

Policy Briefing On Trauma Informed Care

SUMMARY

The following is a summary of public policy (including legislation, resolutions, and other policies) and community initiatives regarding trauma and trauma-informed care around the country. When available, links are provided to the original legislation or resolution.

PUBLIC POLICY - Legislation

I. Texas Senate Bill No. 1356 Sec. 161.088 - Trauma-Informed Care Training

1. Summary

The department shall provide trauma-informed care training during the preservice training the department provides for juvenile probation officers and juvenile supervision officers. Juvenile correctional training must provide knowledge, in line with best practices, of how to interact with juveniles who have experienced traumatic events.

Link to Legislation:

<https://legiscan.com/TX/text/SB1356/2013>

II. Texas - House Bill No. 2789 Sec. 161.088 - Trauma-Informed Care Training

1. Summary

The department shall develop or adopt trauma-informed care training for employees who work directly with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in state supported living centers and intermediate care facilities. The executive commissioner by rule shall require new employees to complete the training before working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and shall require all employees to complete an annual refresher training course.

Link to Legislation:

<https://legiscan.com/TX/text/HB2789/id/1160053>

III. Minnesota State Legislature: HF 892

A House resolution to the Governor, recognizing the well-being of Minnesota children

1. Summary

This is a resolution relating to the use of current science on childhood brain development, adverse childhood experiences, and toxic stress to prevent child abuse and neglect before it starts and ensure the well-being of all Minnesota children. This resolution summarizes and cites several key research findings, as WHEREAS statements, resolving for them to be considered as important strategies. It also calls for a Task Force to be formed, focusing on the development of trauma-informed policy and practices, with the goal of addressing social determinants of health and well-being and eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in their state.

IV. Vermont – H.762 Legislation

1. Summary

Reimbursement for primary care provided to a Medicaid patient shall be contingent upon the provider's use of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) questionnaire for the purpose of assessing the patient's health risks.

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By 12/15/14 the Department of Health shall submit a report to the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare and to the house Committee on Health Care containing recommendations on the following: whether and how TIC could be more widely incorporated in the practice of medicine throughout Vermont and whether the use of ACE and other preventive medical services could be expanded.

Link to Legislation:

<http://www.leg.state.vt.us/docs/2014/bills/Intro/H-762.pdf>

V. Massachusetts – H. 3528 Legislation

1. Summary

Requires all schools to develop action plans for creating safe and supportive schools, creates a commission on statewide implementation, and provides technical assistance to help schools and districts achieve safe and supportive schools.

Link to Legislation:

<http://tjpi.jacksonwhelan.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Chapter-284-of-the-Acts-of-2014-SSS-Sections.pdf>

PUBLIC POLICY - Resolutions

I. Alaska Joint Resolution 21

1. Summary

A resolution urging the governor to join with the Alaska legislature to respond to the public and behavioral health epidemic of ACEs by establishing a statewide policy and providing programs to address this epidemic.

Link to Resolution:

<http://www.legis.state.ak.us/PDF/29/Bills/HCR021A.PDF>

II. California State Assembly and Senate

Concurrent Resolution No. 155 – Relative to Childhood Brain Development

1. Summary

This resolution framed Adverse Childhood Experiences in terms of childhood brain development and toxic stress. This measure urged the Governor to identify evidence-based solutions to reduce children's exposure to adverse childhood experiences, address the impacts of those experiences, and invest in preventive health care and mental health and wellness interventions. It also urged the Governor to consider the principles of brain development, the intimate connection between mental and physical health, the concepts of toxic stress, adverse childhood experiences, buffering relationships, and the roles of early intervention and investment in children as important strategies.

Link to Resolution:

http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/13-14/bill/asm/ab_0151-0200/acr_155_bill_20140528_introduced.htm

III. Pennsylvania House Resolution No. 191

1. Summary

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Passed the house but not senate. Declares support for a public health approach to violence and statewide trauma-informed education.

