Scratching the Surface: 30 Years of Questions, Victimization, and Advocacy

Jane Straub, Jared Scheierl, Patty Wetterling

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Introduction to 30 Years

Agenda

- Jane Straub: Introduction
- Patty Wetterling: History of Jacob’s case
- Jared Scheierl: Jared’s case history
- Jane Straub: Connecting the past to the present: Impact of trauma/Survivors
- Patty Wetterling: What now? Impact on others
- Jared Scheierl: Transition from victim to witness to survivor (+/-)
- Jane Straub: Utilizing information for cases and advocacy
- Questions
Mission of Jacob Wetterling Resource Center

- Create a world where kids can grow up safe.
- Support and resources for families with a missing or exploited loved one (all ages)
- Education/Prevention
- Advocacy and support to victims and families of abuse, violence and crimes

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Trauma

What is Trauma?

Individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

SAMHSA, 2014

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Trauma & Resilience
Themes to listen for
- Trauma
- Safe places
- Telling your story
- Things have changed
- Connection
- Necessary details
- Healing
- Misinterpretations
- Anger/Frustration
- Fear/Anxiety
- Other victims
- Mistakes
- Trauma begets trauma
- Recognizing victims
- Limited information
- Never ending

October 22, 1989 St. Joseph, MN

Search expands for boy abducted at gunpoint near St. Joseph
Kramer Lake – attempted abduction
July 3, 1989
• Dr. Newton’s son
• 12 years old
• White van
• 5 miles from Wetterling home

Jared Schirr Abducted January, 1989
• Cold Spring, MN
• 12 years old
• Impact of event
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2004

• Jared comes forward and shares his story and meets Patty
• Media connection

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Jared

• Impact of event
• Interviews
• Statements
• Sketches
• The Car
Joy the Curious and Jared
13 Paynesville victims 1986-87

- Stearns County
- Boys – aged 11-16
- Night time – on their way home
- Near their homes
- Wore a mask
- Deep raspy voice
- Threatened to have a gun or a knife
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Connection

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How Does Trauma Come Out?

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5 Concepts of Trauma-Informed Care
1. Relationships
2. Self-Regulation
3. Environment
4. Self-Care
5. Community
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Relationships

“It don’t ever take a fence down until you know why it was put up.”

-Robert Frost

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Self-Regulation

trigger

/ trig'ər /

noun

1. a small device that releases a spring or catch and so sets off a mechanism, especially in order to fire a gun

2. the act or action of setting off a mechanism

catch

verb

1. come or meet on occasion to happen or exist

2. in a story or narrative, to happen or exist

3. in a story or narrative, happen or exist

4. in a story or narrative, happen or exist

Environment

[Image of an office or meeting room]
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Self-Care

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Community

Slide 30
25th anniversary approaching
• Jerry and I called a meeting
• Bring back the team
• Jared was on fire
• Joy the curious
• FBI CARD Team
• NCMEC Billboard campaign
• John Walsh “The Hunt”
• Jared’s DNA
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Little things make a huge difference
- Disclosure Rates
- Low
- Set the space
- Language
- Ownership
- Active vs Passive
- Neutrality

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More Victims
- Disclosure
- Long Term Support
- Outreach

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Long Term Support