

**BUILDING CAPACITY + SOMATIC "FIRST AID"** 

# 1) Quick Points:

SMARTWIND SWALLBODA

The importance of The Biology of Stress Videos:

#### Education is **KEY**

Continue to create more exit paths and expanding space in the nervous system and body system.

- Grow the <u>POOL</u> (the body capacity)
- Take out the <u>BALLS</u> (don't let the acute stress STICK; release old stored <u>PROCEDURAL</u> memories)
- It's **NOT** important to process **EVERY SINGLE** event

"Biological" Embodiment

Learning how to <u>LISTEN</u> to the body's signals.

### How To Practice Somatic "First Aid"

1) Write down 4 things you can do when a minor, not **LIFE HARMING** event or stress takes place.

- ORIENT
- CONNECT TO GROUND
- NOTICE BREATH
- FOLLOW IMPULSE

Any others?

2. If you can't process the **SOMATIC EXPERIENCE** in the moment, make a **CONSCIOUS NOTE**, to do so when you have time and space.



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#### For example:

- Do some nervous system <u>HEALTH</u> basics: either organically, or use the <u>NEUROSENSORY</u>
  EXERCISES.
- Seek our some support and <u>SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT</u>
- Connect with **NATURE** (literal or in visualization)
- Make use of **RESOURCES** (music; movement; spiritual practice; anything that grounds you.)

### "The 4 When's:"

#### 1) WHEN 'NOT' TO RESOURCE

- When to resource externally versus internally **DEPENDS** on many **FACTORS**.
- As more <u>CAPACITY</u> is cultivated (bigger <u>POOL</u>) and more <u>CONTAINMENT</u> is on board (more exit <u>PATHS</u> and better biological <u>EMBODIMENT</u>) the need for <u>EXTERNAL</u> resources decreases.
- We might consider <u>NOT</u> going to a resource when we are feeling a <u>SOMATIC EXPERIENCE</u> bubbling up (or already present); at this time we might <u>STICK WITH</u> what is being felt somatically, so we can access it and <u>INTEGRATE</u> it.
- <u>BUT</u>, making the <u>CHOICE</u> to not dive into the felt sense, and <u>HONORING</u> our limits by using an <u>EXTERNAL OR INTERNAL</u> resource, is <u>HEALING</u> in itself!!
- Overriding our <u>CAPACITY</u> creates more strain and survival stress and is <u>COUNTERPRODUCTIVE</u>. (Remember: Beach Balls?)



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#### 2) WHEN 'NOT' TO ORIENT

- This is so **INDIVIDUAL**
- Orienting can take us out of processing internal <u>SENSATION</u>
- (BUT), it's better than **DISCONNECTING** from ourselves and our environment.
- You have to be the **JUDGE**
- You have to learn how to <u>EXPERIMENT</u> with what you <u>CAN</u> and <u>CANNOT</u> tolerate.

#### 3) WHEN 'NOT' TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH

- Same points for breath as for <u>ORIENTING</u>
- Sometimes we <u>NEED</u> to take a deep breath.
  - Sometimes we just need extra <u>OXYGEN</u>!

#### 4) WHEN YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT TO DO

- DO NOT WORRY go back to the basics (see above).
- Plus remember, LEARNING a second "language" takes PRACTICE AND TIME.
- As more neurosensory **SKILLS** come into your repertoire,
- All the lessons within the labs <u>COUPLED</u> with the theory (these are the "ABCs & 123s"),



#### **BUILDING CAPACITY + SOMATIC "FIRST AID"**

- We start to **STRING** together the "words" of **INTERNAL** somatic awareness.
- With practice, we begin to <u>NATURALLY</u> move to our internal system without conscious thought: this means we are becoming more <u>FLUENT</u> in the language of our somatic experience, we are getting more comfortable with it. We are growing nervous system <u>CAPACITY</u>.
- This means we are getting better at **ATTUNING** to ourselves, not to mention, knowing what we need and when.
- For many of us, this process of better attuning to ourselves, becomes more fluent in our somatic experience, and being with it with awareness is <u>NEW TERRITORY</u> (similar to how a newborn baby is constantly having new experiences).
- This is how **BUILDING** capacity creates nervous system **REGULATION** in an adult
- Whereas for an <u>INFANT</u>, their self-regulation is created via co-regulation with another human (as a result of that attunement).

To be continued in Training Call #3.