Path to Trauma-Informed Care

research  plan  implement
SCTIC Background

• An initiative of the Supreme Court of Texas Children’s Commission
• Follows a study by the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute on Trauma Informed Care in Texas
• The SCTIC was launched on July 28, 2017

Trauma-Informed Care Findings

• Child-serving systems are training staff in trauma-informed care.
• Despite the availability of training that addresses understanding and treating trauma, there is still an expressed need to train child welfare staff and foster parents.
• The main child-serving systems in the state of Texas have taken some steps towards becoming trauma-informed.
• The primary cross-system trauma-informed approaches being implemented in Texas are all based on the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) research and are grounded in the same trauma-informed framework.
Trauma-Informed Care Findings, cont.

• Reaching Teens© and TBRI© provide a philosophical framework, shared language, and common set of approaches that allow providers in a community to operationalize the concept of trauma-informed care. These two approaches are easy to understand and can be implemented by a large cross-section of professionals, parents, and foster parents.

• In addition to a shared approach, successful trauma-informed cross-system efforts in Texas all have an external funder and a community champion.

Trauma-Informed Care Findings, cont.

• The local mental health authorities are limited to a core set of trauma-focused interventions that limit their ability to select an intervention based on the child’s or youth’s trauma history, needs, or brain development.

• Medicaid (STAR Health) pays for traditional office-based trauma-informed services and supports, and STAR Health provides training in TF-CBT and PCIT. However, providers still identified funding as a barrier to expanding TF-EBT capacity.
Statewide Strategy

The SCTIC will elevate trauma-informed policy in the Texas child welfare system by creating a statewide strategy to support:

- system reform;
- organizational leadership;
- cross-systems collaboration; and
- community-led efforts with data-informed initiatives to develop champions, consensus, and funding.
System Reform
Current Status

System Reform Workgroup

Goal #1:
All children, youth, and families engaged with DFPS and young adults exiting DFPS custody are served by a trauma-informed and trauma-responsive child welfare system.

Chair:
Andy Homer, Texas CASA
System Reform Members

- Attorneys
- DFPS
- Legislative Offices
- Medical Professionals
- Providers
- Superior Health

- Advocacy & Policy:
  - Behavioral Health
  - Child Development
  - Medical
  - Parents
  - Persons with Disabilities

System Reform Themes

- Definition needed for common framework
- Neutral on modality or system approach utilized
- Truly a “system reform;” not focused on DFPS & courts alone
- Lived experiences are essential
- Evaluate existing practices and policies through a trauma-informed lens
System Reform Themes, cont.

• Multi-level training appropriate to role
• Minimize and avoid re-traumatization through training and awareness
• Improve information sharing
• Integrate trauma-knowledge into appropriately-tailored safety plans, service plans, permanency plans, and court orders for the child and family

Organizational Leadership
Current Status
Organizational Leadership Workgroup

Goal #2:
All children, youth, and families engaged with DFPS and young adults exiting DFPS custody are supported by a culture of trauma-informed care, practical training, and tools within the child welfare system.

Chair:
Renee Encinias, Hope Rising Ministries

Organizational Leadership Members

- Attorneys
- DFPS
- Superior Health Plan
- Providers
- Legislative Offices

- Advocacy & Policy:
  - Behavioral Health
  - Medical
  - Social Workers
  - Youth Voice
Organizational Leadership Themes

• Leadership should assess policy, training, and practices for trauma-informed and trauma-responsive
• Leadership should promote a culture that integrates youth and family voice
• Neutral on modality or system approach utilized
• Leadership should address secondary trauma & create action plans

Organizational Leadership Themes, cont.

• Best practice would be that everyone who touches the life of a child would be trained in trauma-informed care
• Balance best practice with not overwhelming already stressful and over-tasked roles or creating further capacity issues
• Training will include information on how trauma can disproportionately impact diverse populations
• Minimize and avoid re-traumatization through training and awareness
Cross-Systems Collaboration
Current Status

Cross-Systems Collaboration Workgroup

Goal #3:
All children, youth, and families engaged with DFPS and young adults exiting DFPS custody are served by multiple systems that collaborate to create consistent trauma-informed care and/or practice in all parts of their lives.

Chair:
Christine Gendron, Texas Network of Youth Services
Cross-Systems Collaboration Members

• Attorneys
• DFPS
• HHSC (multiple depts.)
• Juvenile Justice Programs
• Legislative Offices
• Superior Health
• Texas Workforce
• Trauma-Informed Specialists
• Providers

• Advocacy and Policy:
  • Behavioral Health
  • CASA
  • Child Development
  • Homelessness
  • Medical
  • Parents
  • Persons with Disabilities
  • Youth Voice

Cross-Systems Collaboration Themes

• Cross-systems work needs to happen at all levels: state leadership level to the community level
• Multi-disciplinary approaches are needed
• Special population cross systems: more work needs to be done to take a cross-system look at trauma-informed for special populations
• Substantial training is needed across systems and there are opportunities to maximize efficiency to make this happen
Funding, Data, & Evaluation Workgroup

Goal #4:
Trauma-informed and trauma-responsive interventions will be data-driven, effective, and sustainable.

Chair: Katy Bourgeois, Mission Capital
Funding, Data, & Evaluation Members

• Attorneys
• Child and Family Advocates
• DFPS
• Funders
• Legislative Offices
• Providers
• Researchers

Funding, Data, & Evaluation Themes

• Broad agreement on the importance of:
  • Ability to disaggregate data
  • Assessment of impact on diverse populations

• Identify Funding
  • Educate community organizations & funders
  • Evaluate cost reimbursement methodology
  • Support sustainable public funding
Funding, Data, & Evaluation Themes, cont.

**Define Need**
- Make an online self assessment tool available
- Encourage learning collaboratives
- Measure trauma experienced in the system

Funding, Data, & Evaluation Themes, cont.

**Evaluate**
- Assess, plan, implement, re-assess, & revise
- Screen for trauma experiences over time
- Measure adjustment to trauma experiences: physical, mental, and emotional health
- Ensure data collection and reporting processes allow for tracking child-level outcomes
Overarching Themes

• Web-based portal to allow for information sharing across disciplines
• All children and families should be viewed through a trauma-informed lens
• Diverse populations and perspectives are essential to the development, adoption, and implementation of a trauma-informed child welfare system.

Judicial Summit on Mental Health
Full SCTIC Meeting

The Texas Blueprint: Trauma-Informed Care
Blueprint Process

**Workgroups:** draft strategies

**Workgroups:** vote on strategies

**Steering Committee:** review and revise

**Children’s Commission:** finalize content

**Children’s Commission:** publish blueprint

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**Steering Committee**

- Tina Amberboy
- Kristene Blackstone
- Lauren Bledsoe
- Judge Darlene Byrne
- Katy Bourgeois

- Renee Encinias
- Christine Gendron
- Jocelyn Fowler
- Andy Homer
Path to Trauma-Informed Care

Implementation Takes a Village

• Culture shifts take time
• We are not building a silo
• All child welfare system stakeholders needed
• Communication across systems is crucial
Why This Matters for You?

• Unique vantage point
• Unique leadership role
• Power to convene stakeholders & community collaborators

Why This Matters for You?

• No child goes into or out of foster care without your signature and oversight
Why This Matters for Texas?

• Building a common framework to help families heal and thrive
• Build on unique rural and urban community strengths and assess gaps

Why This Matters for Texas?

• Better outcomes for kids and families
• Moving the state forward
“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men”

- Frederick Douglass

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Jocelyn Fowler
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