

# Trauma Matters

Winter 2026

A quarterly publication dedicated to the dissemination of information on trauma and best-practices in trauma-informed care

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

### Page 1-2

Healing Beyond Bars: The Need for Trauma-Informed Therapy Post-Incarceration for Women

### Page 2-3

Inside Hang Time: Connection and Community

### Page 3-4

Ask the Experts: An Interview with Dennis Daniels and Ruby Pullen-Daniels

### Page 6

Who's Reading *Trauma Matters*?

### Editor:

Alana Valdez, MA

### Editorial Board:

- Alicia Feller, LCSW, MA-IHH
- Carl Bordeaux, CPRP, CARC
- Eva Michelle Bryant, LMSW
- Kimberly Karanda, PhD, LCSW, DMHAS
- Eileen M. Russo, MA, LADC
- Lindsey Miller, LPC, DCF
- Laura Williamson, MARC
- Maggie Young, DSW, LADC

A digital version of this publication with full interviews and a full list of references and resources is available for download at our website:

[www.womensconsortium.org](http://www.womensconsortium.org)

## Healing Beyond Bars: The Need for Trauma-Informed Therapy Post-Incarceration for Women

by Jozlyn Hall, PhD, PsyD

Incarceration impacts individuals on multiple levels, but for women, the experience often intersects with histories of trauma, abuse, and socio-economic hardship. Upon release, the reintegration process into society presents numerous challenges, many of which are compounded by unresolved psychological trauma. Trauma-informed therapy post-incarceration is not merely beneficial; it is essential for fostering resilience, reducing recidivism, and supporting the overall well-being of formerly incarcerated women.

Specific training for therapists working with women re-entering the community is vital. Traditional therapeutic approaches may not fully address the complex intersection of trauma, incarceration, and gender-specific challenges these women face. Therapists need specialized skills to recognize the nuanced effects of incarceration-related trauma, understand the stigma and societal pressures women encounter post-release, and employ culturally sensitive, gender-responsive techniques. Comprehensive training ensures therapists can create a safe and supportive space, enabling women to process their experiences, rebuild trust, and navigate their reintegration with compassion and competence.

Studies reveal that a significant majority of incarcerated women have experienced some form of trauma prior to their imprisonment. This includes physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, often starting in childhood. Incarceration can exacerbate existing trauma or introduce new layers through the experience of confinement, separation from family, and exposure to the prison environment.

Trauma-informed therapy plays a pivotal role in helping women address the root causes of behaviors that may have contributed to their incarceration. By exploring and resolving underlying issues, therapy offers a path to emotional healing and growth. Women who receive proper mental health support post-incarceration are less likely to reoffend, as therapy equips them with coping mechanisms and emotional regulation skills essential for managing daily stressors and making healthier decisions.

Rebuilding connections with children, family, and the broader community is another vital aspect of reintegration. Trauma-informed therapy provides the tools necessary for effective communication and emotional intimacy, which can mend and strengthen these crucial relationships. Additionally, engaging in therapy promotes self-sufficiency by enhancing self-esteem and confidence—key components in securing employment, stable housing, and pursuing further education.

There are many challenges to accessing trauma-informed therapy. Despite its clear benefits, many women face significant barriers to accessing therapy after release. Limited availability of mental health services, particularly in rural or underserved areas, remains a primary hurdle. Financial constraints and the lack of insurance coverage often prevent women from seeking or continuing therapy.

Stigma surrounding mental health care, coupled with the complexities of navigating support systems, further discourages access. Moreover, insufficient coordination between correctional facilities and community-based services can lead to gaps in care,

leaving many women without the necessary resources to support their transition.

The journey from incarceration to full societal reintegration is complex, particularly for women carrying the weight of trauma. By prioritizing trauma-informed therapy, society can offer these women not just a second chance but the essential tools to heal, thrive, and contribute positively to their communities. Healing beyond bars is not only a moral imperative but also a crucial step toward creating safer, healthier environments for everyone.

