Outline

Apply Polyvagal Theory in Trauma Treatment

Vagal States & Autonomic Hierarchy
Neuroception – how the traumatized
nervous system interfaces with the world

Re-establish effective co-regulation – a biological imperative

Utilize prosody or voice

Provide trauma-informed psychoeducation on intermingled vagal states

Build Recovery & Resiliency Through Smart Vagal Activity

- Subcortical resilience
- Eye movements to build resiliency
- Resourcing Map vagal states and pivotal practices

Shift & Re-Shape the Traumatized Nervous System with Embodied Contemplation

Energizing Breaths to Stimulate Safety in Social Connection

- Skull shining breath
- Ocean sounding breath

Calming breaths to stem anxiety

- Three-part breath
- Shining moon breath

Movements to Awaken the Shut-Down Nervous System

- Gentle back-bending movements
- Standing stretches to focus mind/body
- Goddess posture Breath plus movement

Movements to Calm Fight/Flight

- Easy forward bending
- Simple sigh & stretch
- A dance with the hands Mudras

Face-to-Heart Connection Through Sound & Movement

- Call & response chant
- Walking meditation to awaken compassion
- Loving kindness imagery

Calm & Rewire the Traumatized Nervous System

Identify vagal state triggers and resets
The five senses – A return to the here and now

Deep relaxation to support safe connection

Adapt and individualize trauma treatment with cultural sensitivity

Apply Polyvagal Theory to racial healing Extend resiliency building to implicit memory, body memory, and procedural conditioning

The Polyvagal-Wise Trauma Therapist

• Explore ahimsa or non-violence with self and clients

Self-compassion to negotiate fight/flight from inner critic

Build safety and connection between sessions

- Right action & ethics for strengthening ANS resiliency
- Mirror through matching the client's vagal states
- Shift self and client back into connection

Live Webinar Schedule (Times listed in Eastern)

8:00 Program begins

11:50-1:00 Lunch Break

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.

Objectives

- 1. Analyze how the primary tenets of Polyvagal theory can be applied to trauma treatment through embodied contemplative practice.
- 2. Demonstrate how compassion-based interventions shift vagal states and shame-based trauma reactions.
- 3. Demonstrate inner dialogue with disowned aspects of the self for building a secure attachment to the self.
- 4. Demonstrate two breathing practices for calming fight/flight, energizing the body, and focusing the mind.
- 5. Integrate simple movements to relieve anxiety and shift from shut down.
- 6. Develop cultural sensitivity through individualizing treatment.

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Featuring Debra Alvis, Ph.D.

- Activate post-traumatic growth and resiliency
- Skillfully apply trauma- sensitive embodied approaches in clinical sessions
- Teach clients to befriend and work with their autonomic states
- Employ strategies to create inner and outer safety and connection

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TRAUMA Recovery and Resilience

Embodied Practices Incorporating Polyvagal Theory

After experiencing trauma, our clients often dissociate from their bodies aiming to escape intense sensations and emotional pain. They then increasingly react to inner and outer cues linked to behavioral patterns that are below conscious awareness.

Even after treatment, clients who have experienced severe or sustained trauma, are often overwhelmed by residual symptoms and are trapped in reactivity to triggers. Safe-embodiment skills, carefully introduced, sequenced, and titrated, can move clients beyond the life-diminishing cycles of avoidance and re-traumatization.

In this live online training, you will learn an array of skills designed to create the safety needed to work with the body and with fearful parts of the self. You will learn how to help clients identify, befriend, and shift autonomic states and parts of the self that otherwise perpetuate avoidance and reactivity.

In both virtual and in-person therapy sessions, you will be able to offer embodied trauma-resiliency tools designed to strengthen vagal tone and the motivation to incorporate these vagal toning strategies into their daily lives. Integrate and sequence dialogue with parts of the self with gentle movement and breath, increasing your client's self-efficacy, steadiness, and ability to choose rather than react.

Join Debra, an experienced international presenter, in this day of experiential learning as she shares embodied Polyvagal Theory applications. Conclude the day with new tools for trauma recovery and vibrant resiliency.

Sign up today!

Target Audience:

Counselors • Social Workers • Psychologists • Case Managers • Addiction Counselors Physicians • Marriage and Family Therapists • Nurses • Other Mental Health Professionals



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Meet Your Speaker

Debra Alvis, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist and private practitioner with over 25 years of clinical experience.

She specializes in an integrative approach bringing together polyvagal, neuroscientific, and somatic principles to treat trauma and co-morbid disorders.

Debra discovered that the polyvagal approach facilitates a mindful awareness of the biological reactions influencing the therapist/client relationship and the client's sense of safety in the world. Integrating physiological, brain-based, body-focused approaches with traditional psychotherapeutic orientations helped clients to recover more easefully and quickly from trauma. In addition, with an increased sense of safety and connectedness, clients more frequently practiced the strategies required through her work in private practice and as a clinical supervisor, educator, and consultant.

Dr. Alvis developed and led the Mind/Body Program at the University of Georgia where she now teaches health psychology graduate students to apply polyvagal, neuroscientific, and somatic approaches, serves as project director for federal grant focusing on integrative healthcare, and develops mindfulness-based research studies. A thirty-year personal contemplative practice and over a thousand hours training as a mindfulness and yoga teacher further enrich her presentations.

Speaker Disclosure:

Financial: Debra Alvis is in private practice. Dr. Alvis receives a speaking honorarium from PESI, Inc. Non-financial: Debra Alvis has no relevant non-financial relationship to disclose.

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For specific credit approvals and details, visit pesi.com/webcast/85449

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Recommended Reading:



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Trauma-Informed Yoga: A Toolbox for Therapists 47 Practices to Calm, Balance, and Restore the Nervous System

Joanne Spence, MA, E-RYT 500, C-IAYT

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