

MAKING THERAPY WORK

A Dynamic Model for Moving through
Trauma and Other Difficult Experiences

with Casey Burnett, MA, LPCC

for the

WINGS Foundation

Focused on Healing for Adult
Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse

• Denver, CO

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WHY DOES THIS MATTER



HOW TO VIEW THIS MATERIAL

Work with people who have chronic and/or complex trauma

- Adult survivors of sexual abuse
- Adult survivors of ritual abuse

Work with people in active to early addiction recovery

- Clients with chemical and/or process addictions

Work with people who have co-morbid diagnoses

- dual diagnoses; psychological and medical; individual/family system

Loosely based on client “Level of Functioning” (formerly known as GAF)

Level I: Low internal structure; Needs increased external structure : “Forest Fire”

Level II: Moderate internal structure; Needs some external structure : “Bonfire”

Level III: High internal structure; Needs minimal external structure : “Cozy Fireplace”

WHAT THIS IS NOT...

- ⦿ Not supervision on current cases
- ⦿ Not consultation for program development or revision
- ⦿ Not a “one-size fits all, quick fix” solution
- ⦿ Not speaking for all clients who have experienced trauma
- ⦿ Not a substitute for seasoned clinical judgment
- ⦿ Not a comprehensive training on “how to treat trauma”
- ⦿ _____
- ⦿ _____

WHAT THIS IS...

- ⊙ A model or map to inform the clinical process
 - assessment, diagnosis, and treatment
- ⊙ An invitation to explore the relationship between support and structure
- ⊙ A dynamically-balanced relationship between client and therapist
- ⊙ A way to get “unstuck” from traps that prevent therapy from happening
- ⊙ A lot of hard work and commitment
- ⊙ A workable process requiring creativity and skillfulness
- ⊙ A therapeutic relationship that is client-centered, but therapist-directed
- ⊙ A focus on being an effective, trauma-informed therapist rather than a well-meaning, but trauma-naive therapist
- ⊙ _____
- ⊙ _____

WHO IS TRAUMA-INFORMED

- ◎ Someone who understands trauma theory and defense strategies.
- ◎ Someone who understands human development (including neurological).
- ◎ Someone who understands the structuring of the self in the context of relational mirroring and reflection.
- ◎ Someone who understands the importance of rupture and repair in the reworking of relationships.
- ◎ Someone who understands the dynamic interplay among biological predisposition, early experience, and current stressors.
- ◎ Someone who understands the relationships between and among symptom sets and etiological foundations.
- ◎ Someone who has a well-regulated nervous system and who therefore has the capacity for “organismic self-regulation.”

WHAT IS “GETTING STUCK”

- ⦿ How do we get stuck as therapists?
- ⦿ What does getting stuck look like in body organization?
- ⦿ What does getting stuck look like in counseling room?
- ⦿ What does getting stuck look like in groups?
- ⦿ What does getting stuck feel like in relationship?

STAGES OF RECOVERY-HERMAN



STAGES OF RECOVERY-HERMAN

Stage	Name
Stage 1	Healing Relationship
Stage 2	Safe & Stable Environment
Stage 3	Remembering & Mourning
Stage 4	Reconnection to Community
Stage 5	Commonalities with Others

HEALING RELATIONSHIPS

- ◉ Stage 1
- ◉ Approaches to Rapport Building
- ◉ Facing / Spacing / Pacing
- ◉ Body / Effort / Shape / Space / Phrasing

SAFE ENVIRONMENT

- ◉ Stage 2
- ◉ Approaches to Containment / Expression
- ◉ Approaches to Coping Strategies
- ◉ Approaches to Structure / Freedom

