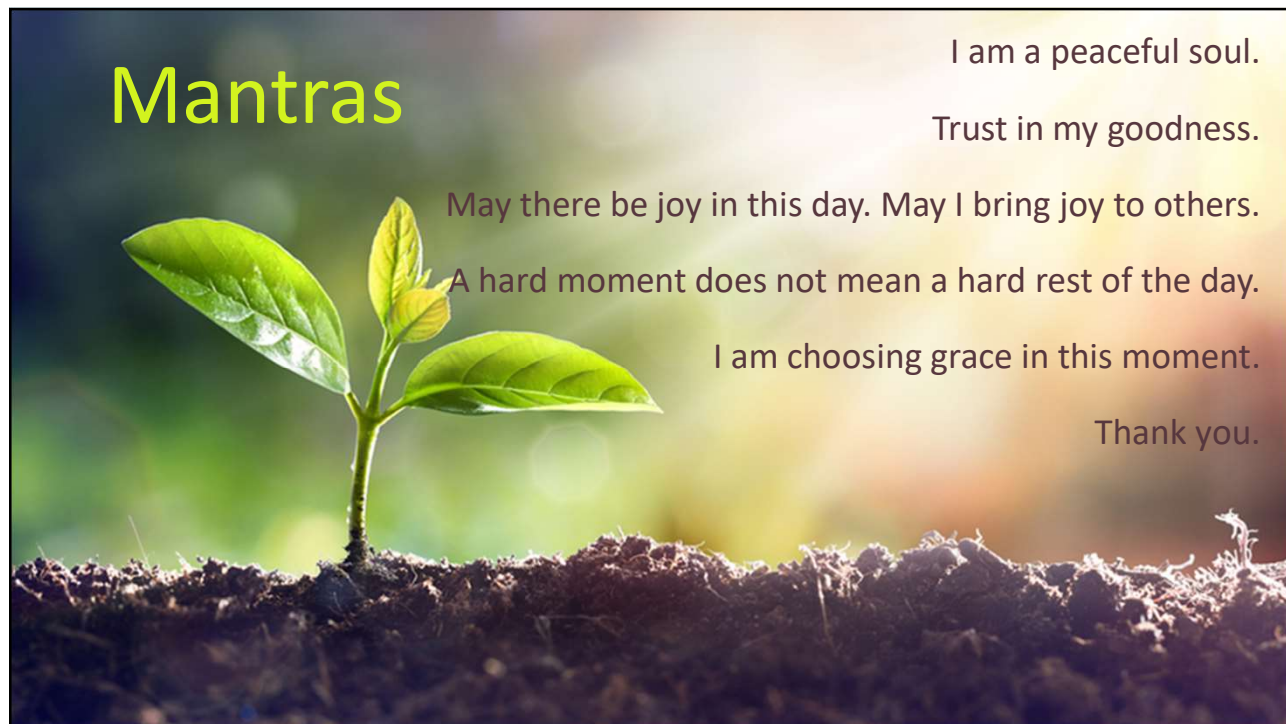
Bless others (strangers and acquaintances) quietly, secretly

“May you be at peace. May you be safe.”

Feel the blessing move through your body as you offer it




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My Personal Safety Plan

Community and Trauma Counseling



Jefferson

Philadelphia University +
Thomas Jefferson University

HOME OF SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE

My Personal Safety Plan

When I am feeling overwhelmed, I will:

1. 3-2-1 Grounding Exercise
2. 4-7-8 Breathing
3. Doodle
4. Take a walk

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Check-in Board – Cultivating Awareness



Stress First Aid (Watson, Westphal & Gist, 2020)

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Invitation to Brave Space



Micky ScottBey Jones
"The Justice Doula"



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Process Improvement

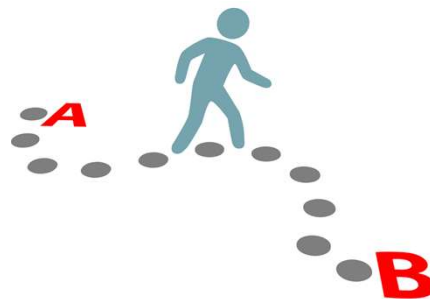
- Commit to becoming a trauma-informed culture that upholds principles of safety, trust, peer support, and empowerment.
- Provide brief articles on survivor guilt, include information in facility communications.
- Create a list of questions/topics and dedicate a reasonable amount of time on meeting agendas for staff to share their feelings and experiences.
- Find ways to connect with staff who do not attend meetings.
- See if staff want to organize peer support groups.
- Partner with a mental health provider in your community to lead discussion groups with staff (residents, too!).
- Be alert for staff who might be suffering but who will not readily ask for help. Connect with them.
- Offer the quiet presence to listen and reflect their feelings, to validate, and to normalize them.

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Identify Next Steps (for Action)

By next Monday, I will...

I will share this information with...



"Engaging Adult Learners, Delivering a "Wow Worthy" Presentation", Center for Excellence in Educational Leadership,
https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.cocase.org/resource/resmgr/Professional_Learning/CASE_PresentationPlanningWor.pdf

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*May you trust the ripple effect of empathy and compassion
bestowed upon yourself.....*

*Thank you,
Paige*