Link to Resolution:

<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=PDF&sessYr=2013&sessInd=0&billBody=H&billTyp=R&billNbr=0191&pn=1267>

IV. Wisconsin – Senate Joint Resolution No. 59

2. Summary

Resolution on early childhood brain development. It resolves that policy decisions enacted by the Wisconsin state legislature will acknowledge and take into account the principles of early childhood brain development and will, whenever possible, consider the concepts of toxic stress, early adversity, and buffering relationships, and note the role of early intervention and investment in early childhood years as important strategies to achieve a lasting foundation for a more prosperous and sustainable state through investing in human capital. It also summarizes and cites several key research findings, including that it is more effective and less costly to positively influence the architecture of a young child's developing brain than to attempt to correct poor learning, health, and behaviors later in life.

Link to Resolution:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2013/proposals/sjr59>

PUBLIC POLICY - Other

I. States collecting ACE information as part of the CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (2009-2014)

Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, New Mexico, Nevada, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Washington, Wisconsin (Total = 29)

II. Australia: ASCA Guidelines

1. Summary

The national guidelines for trauma-informed care are currently being disseminated through state and federal governments and government agencies as well as federal and state-based mental health bodies, umbrella practitioner organizations, nongovernmental organizations and to consumers, workers and practitioners.

ASCA has also submitted a proposal to develop education and training workshops and online learning programs for primary care physicians and mental health practitioners from different disciplines. The guidelines are the 5 principles from Falot and Harris.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

I. Chadwick Center for Children & Families – TIC Systems Dissemination and Implementation Project

1. Summary

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Chadwick Center for Children & Families is working strategically with five “supercommunities” across the country who will serve as communities of excellence and will lead the transformation of public child welfare agencies into trauma-informed systems within their respective jurisdictions. Ultimately, CTISP-DI will be working specifically with each supercommunity to identify and spread trauma-informed child welfare practices across their region. Supercommunity locations: Custer County, Oklahoma; Orange County, California; State of Rhode Island; Southeastern Minnesota; Volusia County, Florida

Program website:

www.chadwickcenter.org/CTISP/ctisp.htm

II. San Francisco, California – Trauma Transformed Initiative (T²)

1. Summary

A regional effort funded by a four-year grant from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Youth, families, health directors and public health leaders from the seven counties committed to partnering with communities to break the cycle of intergenerational trauma and poverty.

III. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

1. Summary

In November 2014, a community coalition held a discussion to determine how to make a trauma-informed community. The goal of was to use trauma-informed principles to redesign the enrollment processes for six public assistance programs in Philadelphia.

IV. Florida - Peace4Tarpon Trauma-Informed Community Initiative

1. Summary

Tarpon Springs, FL is working to become the first trauma-informed community in the nation. Peace4Tarpon Trauma Informed Community Initiative is a grassroots effort designed to identify and address the root causes of the most challenging issues (such as domestic violence, bullying, unemployment, homelessness, and substance abuse) through community partnerships rather than addressing symptoms.

V. Mobilizing Action for Resilient Communities (MARC)

1. Summary

This project, supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, supports 12 community partners to reduce ACEs and promote resilience. The project supports communities building the movement to create a just, healthy and resilient world. Each community will join a two-year learning collaborative where they will share best practices, try new approaches and become models for other communities in implementing effective solutions for combating ACEs.

Communities: Alaska; Albany, NY (The HEARTS Initiative for ACE Response); Boston, MA; Buncombe County, NC; The Dalles, OR; Illinois; Kansas City, MO; Montana; Philadelphia, PA; San Diego, CA; Sonoma County, CA; Tarpon Springs, FL; Washington; Wisconsin.

VI. Washington State – ACEs Public-Private Initiative (APPI)

1. Summary

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Washington, ACEs Public-Private Initiative (APPI) is a group of private, public and community organizations in Washington State working together to reduce children’s exposure to trauma—or “adverse childhood experiences” (ACEs)—and the substantial social, emotional and physical tolls that may result.

VII. Tennessee – Adverse Childhood Experiences Awareness Foundation

1. Summary

The ACE Awareness Foundation launched a statewide education initiative to educate leaders in private industry, health care, government agencies and social welfare organization about the importance in investing in prevention efforts to save the tax-payer dollars, reduce the impact on the special education system, the criminal justice and health system so future generations of Tennesseans aren't having to deal with the residue of adverse experiences.

VIII. Arizona – Adverse Childhood Experiences Consortium

1. Summary

A panel of business and government elites was held at Phoenix Children's Hospital regarding how to handle adverse childhood experiences afflicting Arizona’s youth.
