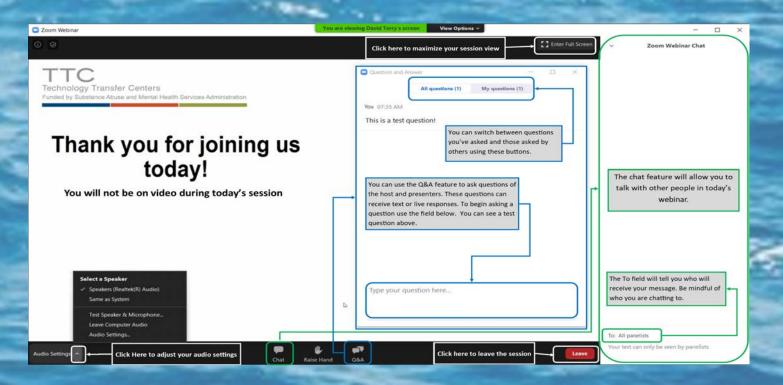
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Northeast and Caribbean (HHS Region 2)

Replenishing the Well: Compassion Fatigue and Burnout During COVID

PJ Wenger, LPC, MFT, NCC Ken Kinter, LPC





Northeast and Caribbean (HHS Region 2)

About Us ..

The Northeast and Caribbean MHTTC provides 5 years (2018 – 2023) of funding to:

- Enhance capacity of behavioral health workforce to deliver evidence-based and promising practices to individuals with mental illnesses.
- Address full continuum of services spanning mental illness prevention, treatment, and recovery supports.
- Train related workforces (police/first responders, primary care providers, vocational services, etc.) to provide effective services to people with mental illnesses.

Supplemental funding to work with school teachers and staff to address student mental health.

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Feedback about this training will assist us in developing trainings that are relevant to your current professional needs. Therefore, your feedback counts!



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Our Presenters





PJ Wenger, LPC, MFT, NCC

Kenneth Kinter, MA, LPC

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Objectives

• Address compassion fatigue, burnout and how to distinguish between the two.

- Address ways to enhance compassion and identify things that limit compassion for ourselves and others.
- Discuss self-compassion
- Describe several phenomena that enhance and block compassion
- Provide strategies for regaining and replenishing our compassion for self and others

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Burnout

"Burnout is a special type of *work-related stress-state* of physical, emotional, and mental exhaustion caused by *long-term* exposure to *demanding* work situations"

"While burnout obviously has something to do with stress, overdoing things, not being centered, and not listening to yourself or your body, one of the deepest contributors to burnout, I believe, is the deep disappointment of not living up to your true calling, which is to help."

"There is more going out than coming in" (Dave Mueller)

Potential Causes of Burnout

- Lack of Control
- Unclear Job Expectations
- Dysfunctional Workplace Dynamics
- Mismatch in Values
- Poor Job Fit
- Extremes in Activity

(www.mayoclinic.com)

Some New Thoughts on Burnout...

Some people will thrive, no matter what.

Modern life – not just working in healthcare – is stressful.

Symptoms differ among individuals.

Manifestation of Burnout

 Burn-out affects new and old practitioners-Key is imbalance between expectation and reality.

 Burnout is not a dichotomous condition. In other words, burnout is not merely present or absent, but describes a lower emotional state on a continuum.

Burnout Risk Factors

- Identification so strongly with your work that you lack balance between your work life and your personal life
- High workload, including overtime work
- Trying to be everything to everyone
- Working in a helping profession
- Feeling you have little or no control over your work
- Job is monotonous and/or wide variations

(www.mayoclinic.com)

What Does Burnout Look Like?

- Being cynical/critical at work
- Having to drag yourself to work
- Lack of energy to do your job
- Difficulty concentrating
- Lack of satisfaction from your achievements
- Feeling disillusioned about your job
- Increase use of food, drugs, alcohol either to feel better or not feel
- Change in sleep habits
- Somatic complaints

Compassion Fatigue vs. Burnout

Compassion Fatigue

Personal Stress related compassion demands Internal Factors Holistic (mental, emotional, physical, behavioral, etc.)

The *cause* of Compassion Fatigue is our work with clients who have been traumatized **Burnout**

Organizational Stress related time demands

External Factors Holistic (physical, emotional, behavioral, etc.)