*Dr. Jozlyn Hall, PhD, PsyD, is a nationally recognized Mitigation Specialist and expert in trauma-informed rehabilitation for justice-involved individuals. With decades of experience working alongside criminal defense teams and designing pro-social programming for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated populations, Dr. Hall brings a compassionate and evidence-based approach to reentry work. She is the creator of numerous independent study workbooks. As a trainer and advocate, Dr. Hall is dedicated to equipping therapists with the tools they need to effectively support individuals transitioning back into society after incarceration.*

## Inside Hang Time: Connection and Community

by Alana Valdez, MA

**S**eptember 30th was one of those days when it finally started to feel like maybe there would be a semblance of a New England autumn after all, but the pleasant weather did little to ease my anxiety. Even though I knew where I was going and had left earlier than necessary, I honored my fear of getting lost and popped the address in my GPS anyway.

I'd heard no shortage of good things about Hang Time, and Dr. Maggie Young, an editorial board member, was the one who sent me their way. I knew their team would welcome me, but I couldn't shake the nervousness of entering the space as an amateur journalist with no lived experience of incarceration.

Hang Time is many things, but can be best summed up as a social services navigation hub. The gathering I attended in Bridgeport



is a two-hour event that brings together formerly incarcerated adults, local residents, law enforcement partners, and community leaders—a family, I'd come to learn—for a meal and a discussion. These gatherings occur weekly or bi-weekly in Waterbury, New Haven, and Bridgeport, with the goal of bridging the gap between incarceration and returning to the community. The program is entirely voluntary, and Hang Time staff serve as advocates, connecting participants to resources like housing and job support. Since 2014, 10,000 people have participated, with 95% avoiding recidivism.

My nerves were quelled for the first time that evening when I met Charlie Grady, Hang Time's CEO and Founder. I'm usually put off by hugs from strangers, but Charlie's felt natural. He was genuinely excited to see me there and to show me the "magic of Hang Time."

I signed in and carefully chose a seat in the corner: close enough to seem approachable, but far enough to have some space to myself. While I waited for the meeting to start, I checked in with Michelle Litt, Executive Director. Michelle, equally warm and inviting, put me at ease once again. I resisted the comfort of fiddling with my phone and instead found myself in a captivating and unexpected conversation about masculinity and the New York Mets with the men sitting next to me, one of whom was a volunteer

from Southport Congregational Church, that night's food donor. As the room filled up, my corner seat proved less isolated than initially intended, but by then, I didn't mind.

Though many of the participants were regulars, everyone listened intently as Charlie took the floor to introduce Hang Time. He broke down each program: Her Time, a sister program exclusively for women, Hang Time Mobile, which provides travel experiences to broaden participants' horizons, and CHOICES, a mentorship program in Waterbury and Bridgeport schools, guiding students through social challenges and encouraging positive decisions. We also learned about the Connecticut Hall of Change, a public forum that acknowledges the growth and accomplishments of formerly incarcerated people, honoring four women and four men annually.

After the overview, Charlie assigned four random pairs to interview and introduce one another. In a different setting, this may have seemed like a nightmare icebreaker activity, but at Hang Time, vulnerability, curiosity, and connection outweighed awkwardness. Each pair introduced their partner with profound empathy and respect. Then, we each shared our names, our stories, and the best part of our day. Some people had just returned home a week prior, some had been out of incarceration



for years, one was in law enforcement, and several were representatives from other community organizations. Despite the length of this process, Charlie offered personalized questions and compliments to each participant.

From introductions, the conversation naturally evolved. Participants built on another's stories, sharing their own insights and ideas. Hang Time's culture of care encourages attendees to contribute: one participant, Lindsay, shared that she is exploring a program to financially support the children and grandchildren of incarcerated people.

The final agenda item was a presentation from a CHOICES mentor on harmful rhetoric around juvenile crime and the regurgitation of the debunked "super predator" theory. This theory led to the dismantling of many protections for juvenile offenders, disproportionately impacting Black boys and young men. While the theory's creator admitted it was flawed, similar rhetoric continues to be used by today's politicians.

A few weeks later, on October 15th, I attended Her Time in New Haven, led by Senior Program Manager Samaris Rose. As mentioned, Her Time is a space exclusively for women—specifically those impacted by trauma—and men are not permitted, even as presenters. Samaris opened the evening with history and context before turning the program over to Samantha Tellefsen, Assistant Program Manager, who shared a wide range of resources, including information on voting rights, affordable housing, and victims' services.

