



Trauma-Informed School Mental Health Workgroup

June 2018 Update

Thank you again for participating in our May 2017 symposium on implementing a statewide framework for trauma-informed school mental health in Connecticut. The group discussions were rich and many great recommendations resulted. Core group members have continued to meet over the past year, adding partners DCF and the CCMC Injury Prevention Center. We have been busy working on the “next steps” and advancing directions for the group with regard to both individual and collaborative activities. A summary of the work to date is as follows:

- An important recommendation resulting from the symposium was to integrate the original core group with the School Mental Health workgroup of the Connecticut Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory/CONNECT to create the Trauma-Informed School Mental Health Task Force.
 - ✓ *This recommendation was implemented, and the new group began meeting on a monthly basis to address the recommendations and move the work forward.*
- Develop the statewide vision statement, goals, logic model, and theory of change for an integrated framework for trauma-informed school mental health
 - ✓ *A mission and vision has been finalized, with versions of a logic model/theory of change and a dictionary of terms in draft form.*
 - ✓ Mission: To promote a comprehensive framework for a statewide trauma-informed infrastructure that integrates behavioral health services and school and community supports.
 - ✓ Vision: Connecticut schools and children will be the healthiest in the nation.
- Develop inventory of activities related to school mental health and trauma-informed practices happening across the state
 - ✓ *A positive outcome from the monthly workgroup meetings has been the opportunity to understand the various initiatives and activities undertaken by each partner. Although we have not yet established a public-facing catalog of the work, we have been able to cross-promote and collaborate in some areas. Examples include: providing demonstrations of the SHAPE system (see below) and promoting district use; working with the Clifford Beers Clinic and the Connecticut Association of Schools to sponsor “Resilience” screenings throughout the state; collaborating with the RESC Alliance on the development of online modules on Trauma-Informed Schools; sharing information and aligning state-level policy recommendations across system-level groups representing early childhood, pediatric primary care, and behavioral health providers through CONNECT.*
- Promote district participation in the School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation (SHAPE) System to advance quality and sustainability assessment goals regarding school mental health practices, as supported by a Technical Assistance grant from the University of Maryland Center for School Mental Health.

- ✓ *Workgroup members each received training on the SHAPE system, and began cross-promotion of the opportunity to school districts. Consensus was reached that SHAPE can effectively serve as organizational pathway for delivering district FAQ and TA.*
- Review, edit, and disseminate CHDI IMPACT report on comprehensive systems for trauma-informed school mental health.
 - ✓ *Workgroup members provided feedback and the report is slated for release this summer.*
- Develop listserv communication tool for information-sharing among symposium participants and other interested collaborators.
 - ✓ *Still under discussion as to how best to provide communication and a repository of information, with plan for fall implementation. It is anticipated that all collaborators will house information about the work with links to a primary source for more detailed information – perhaps at plan4children.org*
- Support and disseminate information about Fall 2017 screenings of the film “Resilience” sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) and Clifford Beers Clinic to promote awareness about the effects of trauma on youth and strategies for strengthening resilience to all school personnel.
 - ✓ *Screenings were offered across the state, with panel discussion participants representing a variety of agencies, organizations, and perspectives on the work.*
- Plan and convene a statewide conference in 2018 on evidence-based and best practices in trauma-informed school mental health.
 - ✓ *Given the volume of other efforts throughout the year, a decision was made to postpone holding the statewide conference until a later date. The Workgroup instead supported a statewide conference facilitated by CHDI in June 2018 focused on Trauma-Focused Evidence-Based Practices. Workgroup members also are planning to propose a breakthrough series collaborative, to be held during the '18-19 school year.*
- Although not directly resulting from the symposium, the opportunity arose to provide recommendations to the statewide BH Plan Implementation Advisory Board
 - ✓ *Workgroup members are drafting a set of recommendations modeled from the symposium outcomes and considering framing around multi-tiered systems (public health model) and the seven thematic areas outlined in the statewide Children’s Behavioral Health plan and will submit by the mid-July deadline. An inventory of activities will be provided as part of this document as well.*

On behalf of the workgroup members, we share our excitement at continuing to work together to promote a comprehensive framework for a statewide trauma-informed infrastructure that integrates behavioral health services and school and community supports.

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