

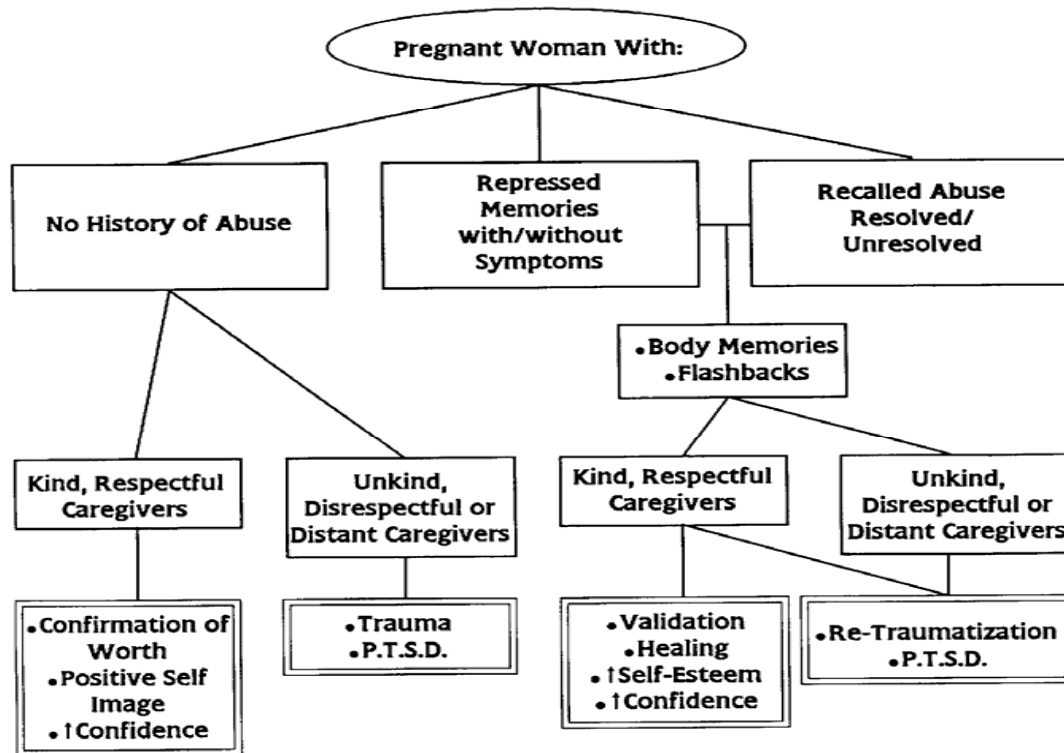


Summary and Conclusion



See handout

How Professional Attitudes Affect Women's Birth Experiences



A positive birth experience enhances a woman's self-confidence and her readiness to make the transition to motherhood.



