

Assessment-Based Treatment for Traumatized Children: Using the Trauma Assessment Pathway (TAP) Model

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Objectives for Today

- Participants will be able to describe the Trauma Assessment Pathway (TAP) Model as it relates to clinical treatment of military children and families affected by traumatic events.
- Participants will be able to combine assessment results, behavioral observations and clinical interview to create a “Unique Client Picture.”
- Participants will be able to describe the essential components of trauma treatment as they apply to military children and families.

TAP Model

- A treatment manual for traumatized children ages 2 to 18 years
- Incorporates assessment data, clinical interview, and observation to create a **Unique Client Picture**
- Includes specific components of trauma-specific treatment described by the **Trauma Wheel**
- The manual and a web-based training on the model is available at www.taptraining.net

TAP Model Overview

- TAP provides a framework to increase the capacity for sites to build and sustain an assessment-based treatment program.
- TAP can help sites incorporate and integrate existing appropriate evidence-based treatment services into their program.
- For children with complicated and complex trauma histories, TAP provides a guide for individualized trauma treatment.

Three Components of TAP

1. Assessment — *creating the Unique Client Picture*
2. Triage
3. Treatment

TAP Assessment:

Is the client
appropriate for your
Center and for the
TAP Model?

TAP Assessment

To get the full *Unique Client Picture*
gather information via:

- Clinical Interviews
- Behavioral Observation
- Standardized Measures

Assessment Pathway Process

Core measures administered



Problem areas identified



Other measures are administered
to probe more deeply

Guiding Therapists via Assessment

<p>8. Developmentally inappropriate sexualized behaviors (saying or doing things about sex that children his/her age don't usually do or know):</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>₁ Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/>₂ Somewhat/sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/>₃ Very much/often a problem</p>	<p>Therapist: If YES- Administer CSBI</p>
<p>9. Alcohol or substance abuse (any use of alcohol or other drugs):</p> <p>Alcohol Used by Child? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p> <p>Drugs Used by Child? <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>₁ Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/>₂ Somewhat/sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/>₃ Very much/often a problem</p>	<p>Therapist: If YES- Administer AUDIT or DAST</p>
<p>10. Attachment problems, Relationship Concerns, or Boundary Concerns (difficulty forming or maintaining trusting relationships with other people):</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>₁ Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/>₂ Somewhat/sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/>₃ Very much/often a problem</p>	<p>Therapist: If YES- Administer PSI</p>
<p>11. Criminal activity (activities that have resulted in being stopped by the police or arrested):</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>₁ Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/>₂ Somewhat/sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/>₃ Very much/often a problem</p>	<p></p>
<p>12. Running away from home (staying away for at least one night):</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/>₁ Not a problem <input type="checkbox"/>₂ Somewhat/sometimes a problem <input type="checkbox"/>₃ Very much/often a problem</p>	

Pathways integrated into assessment measures

Measure Reviews

- Domains to Measure:
 - Child Behavior Problems: CBCL
 - Child Trauma Symptoms: TSCC, TSCYC
 - Adult Trauma Symptoms: TSI*
 - Child Depression: CDI
 - Caretaker Depression: CES-D
 - Caretaker Anxiety: BAI, STAI
 - Parenting Stress: PSI*
 - Family Functioning: FAM-III*
 - Substance Abuse: DAST, AUDIT, SASSI
- Choose a couple of core measures, then supplementary measures to probe more deeply, depending on your population

Measure of Adult Trauma Symptoms

TSI – Trauma Symptom Inventory

- 100-items
- Parent reports on his or her own trauma experience (not the child's)
- 3 validity scales and 10 clinical scales
- Approximately 20 minutes to complete
- Spanish translation available

Parenting Stress

Parenting Stress Index (Short)

- 36-items
- Parent report measure of stress in the parenting system intended for use with parents of children between 2 and 12 years of age
- Assesses 3 major domains of stress:
 - Child characteristics
 - Parent characteristics
 - Situational/demographic life stress
- Validity scale, 3 subscales, and a total score

Family Functioning

Family Assessment Measure (FAM-III)

- 50-item measure of family functioning across 7 domains, including 2 validity scales
- Can be completed by children/adolescents (10+years), and caretakers
- Approx. 20 minutes to complete
- Available in 10+ languages