The *cause* of Burnout is demanding, toxic, and hostile environments

Compassion Fatigue

"Compassion Fatigue is a state experienced by those helping people or animals in distress; it is an extreme state of tension and preoccupation with the suffering of those being helped to the degree that it can create a secondary traumatic stress for the helper"



Compassion Fatigue

| Cognitive | Emotional | Behavioral | Spiritual | Personal | Physical | Work |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|--|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | | | | Relationships | Somatic | Performance |
| lowered | powerless | impatient | question the | withdrawal | shock | low morale |
| concentration | | | meaning of life | | 20.330 | |
| less | guilt | withdrawn | loss of purpose | decreased | sweating | low |
| self-esteem | S | | and the second second | interest in | and the second second | motivation |
| - | | | and the second s | intimacy & sex | - | |
| apathy | anger/rage | moody | decrease self- | mistrust | rapid | task avoidance |
| 2000 | | | appraisal | | breathing | T and the second |
| rigidity | survivor guilt | regression | pervasive | isolation from | increased | obsession |
| | | | hopelessness | others | heart rate | about details |
| disorientation | shutdown | sleep | anger at god | overprotective | breathing | dichotomous |
| | numbness | disturbance | | as parent/spouse | difficult | thinking |
| perfectionism | fear | nightmares | question | projective anger | joint and | apathy |
| C. C. Connection | - Sie | - | religious beliefs | or blame | muscle aches | and the second second |
| preoccupation | helplessness | appetite | loss of faith in | intolerance | dizziness and | negativity |
| with trauma | | changes | higher power | Same | disorientation | |

Behavioral Responses

Physical/Somatic

Impatient Withdrawing Being moody Regression Sleep disturbances Nightmares Appetite changes Shock Sweating Rapid breathing Increased heart rate Breathing difficulty Joint & muscle aches/pains Dizziness and disorientation

Work Performance

Low morale Low motivation **Avoiding tasks Obsession about details Dichotomous thinking** Apathy **Negativity** Having unwanted memories of past events from work **Decreased productivity**

Personal Relationships

Withdrawn from others Decreased intimacy Mistrust Isolation from others Overprotective as parent and/or spouse Projective anger or blame Intolerance Irritability

Cognitively

Lowered concentration Less self-esteem Apathy Rigidity Disorientation Perfectionism Preoccupation with trauma **Emotionally**

Feeling powerless Feeling guilty Having anger/rage Survivor guilt Being shutdown/numb Being fearful Feeling helpless

Spiritually

Questioning the meaning of life Loss of purpose Decrease self-appraisal Pervasive hopelessness Anger at God/Universe Questioning of religious beliefs Loss of faith in a higher power

Secondary Trauma Stress (STS)

 Secondary trauma stress (STS) is the second component of Compassion Fatigue. It is about your work-related secondary exposure to others' trauma. This can happen to many people who care for those who have experienced extremely or traumatically stressful events. STS is the result of our difficult and/or painful interactions with our patients/clients or their families.

What STS Looks Like

- Rapid onset
- Associated with a particular event
- Being more afraid of things
- Changes in sleep/appetite
- Recurring images of upsetting events
- Avoidance of things that remind you of the event.

(Gentry, E.J. & Monson, M.2017)

Professional Quality of Life Scale (ProQOL)

Beth Stamm created the Professional Quality of life Scale to measure compassion satisfaction, burnout and secondary traumatic stress. The ProQOL is the goldstandard measure of work-related stress.

Link to ProQOL

https://www.proqol.org/uploads/ProQOL 5 English_S elf-Score_3-2012.pdf

(Stamm, 1995)

What Do Your Scores Tell You?

Were your scores what you thought they would be? Why or why not?

Write down 3 things you do well while performing your job.

Is your job stressful? If so, what is it about your workplace that makes it stressful? What are some of the ways you see stress affecting your coworkers?

What are some of the things that make this work valuable? Why do you do it?

What is Self-Compassion?

 Define and differentiate between empathy and compassion

Discuss self-compassion

 Describe several phenomena that enhance and block compassion The Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "The believers in their mutual kindness, compassion and sympathy are just like one body. When one of the limbs suffers, the whole body responds to it with wakefulness and fever". (Agreed Upon)

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لجنة الدعوة الإلكترونية www.islam.org.kw

Self-compassion

 Self-compassion is self kindness and accepting suffering as a quality of being human. It has positive effects on subjective happiness, optimism, wisdom, curiosity, agreeableness, and extroversion

 Lack of suitable distress tolerance gets people fatigued in compassionate activities.

