



Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana

Recommendation to the Commission

Party Submitting Recommendation: Zachary Adams, Ph.D., HSPP on behalf of the Child Trauma & Resilience Work Group, Subcommittee of the Child Safety & Services Task Force

Date of Submission: 7/10/2019

Type of Action Requested:

Legislation Policy Resolution of Support or Endorsement Public Promotion

Other: _____

Which of the Commission's Strategic Priorities does this Recommendation help advance:

Child Safety and services Juvenile Justice and Cross-system Youth
 Mental Health and Substance Abuse Educational Outcomes

Summary of Recommendation:

Endorsement of common definitions of childhood trauma/adversity and trauma-informed practices.

Background of Recommendation:

What is the need or problem?

Objective 1.6: Promote an improved understanding of the impact of trauma on children and youth and the efficacy of trauma-informed practice.

There is variability across providers, service sectors, and agencies regarding what constitutes "trauma" and "trauma-informed practice," necessitating common definitions of these terms.

What is the current response to the problem by the State of Indiana?

There are statutory definitions for related terms (child abuse, neglect) but no common definitions across agencies or departments.

What is the recommender proposing, and how will it help solve the problem?

We propose adoption of the following definitions to clarify what is meant by the terms “trauma” and “trauma-informed practice.” These definitions will serve as common language for state agencies, contractors/grantees, and other organizations tasked with improving understanding of childhood trauma and trauma-informed practice.

Trauma (3 E’s):

"Individual trauma results from an **event**, series of events, or set of circumstances that is **experienced** by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse **effects** on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual wellbeing." (SAMHSA)

Trauma Informed (4 R's):

"A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed **realizes** the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery; **recognizes** the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system; **responds** by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices, and seeks to actively **resist** re-traumatization." (SAMHSA)

ACEs Definition:

"Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic events, that occur during the first 18 years of life. ACEs include abuse (physical, sexual, emotional), neglect (physical, emotional), and household challenges such as exposure to domestic violence, mental illness or substance abuse in the household, parental separation or divorce, and having an incarcerated household member. ACEs can have a lasting impact on health and wellbeing." (CDC)

What data, research or other information did the recommender consult to formulate this proposal?

- Review of state and federal documentation pertinent to childhood trauma, adversity, trauma-informed care and other related concepts
- Review of clinical research literature
- Discussion and vote of endorsement within work group/subcommittee

If a legislative request, cite the current relevant code and specify what change is being recommended.

N/A

If a policy request, cite the current relevant policy and specify what change is being recommended.

N/A

If the recommendation involves an endorsement or public promotion of a specific initiative or statement, attach the document of which you are seeking the Commission’s support/endorsement/promotion.