Unique Client Picture

Completion of Standardized Measures and Clinical Interview

Trauma History

Trauma Type

Trauma Complexity

Symptom Presentation

Type

Severity

Relevant Contextual History

Family

Social

Community

Culture

Systemic Issues

Developmental History

Attachment

Age

Development

How to Form Your Clinical Hypothesis

- Consider all assessment feedback
- Determine the Unique Client Picture
- Which family members need to be included in treatment? What are the dynamics in the family?
- Family and client buy in
- Consider the cause of distress

Treatment goals are written at this stage and will reflect:

- Symptoms to be reduced or eliminated
- Safety and risk issues
- Treatment objectives
- Trauma resolution
- Clinical Hypotheses

Treatment Triage

- Select the treatment modality that is best for your client based upon the Unique Client Picture and the Evidence-Based Practices available:
 - FOCUS
 - Child-Parent Psychotherapy
 - Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy
 - Parent-Child Interaction Therapy
 - TAP Treatment Component
 - Other models continue to emerge and gather evidence for military families

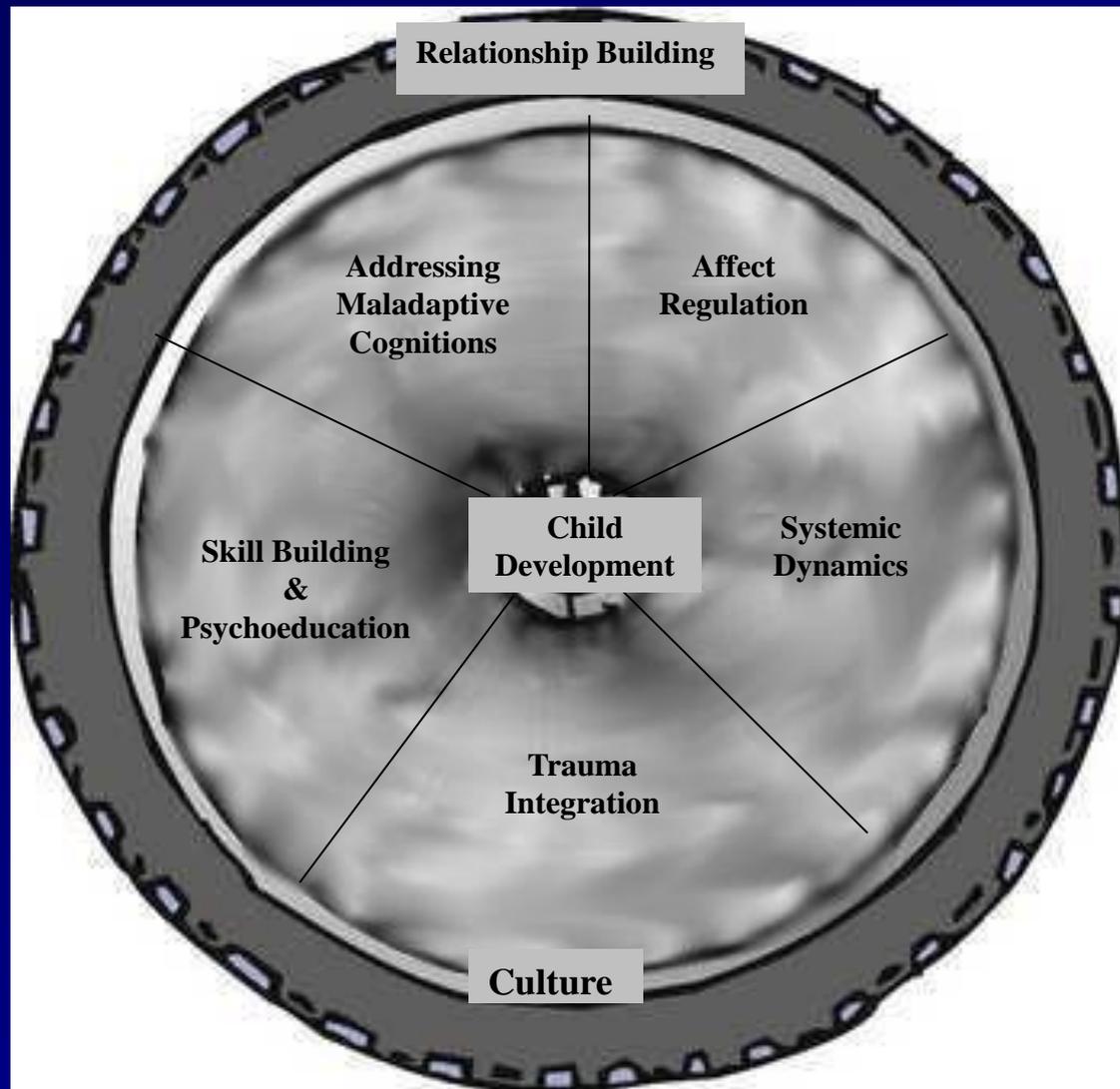
What if your client has complex trauma and doesn't fit neatly into any particular treatment model?

