

# CARING FOR SELF as a Foundation of Advocacy Work

Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:30 am - 12:00 pm PT



# Tech Support



Jennica Sinor

she/her

PROJECT

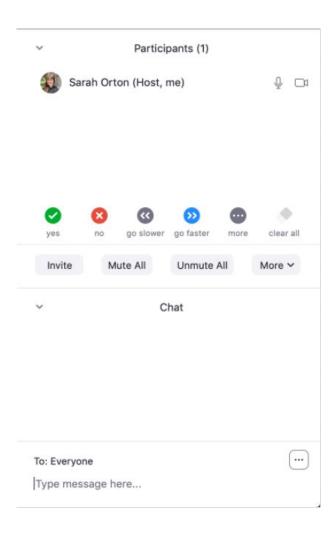
COORDINATOR

ValorUS



#### How To Use Zoom

- →Recording
- **→**PowerPoint Slides
- ▶Text chat
- **Phone**
- →Web Conference Guidelines (hand raising)







# CARING FOR SELF as a Foundation of Advocacy Work

Thursday, September 15, 2022 10:30 am - 12:00 pm PT



#### Presenter



Nani Swaminathan they/her LCSW - Therapist



# Caring for Self as a Foundation of Advocacy Work

nani swaminathan (they/them | she/her)

*lcsw - therapist* 



# How to Be in This Space

VIDEO - whatever you need to do - off or on.

**CHAT** - make use of this feature and connect with one another.

MUTE BUTTON - please stay muted if you are not sharing.

## if for any reason you need to take a break, please do!



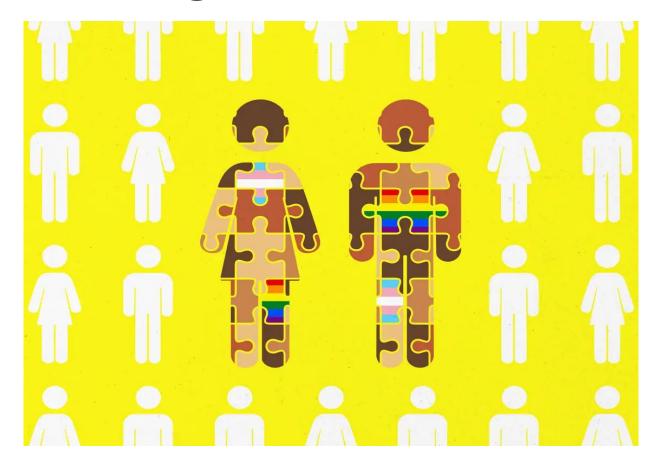


# Hopes, Goals, Objectives

- Understanding the difference between care vs. maintenance
- Creating opportunities to tend to vicarious trauma with timeliness and intention
- Building a personalized self-care plan
- Keeping ourselves accountable for our own healing
- Building communities of care and support with authenticity
- Introducing wellness and self-care practices into our organizations and places of work



# **Collective Grounding**





# Self-Maintenance

- Defensive
- Motivated by danger
- Externally directed
- Protection of stasis and existence
- Preservation from destruction/failure



# Self-Care

- Active
- Motivated by tenderness
- Self-Directed
- Protection of wellbeing and joy
- Mitigation of Stress



# **Community Care**

- Mutual Aid
- Intentionally built by many
- Sharing resources
- Offering support when you can give it
- Ujima, Ubuntu, Samuga Padhukapuh, Samudhayek Dhekpal



#### Trauma

- An experience or series of experiences which leaves people feeling helpless,
   fearful, concerned about safety
- Cultural and generational
- Emotional, Physical, and Psychological



# Vicarious Trauma and Secondary Traumatic Stress

#### Vicarious Trauma

- Inner Experience
- Covert changes

# Secondary Traumatic Stress

- Observable experience
- Overt Changes

BOTH - Exposure to trauma of others and decrease of empathy and compassion over time