REMEMBERING & MOURNING

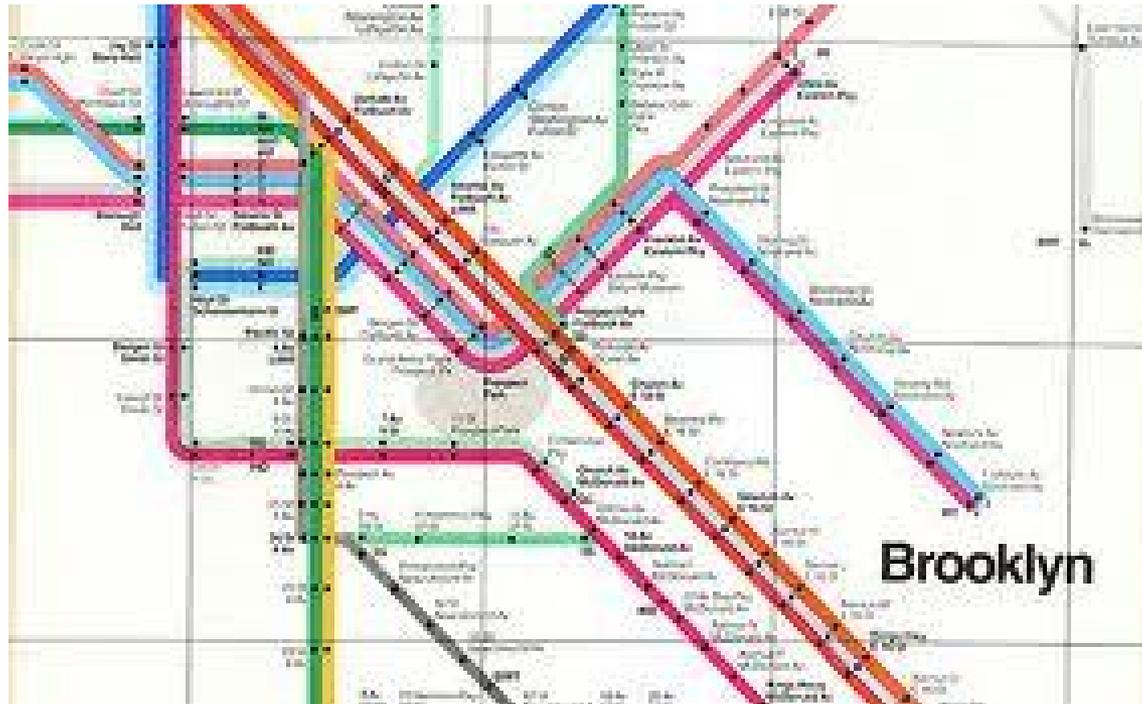
- ◉ Stage 3
- ◉ Approaches



WE NEED MORE DETAIL



FOUR QUADRANTS GRANT & SHAPIRO



WHY DO PEOPLE TO SUFFER

⊙ Non-Acceptance of Reality

- Suffering = Pain + Resistance (Clinging and Aversion)

⊙ In any difficult situation, there are four options:

- ⊙ Solve the problem
- ⊙ Change how you feel about the problem
- ⊙ Accept the problem
- ⊙ Suffer

Learning to Accept Reality takes skill and is not modelled well

Therapy is a place to practice reality

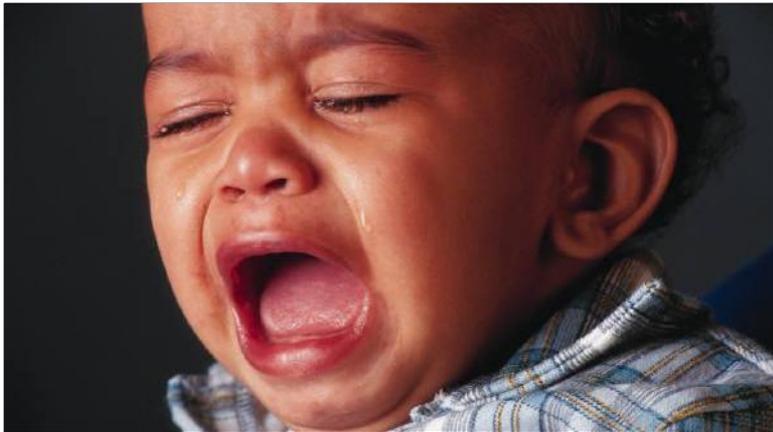
Positive
Fantasy

Positive
Reality

Negative
Fantasy

Negative
Reality

“The Dirty Deal” (Thanks, but no thanks!)