 Our self-compassion is directly related to and precedes our compassion to others. We are vessels full of compassion and suffering. The more suffering, the less compassion and the suffering can spill out onto others.

 How much suffering do you experience as part of your work? your life?

Self-Compassion

- Research on Self-Compassion has been rapidly growing Neff & Dahm, 2014)
- Neff proposed that Self-Compassion involves THREE components:
 - extending KINDNESS and understanding to oneself rather than harsh selfjudgment
 - seeing one's experiences as part of the larger human experience rather than as separating and isolating (SENSE OF COMMON HUMANITY)
 - holding one's painful thoughts and feelings in balanced awareness rather than over-identifying with them (MINDFULNESS) (Neff, 2003b p. 225)
- Self-Compassion is NOT self-centeredness (Gilbert & Procter, 2006; Neff, 2003a)
- Cultivating Self-Compassion has been shown to stimulate brain activity that evokes empathy and compassion for others (Longe et al., 2009)

Empathy and Compassion

Empathy means sharing the feelings of/with another

Compassion means to suffer with "co-suffering"

Compassion compels action

Example of both. Years ago, I broke my foot and had trouble opening doors for several weeks. Now I see someone with crutches/walker and remembering how difficult it was to manage crutches and doors (*empathy*) and hold the door (*compassion*).

IS THE WISH TO SEE OTHERS FREE FROM SUFFERING. Dalat Lama

What are examples of this from your life?

Shame – an unpleasant emotion resulting from a negative judgment about oneself.

Guilt says: "I did something wrong."

Shame says: "I AM something wrong!"

HOW TO TRANSFORM SHAME WITH SELF-COMPASSION



UNDERSTAND "THE NATURE OF SHAME"

Shame is normal. Shame is the brain's way of dealing with the threat of disconnection.



Label shame for what it is: an emotion. Giving it a name helps you get some distance between you and the emotion.

REPLACE JUDGMENT

Try to hold your experience of shame with curiosity rather than judgment. Curiosity about your emotions can help you shift into a more caring and understanding perspective.

ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR INNER CRITIC

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Hi-

It's helpful to be aware that your inner critic often likes to amplify your shame. Remind your inner critic that you are a work in progress, trying to navigate the best you can.



PRACTICE WHAT IS HELPFUL, NOT HARMFUL

Try to speak to yourself like you would a friend. Can you ask yourself what actions would be helpful for recovering from this experience, rather than actions that might perpetuate it? If you are working on correcting an action, can you offer yourself constructive correction rather than shaming self-attack?

nicabm

Compassion blockers

"I don't know those people!"

(identifiable victim effect)

"There are too many of them for me to help!"

(compassion fade)

"I've helped too many people already (but not myself)!" (compassion fatigue)

Also, our own traumas, which can cause:

self-criticism(fight)self-isolation(flight)self-absorption(freeze)



Compassion and the helping professions

We give away pieces of our finite "cake" to our loved ones, our colleagues, our friends, our clients, and then there's none left for us.



Threats to our compassion

- The "superhero" complex
- Not asking for help
- Guilt that we aren't doing enough
- Ongoing crisis
- Pressure to just keep going
- Boundary between work/home ???
- Normal coping activities aren't possible or are more difficult
- Challenges to self-care (diet, exercise, sleep, changes in work schedule)

- Attachment to the result
- The "detachment paradox"
- Anticipatory grief (not knowing)
- Not knowing when we are past our limits



Tips for regaining compassion

- Compassion starts with you
- Work/life balance
- Self-care practices: nutrition, sleep,
- Take a Break/Vacation/Pause when you are overwhelmed
- Forgive yourself
- Own your limits
- Personal Mission

THE FOUNDATION OF JUDAISM IS LOVE (AHAVA), COMPASSION (RACHAMIM), KINDNESS (CHESED),PEACE (SHALOM), AND MAKING THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE (TIKKUN OLAM).

