

State-Level Public Policy Approaches to Trauma

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SESSION OBJECTIVES

- Participants will be provided with an overview of **current Missouri policies and programs** related to child and youth trauma.
- Participants will learn about **emerging policy opportunities** to improve access to services for children, families and communities impacted by trauma.
- Participants will be given tools to **educate and engage policymakers** in efforts to prevent and alleviate the effects of child and youth trauma

MISSOURI POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

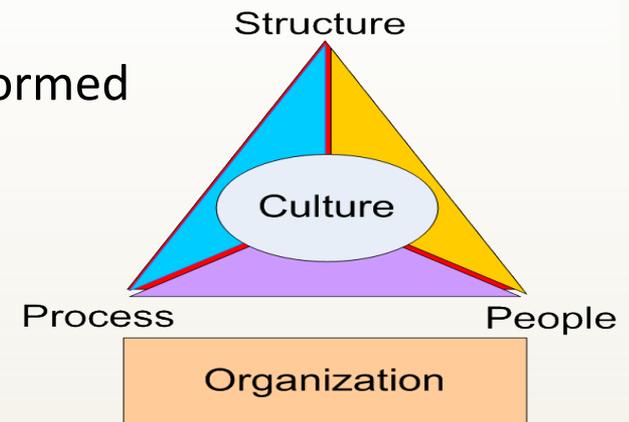


A Cross-Agency Approach to Childhood Trauma



The Missouri Model: A Developmental Framework for Trauma-Informed (2014)

- Informational; not for formal evaluation or certification
- Provides definition, indicators, processes and resources
- Builds consensus and language around trauma informed
- Guide for organizations to self-assess
- Creates a continuum to reflect the journey
- Creates a roadmap for change to become trauma informed

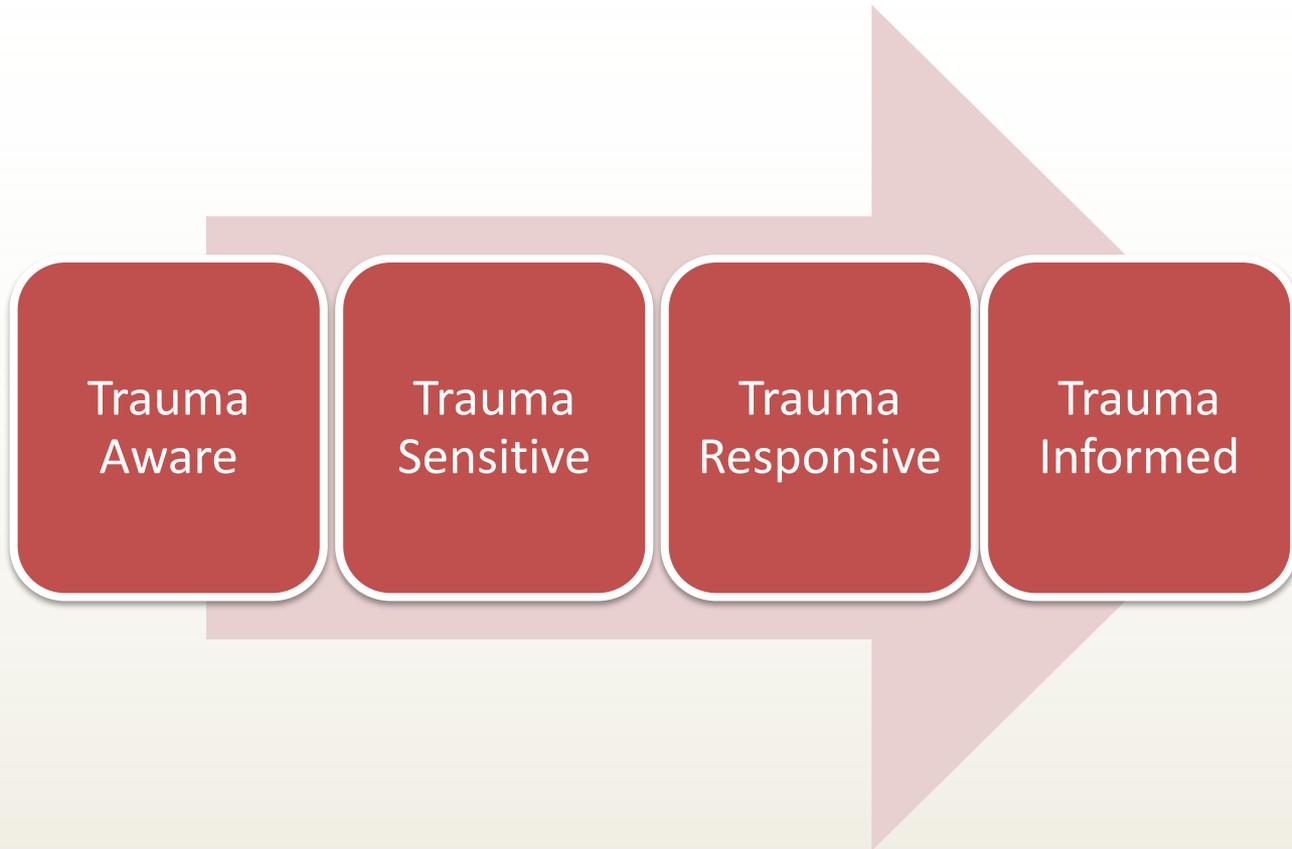


Missouri Model Continuum

- Not limited to behavioral health organizations
- Not just about trauma specific treatment or screening for trauma
- It is NOT a program but a **paradigm and culture shift**
- Cannot be accomplished by just training, ongoing consultation is necessary either externally or internally