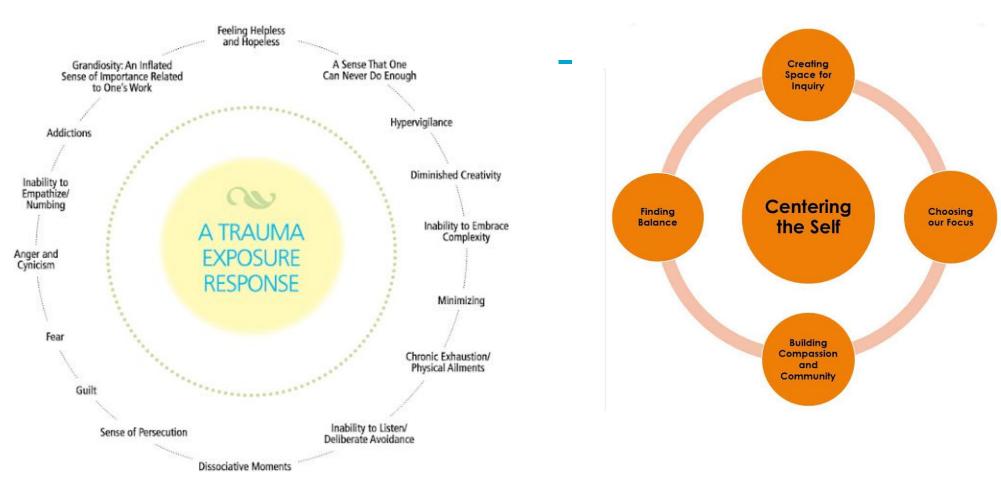


#### **ACTIVITY**

- In the moment What helps?
- After the moment What helps?
- Long-Term Practice What does this look like?



# Trauma Stewardship





## Bringing Self-Care into The Office

- Self-Awareness!
- Self-Care and Accountability as Collective Practice
- Professional Development/In-Services
- Sabbaticals and Time Off
- Social Change and Community Outreach
- Employee Assistance Programs or Consulting
   Clinician
- Feedback Practices as Kindness Practices
- Boundary Setting and 'Deliberate Shut Off'
- Create Intentional Spaces for Debrief TIMELY





# Types of Self-Care

# Physical



Sleep Stretching Walking Exercise Nutrition Yoga

#### Emotional



Stress Management Coping Skills Compassion

> Therapy Journaling

# Social

Boundaries

Support System Meditation

Positive

Social Media

Communication

Friends



Prayer

Nature

Sacred Space

#### Personal



Hobbies Creativity Goals Identity Authenticity

# Space



Safety

Healthy Environment Stability

Clean Space

#### Financial



Budgeting

Money

Management

Paying Bills Boundaries

#### Work



Time Management Work

Boundaries

Breaks

BlessingManifesting



# References

Pearlman, L. A., & Saakvitne, K. W. (1995). *Trauma and the therapist:* Countertransference and vicarious traumatization in psychotherapy with incest survivors. W W Norton & Co.

Figley C. Compassion Fatigue: Coping with Secondary Stress Disorder in Those Who Treat the Traumatised. Brunner/Mazel; Bristol, UK: 1995. Compassion fatigue as secondary traumatic stress disorder: An overview in CR Figley.

Ogińska-Bulik, N., Gurowiec, P. J., Michalska, P., & Kędra, E. (2021). Prevalence and predictors of secondary traumatic stress symptoms in health care professionals working with trauma victims: A cross-sectional study. *PloS one*, *16*(2), e0247596. https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0247596

https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/bph/wp-content/uploads/sites/161/2021/10/Trauma-Fact-Sheets-October-2021.pdf

https://www.livestrong.com/article/13771535-self-care-vs-community-care/





### nani swaminathan

they/them|she/her lcsw. therapist.

Valor.US

**FIND & FOLLOW US** 

@ValorUS

@ValorUS

/ValorUS