What followed was a moving discussion on women as sources of strength, self-imposed gender roles, and boundary setting. Motivational speaker Regina Martin closed the evening with a presentation on framing one's life as a story—reflecting, redefining, and rebuilding—acknowledging the past without living in it.

The contrast between a friendly meal and a resource or education-heavy presentation might seem stark, but this balance is what makes Hang/Her Time effective. It fosters belonging through laughter, shared stories, and casual conversation, giving people a space where they can be themselves without

judgment. At the same time, participants gain knowledge about the factors that have shaped their lives and experiences with incarceration, and leave knowing they have a community they can turn to for support, guidance, and encouragement.

When I first arranged to attend Hang Time and Her Time, everyone kept telling me, "You just need to experience it for yourself." They were right. Participants have this natural inclination to hype each other up, call out self-criticism, and meet doubt with reassurance. The kindness, openness, and love in these spaces made me emotional: both a sadness that this kind of support didn't exist sooner, and a hope that it exists now.

I feel that these two quotes on Hang Time's website capture it better than I can:

*"When I first sat down, I wasn't sure what I walked into. By the time I left, I knew this is exactly what I need since I just got home from prison."* – Chris

*"Her Time means support. You are free to talk about anything and no one looks at you like you are crazy. I can ask for advice and when you get it, it's like, 'Hold my hand, Sister!'"* – Georgetowne Ngoy

Both evenings ended with a lopsided circle, the joining of hands, and a scream of, "Hang Time!"—or "Her Time!"—on 3.

*Take my word for it, you do need to experience it for yourself. The program's schedule is available on [hangtimerealtalk.org/programs/hang-time](http://hangtimerealtalk.org/programs/hang-time), and [hangtimerealtalk.org/programs/her-time](http://hangtimerealtalk.org/programs/her-time).*

## Ask the Experts:

### An Interview with Dennis Daniels and Rubye Pullen-Daniels

By Carl Bordeaux, CPRP, CARC

Dennis Daniels is a distinguished leader who has dedicated his life to public service and community reintegration. Mr. Daniels has had an extraordinary career spanning public service, public safety, crisis leadership, and social justice. A lifelong resident of New

Haven, he joined the New Haven Fire Department in 1975, rising through the ranks to become fire chief in 1998. As chief, he played a pivotal role in developing forward-thinking programs that shaped the department's future, all while advocating for diversity and equity in the fire service.

Following his tenure in public safety, Mr. Daniels transitioned to another critical area of community service: helping formerly incarcerated individuals rebuild their lives. As president and CEO of Project M.O.R.E., he led efforts to expand reentry programs, transitional housing, and support services for returning citizens in Connecticut and New York. Under his leadership, Project M.O.R.E. continued its mission to reduce recidivism, foster community stability, and provide trauma-informed pathways to successful reintegration.

**CARL BORDEAUX:** Good afternoon, and welcome to this edition of *Ask the Experts* for the incarceration and trauma series of *Trauma Matters*. I'm honored to be speaking today with Mr. Dennis Daniels. We have a special treat, we also have Mr. Daniels' wife, Rubye Pullen-Daniels, who was one of the founding visionaries of Project M.O.R.E. joining us.

Today, we'll be diving into Mr. Daniels' experiences from firefighting to reentry advocacy, and exploring the intersections of incarceration, trauma, and community healing. Mr. and Mrs. Daniels, thank you for joining us.

**DENNIS DANIELS:** Thank you for having us.

**RUBY PULLEN-DANIELS:** Yes.

**CB:** So first question—and Mrs. Daniels, feel free to chime in—is Project M.O.R.E. has been a pillar in the New Haven community for nearly 50 years. Can you share the story of how it all began and what inspired you to take on this work?

**DD:** Well, Project M.O.R.E. was created in 1974 by a diverse group of individuals. The purpose was to assist ex-offenders with reentry to their communities. Thus the name, Project M.O.R.E.: Model Offender Reintegration Experience.

At the time of its inception, Project M.O.R.E. was under the aegis of the now-defunct Neighborhood Corporation. Project M.O.R.E. remained in that role until 1976, when it became a private nonprofit agency on its own.