...Triage into the TAP Treatment Component.

TAP Treatment Component

- TAP incorporates several Common Fundamental Components of Trauma Treatment into the Trauma Wheel.
 - Developmental Issues
 - Cultural Issues
 - Therapeutic Relationship
 - Systemic and Attachment Issues*
 - Behavioral Problems
 - Cognitive Distortions
 - Making Sense of the Trauma
- Relationship Building, Child Development and Culture hold the wheel together and play a key role in understanding the child.

The Trauma Wheel

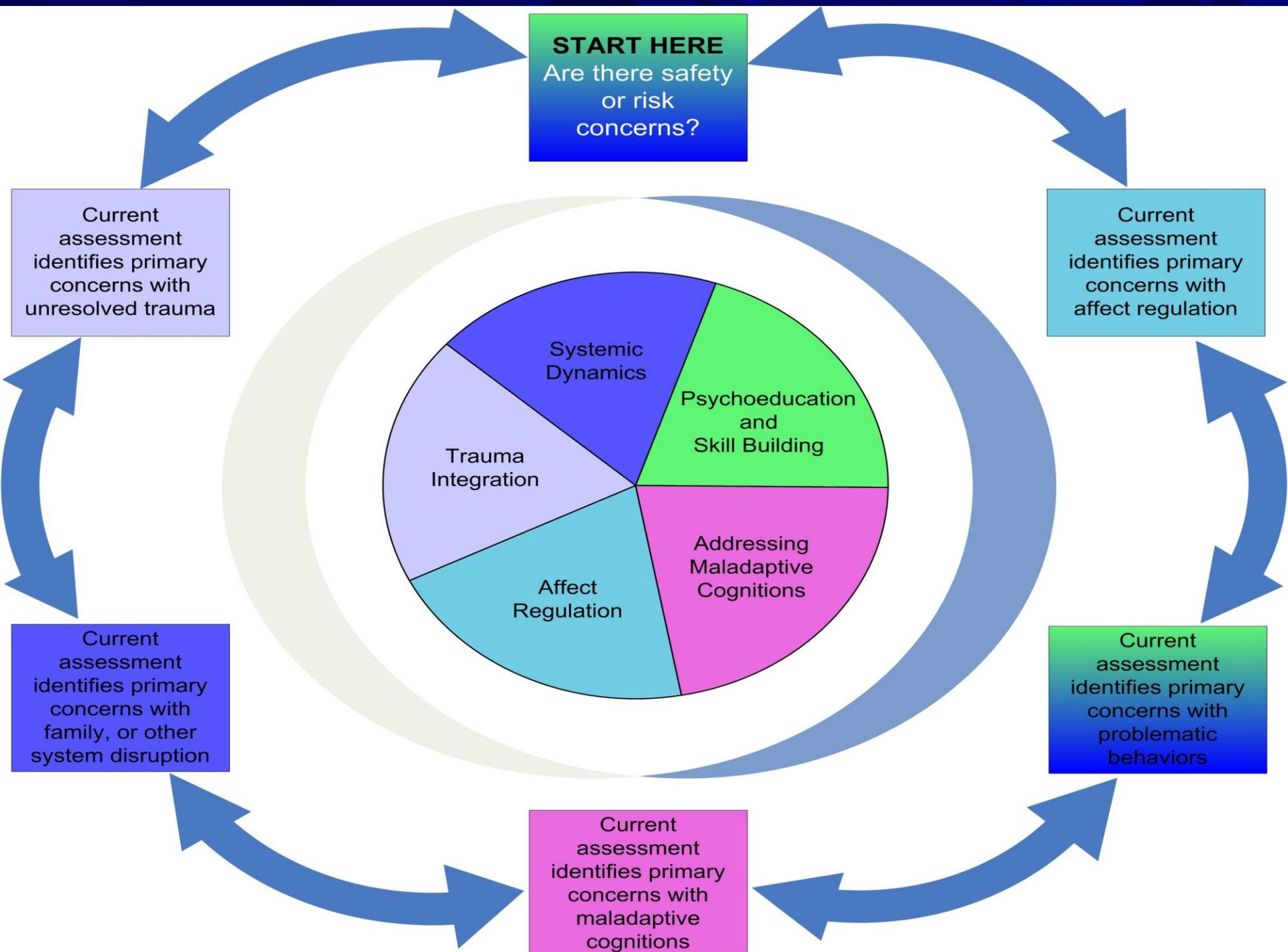


System Dynamics: Assumptions

- Children need their family system members to keep them safe and to provide support and nurturance throughout trauma treatment
