

Title: From Devastation to Denial: Engaging Caregivers in Trauma Therapy

Objectives:

Participants will be able to name 3 factors that influence a caregivers' response to abuse disclosures

Participants will be able to describe common reactions caregivers have after abuse disclosures

Participants will learn practical techniques to engage caregivers

Participants will identify ways to align with complicated caregivers situations

Description:

After a disclosure of child abuse, caregivers have a wide range of reactions and responses from denial, minimization, and disbelief to devastation, fear, self-blame and overprotection. Engaging parents or other caregivers (e.g., such as foster parents or kinship parents) is one of the most common struggles facing mental health professionals working with Children's Advocacy Centers. This presentation will review potential rationales for such varied responses and outline ways to align with and engage caregivers in the therapeutic process.