**RPD:** [It was] the concept, most importantly, of a gentleman named Kenny Kinsler, who was a caseworker at the Hill Neighborhood Corporation. And he had been incarcerated. He was a fine young man who had wonderful ideas. And he decided once in a meeting with Roger Everson, who was the executive direc-

tor of the Hill Neighborhood Corporation—that was during the Model Cities era—he said, “We need to have help for men and women who come out of the jails and need help seeking jobs, completing resumes, somewhere to stay.” He had the idea!

And from that, a gathering of community folks came together, including the staff at the Hill Neighborhood Corporation. I, at the time, was a grantsman and wrote programs, one of the many people that wrote programs. And it was from that—and a Vista worker, there was Vista workers very much alive in New Haven, and they helped mostly community-based organizations, and we were one of seven of those community-based organizations. But I have to say, in many ways, we did shine.

And Raymond Lopes, I have to give him all the glory! Raymond Lopes was the gentleman that had the vision of having a program that would help people that were in [prison]. He was also the first Black commissioner in the state of Connecticut. I believe it was Mr. Manson was leaving, and Raymond Lopes had been a probation officer and involved in parole, all kinds of activities, and was made the Executive Commissioner, or the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections. We got an “okay”, and he gathered people from his staff and began to talk about how it [could] happen.

There was also a young woman that was involved particularly, and she was one that said, we must have women included in this. Her name was Virginia Wells. And from that, we have originated the Virginia Wells House. We were able to put together the program with many, many meetings and many, many different people, lots of community input from the Hill and from the other areas, and there we were with Project M.O.R.E..

We began that and ended up with houses in that area, that area in the Hill. New York was not involved at that time, New York later came.

But we had the Walter Brooks house, we had the Roger Everson house, we had the Virginia Wells house, and I tell you, it just blossomed. And we had transitional, housing as well.

So, that’s how we started. And the first director was Mr. Cowan. He was a twin, I remember, Vernon and Herman. And Mr. Cowan was our first director. And I tell you, it happened so quickly. And it caught on so quickly, that it had to be. It had to come into being, and it did. Thank God, Commissioner Lopes took the time to hear, the time it took to plan, and then gave the money. Got the money for us to start that program.

**CB:** Well, that’s a great story. Thank you for sharing that.

Incarceration and reentry can be deeply traumatic experiences. So, from your perspective, what are some of the most overlooked challenges that individuals face when transitioning back into society after incarceration?

**DD:** Well, one of the problems that I saw was that there was a need for housing. And unfortunately, in New Haven, housing was pretty limited. The clients had to face the issues of not being qualified for housing; they had certain issues about hiring, about housing, having clients live in the houses that they were sent to. And so that was an issue.

Another issue was employment. [There were] some employers that were not really open to hiring ex-offenders. And we had to seek out those employers that would accept clients coming, looking for work.

Now, the Walter Brooks Halfway House, was a work release program in which individuals [who stayed there] had to go out and seek employment in order to stay.

**CB:** And Walter Brooks House was one of the houses that you had at that time?

**DD:** Yes, it was a 67-bed facility.

**RPD:** Well, one of the problems, you see, with housing at that time is that we had this “not in my backyard” idea. There were neighbors that did not want this type of facility in their area. So that in itself was another struggle, to get those people; to say, “We are going to provide the security, the help, the resources that you’re going to need in order to feel safe. And as a matter of fact, we’ll even lend in-kind services if you need them.”

So that was done. You know, we shoveled walks. They shoveled walks, and [raked] leaves and helped the elderly get their trash cans out. And if a church needed food to be delivered for their food program, distribution program, we got that together. And that was something, when they found out that this was safe! This was people that wanted to succeed and who had made a mistake. And it was founded on that!

People make mistakes. And they may make more than one, they may make 12 mistakes. But we’re still going to openly accept you, because we believe that you’re trying to do better. We’re going to give you the resources, the place to live. We’re going to give you the training. We’re going to give you the workshops, the seminars, the family relation helps, and even the psychological help.

**CB:** That’s great. So, you certainly started out with a great [foundational] understanding and probably [learned] more as you went along. But you were committed, it sounds like, to addressing whatever needs came up to help

people succeed.

