## **Outline**

#### **Use Neuroscience in the Treatment of Anxiety**

Positives: We know more about anxietybased disorders than any other disorders Science gives explanations, evidence, authority, destigmatizes difficulties Concerns: It can be difficult to explain, answer questions

Clients may feel a lack of responsibility Oversimplification is inevitable

#### **Enhancing Engagement in Treatment**

Don't neglect the therapeutic relationship! Address the challenges of anxious clients Remember that strategies are effortful Guide the process using client's goals Maintain motivation

#### **Neuroplasticity**

Define Neuroplasticity in everyday language Therapy is about creating a new self "Rewiring" as an accessible concept for

Re-consolidation: the modification of emotional memories

#### **Identify Two Neural Pathways to Anxiety**

Amygdala – bottom-up triggering of emotion, physicality of anxiety Cortex – top-down emotion generation based in cognition Explain the two pathways to clients How anxiety is initiated in each pathway and how pathways influence each other

### **Client Friendly Explanations**

Use illustrations to create concrete understanding Fight/flight/freeze responses The "language of the amygdala" Anxiety and the cortex Help clients recognize the two pathways to

## Neuroplasticity in the Amygdala (Essential for all Anxiety Disorders, PTSD, OCD, Depression)

Sleep and the amydgala

The influence of exercise

Breathing techniques to reduce activation Relaxation, meditation, and yoga to modify

Exposure as opportunities for the amygdala to learn combatting avoidance

When anxiety indicates that the amygdala can learn new responses

Push through anxiety to change the amygdala

#### **Neuroplasticity in the Cortex (Essential for** GAD, SAD, OCD, PTSD, Depression)

"Survival of the busiest" principle strengthen or weaken specific circuitry The healthy (adaptive) use of worry in the cortex

"You can't erase: You must replace." Recognize and modify the impact of uncertainty

Training correct uses of distraction Left hemisphere techniques- cognitive defusion, coping thoughts, fighting anticipation

Right hemisphere techniques – imagery,

Mindfulness and anxiety resistances

### **Neuroplasticity and Medications for Anxiety** Disorders, OCD, PTSD, Depression

Medication's effects in the rewiring process The myth of the chemical imbalance The danger of sedating the brain with benzodiazepines

Promoting neuroplasticity with SSRIs, SNRIs The effectiveness of CBT and meds

#### **Move Beyond Diagnostic Categories to Focus** on Anxiety Pathways

Anxiety is a component of many diagnoses (depression, substance abuse, etc.) Amygdala- and cortex-based techniques help

in other disorders Targeting brain-based symptoms rather than

disorders Worry, obsessions, rumination respond to

similar cortex-based techniques Panic, phobic responses, and compulsions respond to amygdala-based techniques

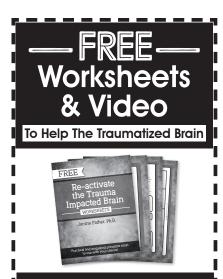
### Research, Risks and Limitations

- Empirical versus clinical and anecdotal evidence
- Clinical considerations for specific clients and
- Efficacy of particular interventions may vary

## **Objectives**

- 1. Ascertain the underlying neurological processes that impact anxious symptoms for clients.
- 2. Develop client engagement in treatment using personalized goals and attending to the therapeutic relationship.
- 3. Evaluate the differences between amygdala-based and cortex-based anxiety symptoms and identify how these symptoms inform treatment interventions.
- 4. Communicate strategies for calming and training the amygdala in order to alleviate symptoms of anxiety.
- 5. Implement methods for teaching clients to retrain the cortex so that anxiety is resisted rather than
- 6. Analyze how psychotropic medication impacts neuroplasticity in the brain; identify related treatment

Target Audience: Social Workers - Psychologists - Counselors - Marriage and Family Therapists - Case Managers Addiction Counselors • Speech-Language Pathologists • Therapists • Nurses • Occupational Therapists Other Mental Health Professionals



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# Rewire the Anxious Brain

Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

## Billings, MT

Monday March 9, 2020

## Missoula, MT

Tuesday March 10, 2020

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# Rewire the Anxious Brain

Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

> **Featuring** Hannah Smith, MA, LMHC, CGP

- Apply brain-based strategies for Panic, Social Anxiety, OCD, GAD and PTSD
- Understand the difference between cortex-based and amygdala-based anxiety
- Motivate clients and calm the anxious brain using the power of neuroplasticity
- Increase client engagement by focusing on changing the brain - not simply decreasing anxiety

Billings, MT Monday

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## Rewire the Anxious Brain

## Neuroscience-Informed Treatment of Anxiety, Panic and Worry

Join Hannah Smith, MA, LMHC, CGP, and learn her keys for successful anxiety treatment. Hannah integrates brain-based strategies for calming the anxious mind with client communication techniques that motivate change in your clients. Hannah's approach promotes adherence to treatment and strengthens the therapeutic alliance - which is essential when working with anxious, worried, traumatized, or obsessive clients.

