**Phillips, Stacy (PS1-C)**

**Exploring the Role of Hope with Adjudicated Youth**

The juvenile justice system is structured off an adult system of care that doesn’t account for childhood trauma, the unique needs of adolescents, and utilizes forms of punishment that are likely creating pathways to criminality (Phillips, 2017).

Children are often exposed to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Children who have experienced ACEs suffer long term consequences that include an increased risk of perpetuating violence. (Finkel, 2014). In 2014, the largest ACE study was conducted in the Florida Juvenile Justice System surveying 64,000 juvenile offenders. The study demonstrated that every offender was subjected to some form of childhood trauma prior to entering the juvenile justice system. (Finkel, 2014).

We must examine strategies to mitigate childhood trauma to reduce entrance into the juvenile justice system. This might be accomplished with the science of hope. There is a long- established science on hope based with sound, validated measures. Consistent with the literature, hope is a significant predictor of well-being. It not only buffers adversity and stress, predicts adaptive thoughts and behaviors, but can be learned and sustained.

This workshop will demonstrate strategies to both measure and nurture hope, with a focus on high trauma youth.

Keywords: Juvenile Justice, ACEs, Hope

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