How Professional Attitudes Affect Women's Birth Experiences

Pregnant woman with
No history of abuse

Kind respectful
caregivers

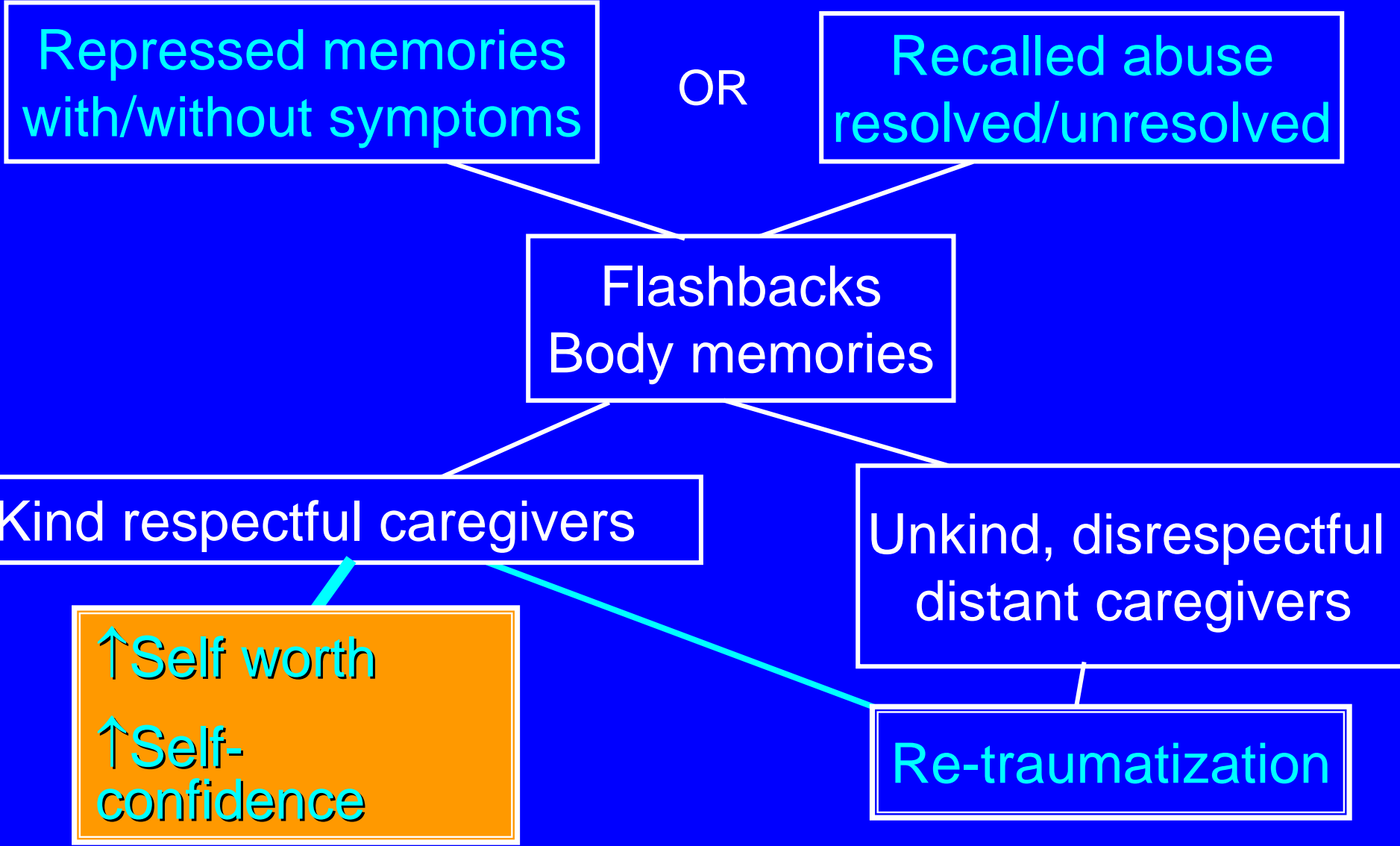
Unkind, disrespectful,
distant caregivers

↑Self worth
↑Self-confidence
Improved self-image

Trauma
PTSD



How Professional Attitudes Affect Birth Experiences for Pregnant Women With





Conclusions

- Childhood sexual abuse (CSA) is widespread in our culture
- A large proportion of childbearing women are abuse survivors



Conclusions

- CSA causes trauma in the victim, and the effects continue long beyond the actual abuse
- CSA survivors are at high risk for further traumatization during childbirth



Conclusions

- Caregivers are able to provide sensitive and appropriate care if they
 - Accept that many clients have a history of childhood sexual abuse
 - Know common manifestations during childbearing
 - Tailor their care to minimize or avoid triggering adverse reactions



Conclusions

- Such care reduces the likelihood that the childbirth experience will be traumatic for the survivor, and may even contribute to her healing.



Afterword from “When Survivors Give Birth”

- Abuse is not over when it ends.
- Each of us can be a part of the solution



“You’re the reason why”
by Linny Simkin