Hannah will give you proven tools and techniques to:

- Identify and treat the roots of anxiety in both the amygdala and the cortex
- Explain "the language of the amygdala" in an accessible, straight forward way
- Identify how the cortex contributes to anxiety, and empower clients with strategies to resist anxiety-igniting cognitions

Register today for this transformational workshop and put the power of neuroplasticity to work for you and your anxious clients!

## Speaker

Hannah Smith, MA, LMHC, CGP, is the founder of Potential Finders and is the group therapy program coordinator in a top partial-hospital rehabilitation treatment center in the Seattle area. She holds Masters degrees in both special education and counseling psychology and has nearly 20 years of experience both in the US and abroad. Her educational work has been with disorders of cognition and communication, where the role of the brain in learning and memory were primary areas of focus. Clinically, her practice is primarily devoted to the treatment of people recovering from trauma and anxiety disorders. Her experience, both personally and professionally, has allowed her to develop an expertise in incorporating neuroscience into therapeutic interventions in innovative ways. Hannah quest lectures in academic and clinical settings on a variety of topics related to neuroscience and the treatment of anxiety, trauma, and emotion regulation. She is an engaging presenter whose passion is to educate clinicians on practical, whole-person approaches and applications in therapy.

**Speaker Disclosures:** 

Financial: Hannah Smith is the clinical supervisor at The Center; A Place of Hope. She receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc.

Non-financial: Hannah Smith has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

## **Live Seminar Schedule**

7:30 Registration/Morning Coffee & Tea

8:00 Program begins

**11:50-1:00** Lunch (on your own)

**4:00** Program ends

There will be two 15-min breaks (mid-morning & mid-afternoon). Actual lunch and break start times are at the discretion of the speaker. A more detailed schedule is available upon request.

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By Jennifer L. Abel, Ph.D.

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## The Anxiety, Worry & Depression Workbook

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By Jennifer L. Abel, Ph.D.

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If your profession is not listed, please contact your licensing board to determine your continuing education requirements and check for reciprocal approval. For other credit inquiries not specified below, or questions on home study credit availability, please contact cepesi@pesi.com or 800-844-8260 hefore the event

Materials that are included in this course may include interventions and modalities that are beyond the authorized practice of mental health professionals. As a licensed professional, you are responsible for reviewing the scope of practice, including activities that are defined in law as beyond  $the \ boundaries \ of \ practice \ in \ accordance \ with \ and \ in \ compliance \ with \ your \ profession's \ standards.$ 

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Counselors: This intermediate activity consists of 6.25 clock hours of continuing education instruction. Credit requirements and approvals vary per state board regulations. Please save the course outline, the certificate of completion you receive from the activity and contact your state board or organization to determine specific

Montana Counselors: The Montana Board of Behavioral Health no longer pre-approve any courses or sponsors. Each licensee is responsible for taking courses which contribute to their competence and directly relate to their scope of practice as defined in board statute (MAR 24-219-32). Licensees must keep CF documentation for three years in case of an audit. This intermediate level activity consists of 6.25 clock hours of

Marriage & Family Therapists: This activity consists of 380 minutes of continuing education instruction. Credit requirements and approvals vary per state board regulations. You should save this course outline, the certificate of completion you receive from the activity and contact your state board or organization to determine

Montana Marriage & Family Therapists: The Montana Board of Behavioral Health no longer pre-approves any courses or sponsors. Each licensee is responsible for taking courses which contribute to their competence and directly relate to their scope of practice as defined in board statute (MAR 24-219-32). Licensees must keep CE documentation for three years in case of an audit. This intermediate level activity consists of 6.25 clock hours of instruction

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Occupational Therapists & Occupational Therapy Assistants: PESI, Inc. is an AOTA Approved Provider of

continuing education, Provider #: 3322, Full attendance at

this course qualifies for 6.0 contact hours or .6 CEUs in the Category of Domain of OT and Occupational Therapy Process. Partial credit will be issued for partial attendance. The assignment of AOTA CEUs does not imply endorsement of specific course content, products, or clinical procedures by AOTA, Course Level: Intermediate

Montana Psychologists: This live activity is designed to meet the criteria requirements of the Montana Board of Psychologists and is a PESI-approved continuing education and qualifies for 380 instructional minutes. Please save the certificate of completion you receive from this live activity.



and audiology. See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area. ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

Speech-Language Pathologists: This course is offered for .6 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level, Professional area).

Social Workers: PESI, Inc., #1062, is approved to offer social work continuing education by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program. Organizations, not individual courses, are approved as ACE providers. State and provincial regulatory boards have the final authority to determine whether an individual course may be accepted for continuing education credit. PESI, Inc. maintains responsibility for this course. ACE provider approval period: January 27, 2017 - January 27, 2020. Social Workers completing this course receive 6.25 Clinical Practice continuing education credits. Course Level: Intermediate. Full attendance is required; no partial credits will be offered for partial attendance. A certificate of attendance will be awarded at the end of the program to social workers who complete the program evaluation.

Montana Social Workers: The Montana Board of Behavioral Health no longer pre-approves any courses or sponsors. Each licensee is responsible for taking courses which contribute to their competence and directly relate to their scope of practice as defined in board statute (MAR 24-219-32). Licensees must keep CE documentation for three years in case of an audit. This intermediate level activity consists of 6.25 clock

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