

Adopting a Simulation-Based Framework for Training Heath Professions in Trauma-Informed Care Related to Human Trafficking



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Introduction

In 2023, there were over 1,700 cases of human trafficking (HT) in Texas alone. Trauma-informed (TI) care has gained standing in the literature as the recommended approach to care for these individuals. To train healthcare providers (HCP), focused planning is crucial to developing and implementing a scientifically based, TI, health professions simulation. Simulation promotes

- clinical reasoning
- clinical judgment
- critical thinking through experiential learning

Theoretical Framework

Nurse educators used the Guest Trauma-Informed Simulation Educational Framework® to guide the development of a virtual HT scenario to educate community HCPs. Through a round table discussion, educators collaborated with experts in simulation design and the care of HT survivors.

Description

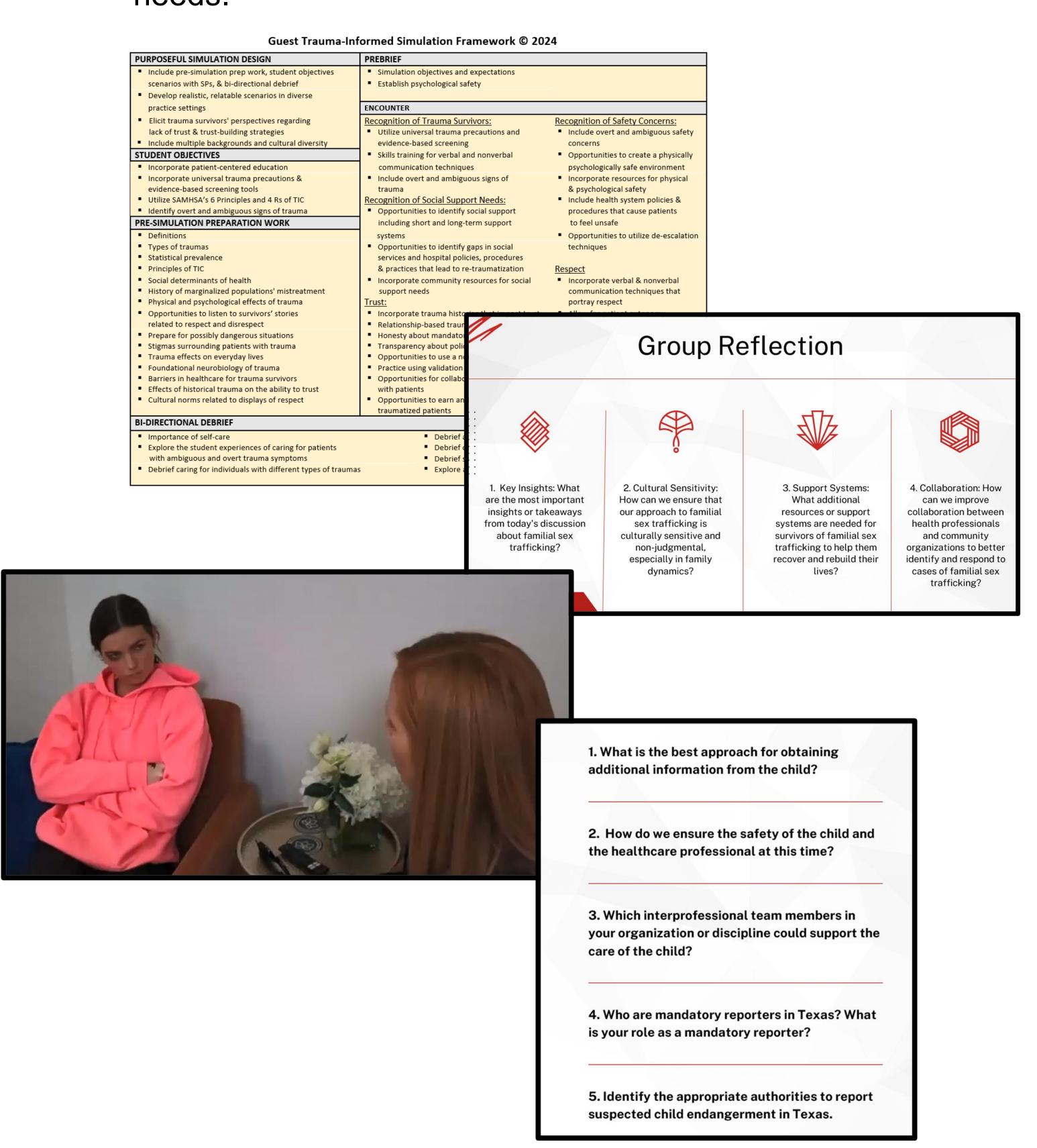
The scenario depicts a female teen victim of familial HT. The HCP is challenged with identifying the red flags of HT and methods for ensuring the safety of the client:

- Dressed inappropriately for weather
- No eye contact
- Wearing sunglasses to cover a black eye
- Tattoo on hand
- Complaints of generalized pain
- Mother did not allow the child to speak

This virtual simulation was divided into three vignettes with mini debriefs in between each clip and a large debrief at the end.

Results

The experts included each component of the theoretical framework (simulation design, student objectives, student preparation work, encounter, and bi-directional debrief) in the design of the virtual scenario. Emphasis was placed on trust, respect, and recognizing trauma survivors along with their safety concerns and social support needs.



Due to the high prevalence of trauma in society, HCPs must learn better methods to care for these individuals. Health profession educators can use this framework to create simulations for any type of trauma, including HT, to train HCPs in TI care.

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