

## MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS LEARNING SERIES

### Virtual Strand

*Preventing Child Maltreatment in a Virtual Learning Environment, Presented by Lisa Specter-Dunaway, Ali Faruk, and Hamilton Holloway*

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#### Webinar Summary:

Safety, trust, collaboration, connection, all of these have to come FIRST for children before the things we think of traditionally as “learning.” Preventing abuse and neglect of children in this new environment of physical distancing means focusing on relationships as protective factors. Creating multiple and regular touch points for children to connect with people with whom they have strong relationships will create spaces for understanding the health of the child and preventing problems before they get worse.

#### Resources:

- [A Guide for Mandated Reporters in Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect](#) (Virginia Department of Social Services)

#### References:

- Calling all family and friends of families experiencing violence at home. Retrieved August 18, 2020, from [https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/Futures\\_Resources-updated\\_new.pdf](https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/wp-content/uploads/Futures_Resources-updated_new.pdf)
- Guest Blogger. (2020, March 23). Minimizing opportunity during Coronavirus quarantine. *Darkness to Light*. [https://www.d2l.org/minimizing-opportunity-during-coronavirus-quarantine/?utm\\_medium\\_email&utm\\_source=lo&utm\\_campaign=adavis](https://www.d2l.org/minimizing-opportunity-during-coronavirus-quarantine/?utm_medium_email&utm_source=lo&utm_campaign=adavis)

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- Siegfried, C. B., Blackshear, K., National Child Traumatic Stress Network, with assistance from the National Resource Center on ADHD: A Program of Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD). (2016). *Is it ADHD or child traumatic stress? A guide for clinicians*. Los Angeles, CA & Durham, NC: National Center for Child Traumatic Stress.
- White, J. (2020, June 10). *Trauma informed care in the age of Coronavirus* [Webinar]. Virginia PTA. <https://www.vapta.org/events/events-4/advocacy-afternoon-webinars>

### Discussion Guide:

- 1) What are the 5 protective factors for abuse prevention?
- 2) Name 4 warning signs of abuse.
- 3) Name two things you can do to help a child feel safe so they are ready to learn?
- 4) How can you support a child who is displaying problems with attention, concentration, memory loss and frequent confusion?
- 5) What are some open-ended questions to ask a child to discover warning signs?
- 6) What are ways school assignments can promote connection?
- 7) What are ways class activities can promote resilience?