- Including caretakers in treatment reinforces children's learned coping skills, behavioral management, and challenges inaccurate cognitive attributions about their responsibility regarding the trauma.
- Children and their family members have a great impact on each other.
- Addressing system dynamics helps move a closed system to an open system by teaching communication and problems solving skills.

System Dynamics: Tasks

- Share trauma integration with appropriate system people
- Share resources for caretakers
- Develop parenting skills
- Implementing and maintaining appropriate boundaries
- Improving communication and understanding of developmental and emotional needs of child



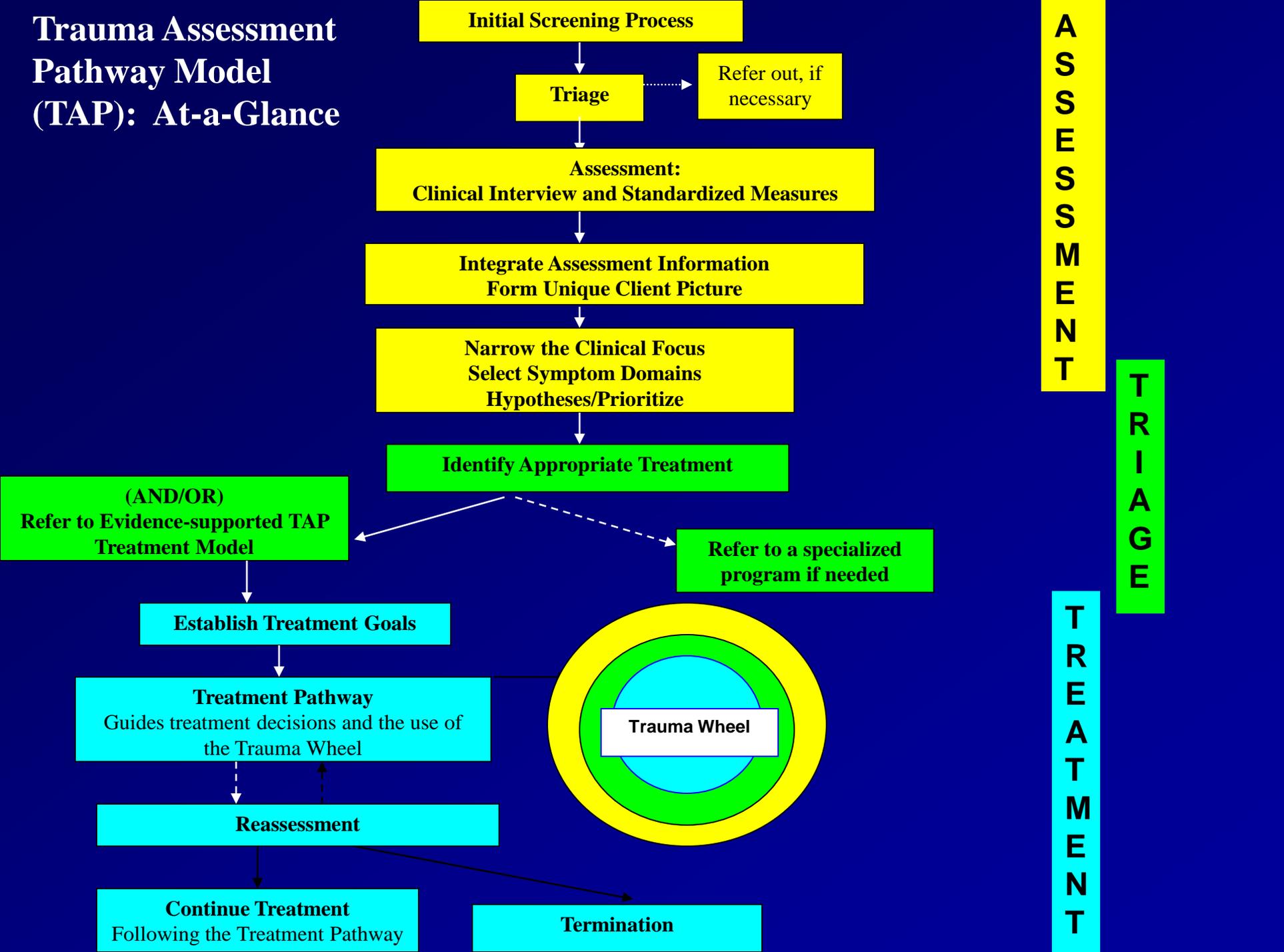
Heuristics of Using The Clinical Pathway

