



TRAUMATIC STRESS INSTITUTE

Pilot Trauma-Informed Care Learning Collaborative for IDD Organizations

Faculty Expert Team



Steve Brown, PsyD, is the Director of the [Traumatic Stress Institute](#) (TSI) of Klingberg Family Centers whose mission is to foster transformation in organizations and systems to trauma-informed care (TIC). A clinical psychologist, he is a primary architect of TSI's internationally recognized [Whole System Change Model to Trauma-Informed Care](#) which uses [Risking Connection training](#) as its core offering. In 2020, he authored the adaptation of Risking Connection to organizations serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). With Dr. Courtney Baker, he developed the [Attitudes Related to Trauma-Informed Care \(ARTIC\) Scale](#), one of the first and currently the most widely used psychometric measure of TIC. Dr. Brown presents nationally about TIC implementation and measurement and is the co-author of journal articles on those subjects. In addition to being a psychologist, he is a long-time sexuality educator/trainer and author of [Streetwise to Sex-Wise: Sexuality Education for High Risk Youth](#), a sexuality education curricula used internationally by agencies and schools serving high risk youth.



Brenda Bryant, LCSW, has been working with people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in behavioral health for the past 20 years primarily doing direct care and program development. At [Keystone Human Services](#) (Connecticut), she has been a leader in their implementation of trauma-informed care in residential treatment and clinical services. In 2020, she became a Risking Connection Faculty Trainer for the Traumatic Stress Institute, specializing in training and consultation to IDD organizations. From 2018 to 2020 Brenda served on the Connecticut chapter of NASW Board of Directors and advocated for increased public education about equity and opportunity for individuals with disabilities.



Karyn Harvey, PhD, has worked as a clinician in the field of intellectual disabilities for over 30 years. She has her doctorate in Applied Developmental Psychology from the University of Maryland. Dr. Harvey has published articles about therapeutic interventions with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), workbooks for individuals with IDD, and two books. [Positive Identity Development](#) was published in 2009 and [Trauma-Informed Behavioral Interventions](#) in 2011. Her third book, *Trauma and Healing* will be released in 2021 by AAIDD. She is the director of program development and training for the [Park Ave Group practice in Baltimore, MD](#) where she does both individual and group therapy. In addition, she regularly conducts trainings on trauma-informed care and coping with COVID-19 for both state and individual organizations throughout the US and in Canada.

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John M. Keesler, PhD, LMSW, is an [assistant professor in the School of Social Work at Indiana University Bloomington](#). He has more than 10 years of practice experience with people across the lifespan who have intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Beginning as a direct support professional, Dr. Keesler spent most of his time working in behavioral health and administration for non-profit organizations prior to pursuing a doctorate in social welfare. With a firm foundation in his practice experience, Dr. Keesler's research focuses on adversity/trauma, trauma-informed care, and quality of life. In 2014, he published [the first article in the scholarly literature promoting the integration of trauma-informed care with services for people with IDD](#). Since that time,

he has continued to conduct relevant and timely research on the substantive area. His research underscores the importance of trauma-informed care as a total system approach to advance the quality of life for people with IDD as well as the professional quality of life for those that support them, namely, direct support professionals. Dr. Keesler has presented his scholarship at local, state, national, and international conferences and published in both national and international journals.