**RPD:** That’s right.

**CB:** Over the years, Project M.O.R.E. has expanded significantly to offer a range of services, and you’ve talked about some of those including transitional housing, job training, and community supervision. What are some of the key lessons you’ve learned about what truly helps people rebuild their lives after incarceration?

**DD:** I believe that the training that they receive, we have, in most cases, a cognitive training, therapy training, in which the individuals go to a workshop where they can see what their issues were that brought them there. And now, it makes them realize that they have to change their life around when they come out. Before, they used to drop off individuals [who were referred to transitional housing] in the street or at the library [from prison]. And clients would find themselves just out there, not knowing where to go or what to do. Now we know that they’re being dropped off at Project M.O.R.E., and we receive them and we give them some direction, some resources. We even give them a change of clothes, because sometimes they’re dropped off in their prison wear. So that’s just one of the things that we do to help the clients’ re-entry.

**CB:** So it sounds like there was a time when people were being dropped off right into the street. And so, you’ve been working towards changing that, so at least the referrals that you get, you’re connected with them before they leave incarceration, and that’s a smoother transition.

**DD:** Right. And it could even be better if they, before being released, have some sort of program within the jail there that prepares them for release. But in a lot of cases, they don’t. But that’s something they should do.

**CB:** I understand. Any thoughts about any lessons learned over the years, Mrs. Pullen-Daniels?

**RPD:** I think some of the greatest lessons [were from] anybody that was involved in Project M.O.R.E. because they had great, wonderful people that were even on their board. We developed a board, having developed Project M.O.R.E., and there were well-known, caring people on that board. We had those that were even had been incarcerated themselves on the board. Because remember, we’re a different kind of program. This program is a program that allows people to make mistakes. This program hires people that have made mistakes.

And we accept, for example, if we have someone that was addicted to drugs and their crime was drug-related; they get out, and they say, “I’m going to change my life.” We use the re-

sources that are available within the community because you have AA, Alcoholics Anonymous. You've got NA, Narcotics Anonymous. We participate with those kinds of programs.

And then, you have people that really care and say, "Okay, you blew it this time, but we're going to have faith to believe that you're [not] going to do it again. And that you're going to try to do what is lawful, establish a career, establish better relationships, stop the relationships that are causing problems, and we're gonna help you do that.

**CB:** Trauma is both a cause and a consequence of incarceration. Have you seen changes in how the justice system and community organizations approach trauma and reentry services? And what still needs to improve?

**RPD:** There's still that prejudicial factor with people who have been incarcerated. But we're going to have to straighten out a lot of things for that to become a reality, of perfection or near perfection. Why? Because we're human. Why? Because we come from dysfunctional homes. Why? Because we are often in terrible relationships. We have terrible friends. And we are motivated by all kinds of different things, many of them psychological, that have never been addressed.

But you have a situation where we do not have fair sentencing, that there's [greater] parity in what we're trying to do now to be fair, but it's still not established. So some people who have resources, who have money for an attorney, they may get the better sentence. Whereas someone who does not have it, and particularly, I think Black and brown people and people who are of the lower economic areas are... It's not fair sentencing. They often get longer periods of time. And there are other things that contribute to that.

But I think that we do have good staff within the court now that are quite more sensitive. They are more sensitive. So, that's an improvement! And you have people now that are mediators within the court system, and they are the people that, take families and they're there to explain to the judge, and are available for those children or those adults that have had no resources at all, did not know what to do, were totally ignorant of the system and found themselves in that situation.

So, there is an improvement. I know part of the improvement is because of the caliber of judges that we have now who have been exposed and have been in training and educated to know these, and be sensitive to these differences; that every case is different. That families are allowed now to be more involved with their relative who's been incarcerated. You find good things and bad things in the system.

**CB:** Sounds like you've identified some challenges that still need to be addressed, especially [with] the unfair and unequal sentencing that people experience, but there's also been some improvements.

Mr. Daniels, given your prior career as fire chief, a role that also involves crisis management and public safety, how did that experience shape your leadership at Project M.O.R.E.? Were there any particular skills or insights from firefighting that you found especially relevant to working with returning citizens?