- It's better to be BAD in a safe and predictable world...



- Than GOOD in an unsafe and unpredictable world.

Positive
Fantasy

The diagram consists of two rounded rectangular boxes on the left, one above the other. The top box is labeled 'Positive Fantasy' and the bottom box is labeled 'Negative Fantasy'. Both boxes are maroon with white text. Light blue arrows point from the right side of each box towards a large, empty maroon rectangular box on the right. A vertical purple bar with a diamond pattern is on the far right edge of the slide.

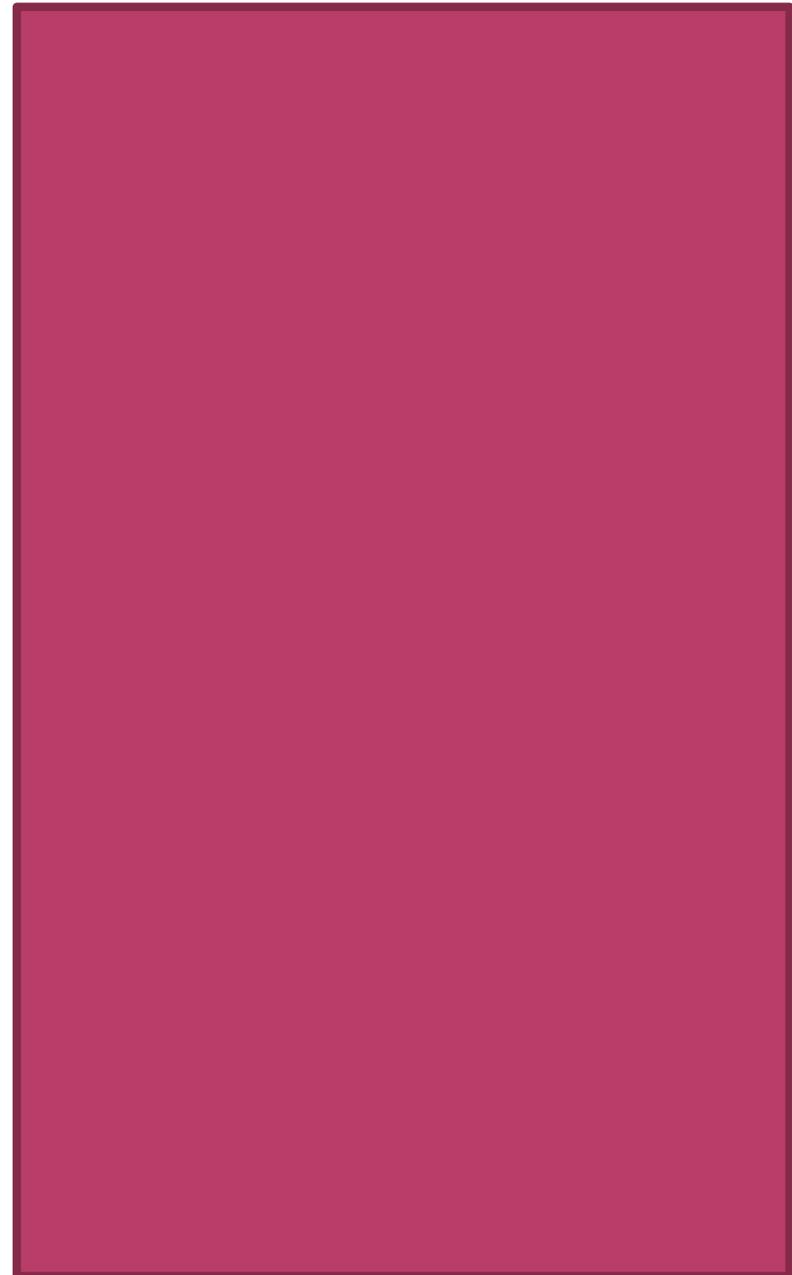
Negative
Fantasy

- Positive Fantasy

What client needed to believe to survive.

