



Justice Center for the Protection of People With Special Needs

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Justice Center Sponsors Vicarious Trauma Seminar for Caregivers

Featured Renowned Speaker and Author

The New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs (Justice Center) sponsored an Albany seminar for individuals who engage with those suffering from or experiencing trauma. The session, held in the Empire State Plaza, featured Laura van Dernoot Lipsky, Founder and Director of the Trauma Stewardship Institute, who offered a compelling mix of personal insight and important research to help caregivers gain a deeper understanding of the cumulative impact of ongoing exposure to suffering or trauma known as vicarious trauma or compassion fatigue.

Approximately 350 individuals attended the event, which is part of the Justice Center's ongoing efforts to provide abuse prevention tools, resources and training for professionals who serve or interact with people with behavioral and mental health needs. Participants included victim service providers, law enforcement, state agency staff, emergency medical services personnel, human services professionals and other individuals who provide care to individuals that have experienced trauma.

Lipsky explained the cyclical nature of vicarious trauma and the ways individuals can practice self-care to guard against and manage the effects of traumatic stress. She called trauma stewardship: "the entire conversation about how we come to do this work, how we are affected by it, and how we make sense of and learn from our experiences."

Established by Governor Andrew M. Cuomo and the Legislature, the Justice Center is dedicated to supporting and protecting people with special needs and disabilities. The Justice Center serves as a law enforcement agency which seeks to ensure that individuals who receive services from a facility or provider that is operated, licensed or certified by six state agencies, are protected from abuse, neglect and mistreatment.

The agency also provides a wide range of supports and services to individuals who have experienced abuse, and to their family members to help them through each stage of an investigation to conclusion as well as information, technical assistance and training to further support and empower individuals with disabilities of all ages, in all settings.

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