- One skill builds upon another.
- All spokes of the Trauma Wheel will be addressed at some point during treatment.
- The length of time and intervention type depend upon the unique client picture.
- The wheel is fluid – you move back and forth between spokes of the wheel.

On-going Re-Assessment

- Weekly interviews/updated goals
- Progress notes
- Supervision
- Follow-up standardized measures
 - Must use the same measures for each time period (to measure change over time)
 - Can add measures over time (once added must continue to administer added measure to assess change over time).

Trauma Assessment Pathway Model (TAP): At-a-Glance



TAP *Training* Website

- Located at www.taptraining.net
- Includes:
 - A web-based training on the TAP Model
 - TIP sheets, worksheets, and sample scripts for implementing the TAP Model
 - Videos on introducing measures to children and their parents, and providing feedback, in both English and Spanish
 - A “Contact Us” link if you are interested in receiving in-depth training and implementation support on the model



Assessment-Based Treatment for Traumatized Children: A Trauma Assessment Pathway (TAP)

Home (A)

- [TAP Manual](#)
- [TAP Training](#)
- [TAP Resources](#)
- [TAP Background](#)
- [TAP Credits](#)
- [Contact Us](#)

Assessment-Based Treatment for Traumatized Children: A Trauma Assessment Pathway (TAP) is a treatment model that incorporates assessment triage and essential components of trauma treatment into clinical pathways.

- The goals of TAP include:
1. Providing treatment center staff with the knowledge and skills to incorporate standardized assessments into the intake and ongoing treatment process.
 2. Providing a treatment model that is directed by the uniqueness of the child and his or her family.
 3. Providing guidelines for clinicians to make decisions regarding trauma treatment strategies based upon the child's unique presentation.

TAP is divided into two parts:

- Part I of the model describes the assessment process, how to develop a Unique Client Picture, how to triage, and when to make referrals.
- Part II focuses on trauma treatment and includes an explanation of evidence-supported interventions found in the literature that are organized into a "Trauma Wheel" and used to create a "Treatment Pathway."



Resources

- Chadwick Center - www.ChadwickCenter.org
- TAP Training on-line – www.taptraining.net
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network – www.nctsn.org (includes a link to the Measure Review Database)
- TF-CBT on-line - www.musc.edu/tfcbt/
- California Child Welfare Clearinghouse - www.cebc4cw.org
- National Child Traumatic Stress Network Promising Practices - http://www.nctsn.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=ctr_top_trmnt_prom#q4

Contact Information

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