- Negative Fantasy

Price paid to believe illusion - the symptoms.



Positive
Reality

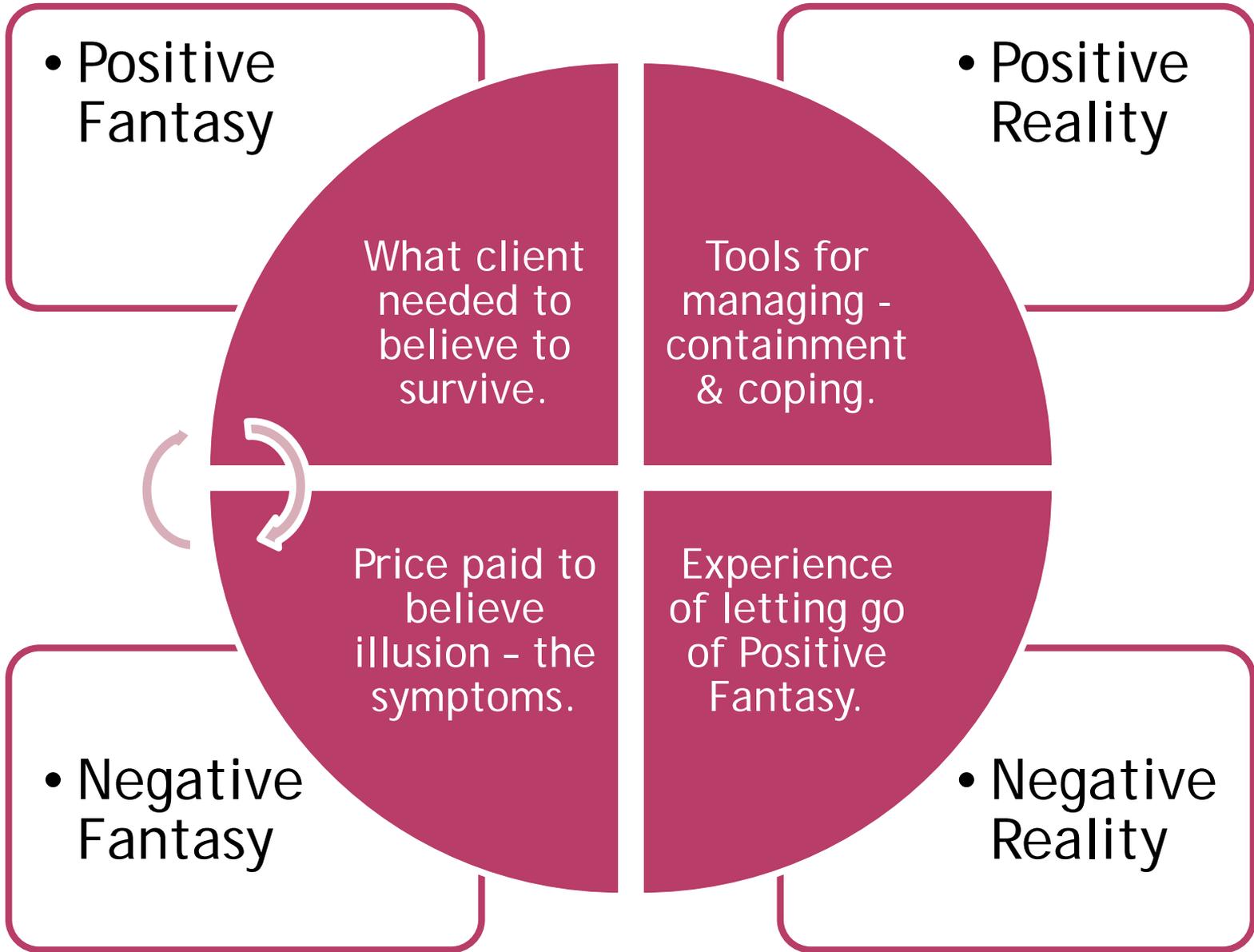
Negative
Reality

- Positive Reality

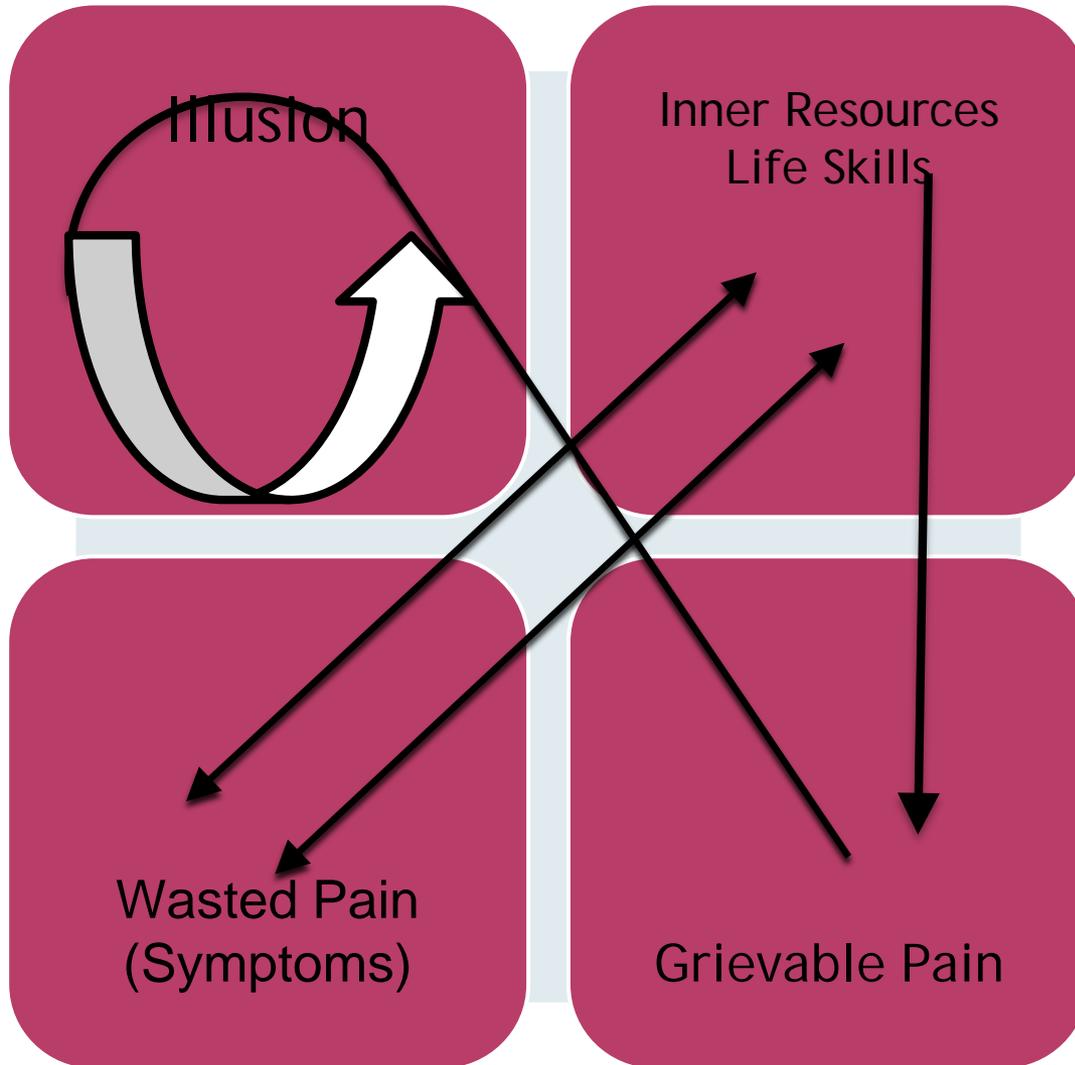
Tools for
managing -
containment
& coping.

Experience
of letting go
of Positive
Fantasy.

- Negative Reality



WASTED PAIN SHUFFLE



THANK YOU

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www.presentmomentcounseling.com/wings

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