**DD:** I have one word, being: compassionate. You have to show compassion for those individuals that are returning through reentry, letting them know that they're being treated the same way that I like to be treated, letting them know that from your exit from incarceration, you have a new vision. In other words, what you did in the past is in the past. We're working with individuals going forward. And that was simply how I acted, [and what] went well in the fire department. I just, I treated the people the way I want to be treated. And in return, I got the respect back from them.

**CB:** Throughout your career, you've likely witnessed many success stories; individuals who overcame incredible odds to reintegrate and thrive. Could you share a story that has particularly stayed with you?

**DD:** One individual came in to the Westbrook facility. Like I said, it's a work release program. And individuals have to work, and they get paid, and there's a savings in which we provide the clients. And this individual came in and made \$26,000. He, I mean, he worked his tail off.

**CB:** Wow, impressive.

**DD:** I was impressed. There's another individual who was introverted and he got out and he turned his life around. And now he's the author of a book that shared his experiences on the criminal side. So, I was very impressed with him. Matter of fact, he's a member of my church! I've been very impressed with a lot of the clients who have turned themselves around.

**CB:** Now, programs like Project M.O.R.E., they work at the intersection of social services, criminal justice, and community health. I think you addressed some of this already, but I'll ask it again. What have been some of the biggest challenges in building partnerships and securing support for this work?

**DD:** Just basically convincing the employer or those individuals in the community that these clients have changed their lives around. In a lot of cases, the client proved that they have done that, through their communications with the, like I said, the Walter Brooks House. I'm sure the employers were impressed with the clients coming there because they kept them there.

And unfortunately for the women, they're from around the state. So, when they seek employment, they don't stay around. When their time is over with, they leave. So as a matter of fact, it's just a matter of convincing and sharing with the employer that these individuals are good clients.

**RPD:** You know, I have a saying that comes from the scriptures, "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath." My husband's a quiet man—still waters do run deep—and a man of discipline. It was a challenge all the time to stay within the realm of discipline, rules, codes, and regulations, but at the same time, to be, to have a gentle spirit, one of [what] he calls compassion.

That's the only way, because somebody, so many people needed that. They just needed somebody that cared, that believed in them, that helped dust the knee, the dirt off their knees and say, "Try again. You can do it." And that sounds kind of, "story land," but it happened successfully to so many people.

And I know, because on [the] probation and parole board, we had a lot of successes and we made a lot of changes. People that hadn't done anything, what was the need in still having someone come and check them every week? Somebody a certain age, they've been there, on parole for 17 years. What are we putting them on 18 years for? They're doing good!

**CB:** Maybe from the unlearned ear, it may seem to be fairytale-ish, but from an experiential perspective, we know that being validated, feeling supported, feeling like somebody has compassion and empathy and understands you, that can make all the difference in the world. So thank you for sharing that perspective, I think it's extremely important.

Looking ahead, what do you see as the future of trauma-informed reentry programs? Are there emerging trends or new approaches that you believe will make a difference in the lives of formerly incarcerated individuals?

**DD:** There are a number of agencies that are



trying to emulate Project M.O.R.E. Across the state, there are five other reentry centers opening up to assist the clients coming in.

**RPD:** Basically, you got most of your money from [the] Connecticut Support Services Division (CSSD) and the Department of Corrections. Then there were always special awards to get money for special programs. But, I think we need to open up the reality for our politicians, for those that make decisions about finances, to include the fact that we don't wash our hands of people who haven't been successful the first time.

**CB:** I'm a big proponent of that, I think that's a great idea because you never know when someone's going to make the change and turn around.

**RPD:** That's right. And we're people of faith, so we believe that there can be a change. All you have to do is hold on, that I can do this thing. That's what AA is all about.

Yeah, I'm human. I might make a mistake, but guess what? I can and I will do what I need to do in order to get better at whatever I'm doing or I'm failing at. And that's with these clients and that's with us.

Listen, we've heard of people that have married four and five times, but they just keep marrying! They've made mistakes! So what are you going to do, beat 'em them over the head, or you're going to believe that next time you'll get better at this? *[Laughter]*

**CB:** That's a big, that's a big deal. Within the recovery community, which is—this, your program is a part of the recovery community—we begin to understand that there needs to be a long-term commitment.