- Slow down, this isn't a sprint, it's a marathon
- Disconnect from the outcome, what you can't control
- PCI and PSCI https://threadcraftcounseling.com/wpcontent/uploads/2020/01/PCI-Worksheet-JC-Version.pdf

Anticipatory Grief

Grieving what has been lost and what may be lost in an uncertain situation economic social health-related security tends to center on death

Questions to ask yourself to see if you are at risk

Do you find yourself more critical, cynical or sarcastic?

Have you lost the ability to experience joy?

Do you drag yourself to work and have trouble getting started when you are there?

Have you become more irritable and less patient?

Do you feel like you face

insurmountable barriers at work?

Questions to ask yourself to see if you are at risk

Do you feel disillusioned about your job? Do you no longer feel satisfaction from your achievements? Do you feel like you have no energy? Has your productivity declined? Do you have a hard time laughing at yourself?

Questions to ask yourself to see if you are at risk

Are you tired of your co-workers asking if you are okay?

Are you self-medicating with substances, i.e., food, alcohol, drugs?

Have your sleep / appetite patterns changed? Are you troubled by somatic complaints?

How do you know if you are at risk?

You identify so strongly with your work that you lack a reasonable balance between work and your personal life

You try to be everything to everyone

Your job is monotonous and/or varied

You work in the helping professions, such as health care, counseling, teaching, or law enforcement.

Consider for yourself

- Who supports you? Who can you talk to?
- What activities revive you, or help you put things into perspective?
- Is it possible to reframe a situation to acknowledge your experiences?
- Are you trying to control something that cannot be controlled?

(e.g., I am really struggling today with anger and grief about what is going on at home and in the news. VERSUS I did a terrible job with this client today) Therefore, as God's chosen people HOLY and DEARLY beloved, dothe yours eves with COMPASSION, KINDNESS, HUMILITY, GENTLENESS and PATIENCE Colosums 312

What Can You Do About It?

Remember your worth
Try and have some perspective
Where is your sense of belonging
Have a measure of acceptance
Develop or rely on your supports
Do something to provide for yourself growth and learning

Helpful Suggestions

- Have a meeting with yourself each day
- Establish a gratitude practice
- Have a recap of your day each night to identify one good thing that happened that day
- Meet with co-workers or supervisors if available and supportive. Don't tough it out yourself.
- When coworkers/supervisors are the source of the stress try to link with a support group or a counselor.
- Don't forget the work you do

Helpful Suggestions

- Try to avoid denial about your situation or minimize your situation
- Try to objectively look at your symptoms
- What are the causes of your symptoms and determine if they are related to your work?
- Don't try to change everything at once. Pick one thing and change that one thing.

(Gentry, E.J. & Monson, M. 2017)

How do we refill our "well"?

• Thoughts?

• Feelings?

• Behaviors?

Daily practices?



Quick Exercises & Tips for Using Mindfulness at Work

Mindfulness Exercises

- Five Senses
- 3 Minutes Breathing
- Body Scan
- Self Compassion Pause
- Mindfulness in Meetings

Pressley Ridge, n.d.



Quick Exercises and Tips for Using Mindfulness at Work

mindfulness

Summary

- Empathy is not the same as compassion, which is specific to shared suffering
- Compassion is prominent in many religious traditions and in spirituality
- Self-compassion (compassion for self) is critical and necessary for having compassion for others
- Compassion can be enhanced or blocked and there is much we can do to reduce our suffering and increase our compassion
- Helpers have specific threats to compassion and can also emerging from this stronger through shifting our thoughts, beliefs, and actions

The Starfish Story

An old man had a habit of early morning walks on the beach. One day, after a storm, he saw a human figure in the distance moving like a dancer. As he came closer he saw that it was a young woman and she was not dancing but was reaching down to the sand, picking up a starfish and very gently throwing them into the ocean.

"Young lady," he asked, "Why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

"The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in they will die."

"But young lady, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and starfish all along it? You cannot possibly make a difference."

The young woman listened politely, paused and then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves,

saying, "It made a difference for that one."



Closing Thought

"What is to give light must endure burning"

Viktor Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning (1963)

The Warning



That those of us who give ourselves in service to others are going to burn. It is inevitable. There is no way to witness pain and suffering in others without it also causing us pain.

The Prescription

As we grow the capacity to tolerate and even embrace the pain of our work, instead of fighting it, we begin to find beauty, indomitability, and heroism in clients and in ourselves.

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Q and A

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