



## **Level II, The Trauma-Transformed School: Advanced Skills and Systems Change**

**Presenter: David Melnick, LICSW**

*Audience: This Level II, 3-credit graduate course is for educators who have prior learning in trauma and trauma-informed schools. School teams are encouraged to attend, including leaders / administrators knowledgeable in systems change and trauma.*

### Criteria for Eligible Participants:

- Completion of VT-HEC's Spring 2017 course, Development Trauma and Trauma-Informed Schools: Theory, Practice and Implementation, with David Melnick; or
- Completion of VT-HEC's Fall 2017 course, Developmental Trauma and Trauma-Informed Schools: Transforming Knowledge into Action, with David Melnick; or
- Completion of VT-HEC's Spring 2018 course, Fostering Resilient Learners: Creating Trauma Sensitive School Communities, with Joelle van Lent and Gillian Boudreau; or
- Completion of VT-HEC's Fall 2018 course, Transforming Trauma: How Schools Become Healing Communities, with Dave Melnick; or
- Completion of an equivalent introductory course approved by Dave Melnick and VT-HEC; or
- If a potential participant does not have prior learning in trauma, permission may be granted if he/she is part of a team comprised of colleagues who have a strong background in trauma.

Chronic traumatic stress has a global impact on the developing child and adolescent. Research and clinical/educational practices have helped clarify the expansive and often significant effects of chronic trauma across the lifespan for students exposed to highly adverse experiences. These experiences (sometimes referred to as toxic stress) often derail a youth's development and lead to a variety of functional adaptations that are used to combat the impact of trauma.

Participants will build on their past learning of the "Seven Domains of Impairment" (The National Child Traumatic Stress Network), as well their study of innovative approaches to creating "trauma-informed schools." Participants' work together will support advancement of individual practice and skills with youth and colleagues, as well as support shifting the culture/climate of their school and district. Students in this class will learn and practice advanced intervention skills and hone their abilities to see the destructive patterns from chronic trauma exposure. From this trauma-transformed lens, participants will come to understand organizations (e.g. schools) as "living" entities that often mirror the effects of trauma. While it is most often unintentional, organizations can actually intensify the experience of trauma if they are without effective and supportive practices and procedures. This class will use understanding of the core components of a trauma-transformed school to design methods and plans to encourage and sustain systemic change.

**Course:** 3/22, 4/30, 5/31, 6/20, and 7/16/19

**Location:** Waterbury/Stowe Best Western,  
Waterbury, VT

**Cost:** \$1590

**Time:** 8:30-3:30

Contact Julie Medose ([Julie.medose@vthec.org](mailto:Julie.medose@vthec.org)) for registration.

Dave Melnick, LICSW is the Director of Outpatient Services at NFI, Vermont, a statewide mental health agency primarily serving children, adolescents and families. For the past 30 years, Dave has worked in a variety of settings including: outpatient, residential treatment, and in public and day treatment schools. He is a fellow with the Child Trauma Academy.



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