**RPD:** Yes, it has to be. Not a short-term commitment.

**CB:** But my last question is going to go [first to] Mr. Daniels. As you step off into retirement, what message do you hope to leave with those continuing this work? And what advice would you give to professionals, advocates, and communities striving to create a more supportive reentry system?

**DD:** In order to succeed, you need to just put more effort into putting yourself in their shoes, so to speak.

**CB:** That's where it starts, doesn't it? From there, you can do other things. As a matter of

fact, it opens up your mind to do other things if you start with a place of compassion and empathy.

Mrs. Pullen-Daniels, your final thoughts?

**RPD:** You know, I really do believe that there are people that get hard-hearted. Maybe they've done the job too long. Maybe they've been very successful and they think everybody else is going to do that as well. Perhaps it's hearsay and things that have not been documented. So we have to improve the professionals that are providing. Or these boards, give them the proper training, so they stay in—everybody needs to stay in their lane, now. And we're not throwing anybody out under the bus.

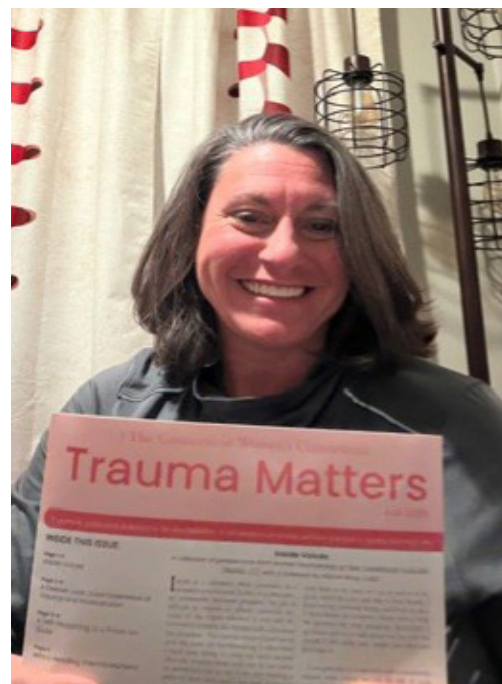
All these sayings are coming to me now, but there are people that once they make it, they think everybody else is going to make it in their time, and that they're going to be as successful as I am. It's good to have those examples, but there are people that still need training, and it comes from—whether it's the chairman of the board or whether it's the caseworker or the attorney, whoever's doing it, they need help. And we're not perfect people. We're people that make mistakes.

**CB:** That's the theme. It's been about compassion, about empathy, which has undergirded your whole vision; the whole program is built on trauma, built on compassion, built on empathy, and built on the fact that we're going to stay with the person for the long term through that journey.

**RPD:** Through the long haul.

**CB:** This has been tremendous conversation. I thank you both so much for your time and your willingness to share your experiences with our subscribers. So again, thank you again and the best for you, Mr. Daniels, on your retirement.

**DD:** Thank you.



Dr. Jozlyn Hall assumed the role of President of the Board at The Connecticut Women's Consortium in March 2025. She has a doctorate in Psychology and Religious Studies, along with a Master of Social Work. Over the past 13 years, Dr. Hall has served the community and the court by assessing and developing unmatched rapport with criminal defendants to assist with sentence modifications, sentence commutations, reentry plans and treatment recommendations. Her mission is to value each individual and bring dignity and respect to their lives, regardless of the criminal act charged or committed.

Dr. Hall began her career in social work and will always be a social worker at heart. Having the experience of a seasoned social worker and the skills acquired through Pastoral Counseling has resulted in a unique knowledge and experience base, creating a trusting working relationship with clients. She went on to earn a Doctorate in Psychology so she could conduct assessments, making the process more time and cost efficient.

## Who's Been Reading *Trauma Matters*?

**Dr. Jozlyn Hall, Board  
President of The Connecticut  
Women's Consortium**



**CONNECTICUT**  
Mental Health & Addiction Services

The Connecticut Women's Consortium  
2321 Whitney Avenue, Suite 401  
Hamden, CT 06518  
[www.womensconsortium.org](http://www.womensconsortium.org)