Missouri Model Continuum



MO Principles of Trauma-Informed Care

- **Safety:** Ensure physical and emotional safety, recognizing and responding to how racial, ethnic, religious, gender or sexual identity may impact safety across the lifespan.
- **Trustworthiness:** Foster genuine relationships and practices that build trust, making tasks clear, maintaining appropriate boundaries and creating norms for interaction that promote reconciliation and healing. Understand and respond to ways in which explicit and implicit power can affect the development of trusting relationships. This includes acknowledging and mitigating internal biases and recognizing the historic power of majority populations.
- **Choice:** Maximize choice, addressing how privilege, power, and historic relationships impact both perceptions about and ability to act upon choice.
- **Collaboration:** Honor transparency and self-determination, and seek to minimize the impact of the inherent power differential while maximizing collaboration and sharing responsibility for making meaningful decisions.
- **Empowerment:** Encouraging self-efficacy, identifying strengths and building skills which leads to individual pathways for healing while recognizing and responding to the impact of historical trauma and oppression.

Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative (DESE) RSMo. 161.150 (2016)

- Requires consultation with DMH and DSS to translate the Missouri model into language to support schools interested in becoming trauma-informed.
- DESE shall:
 - Provide information to districts regarding the trauma-informed approach to schools
 - Offer training to schools
 - Create a website:
<https://dese.mo.gov/traumainformed>

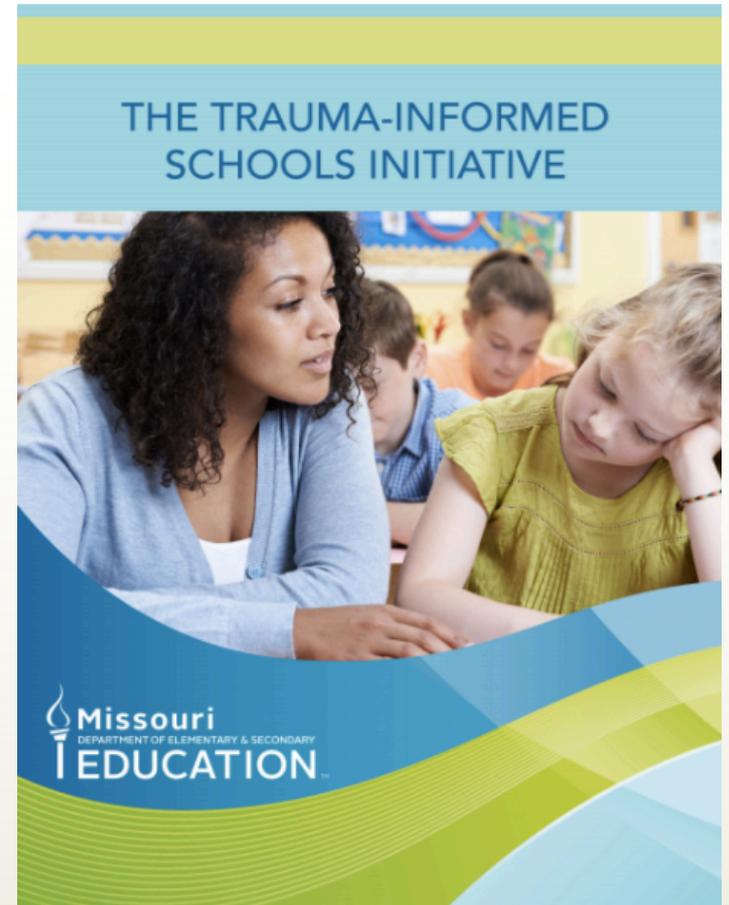


Trauma-Informed Schools (DESE): Definitions

- **“Trauma-informed approach”**, an approach that involves understanding and responding to the symptoms of chronic interpersonal trauma and traumatic stress across the lifespan;
- **“Trauma-informed school”**, a school that:
 - (a) Realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery;
 - (b) Recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in students, teachers, and staff;
 - (c) Responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into its policies, procedures, and practices; and
 - (d) Seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.

Becoming a Trauma-Informed School

1. Universal trauma training (Trauma awareness)
2. Create a trauma team (Trauma sensitive)
3. Ongoing program, practice and policy change (Trauma Responsive—Trauma Informed)



Jennings School District (St. Louis)

- First trauma-informed school district in St. Louis County
- Partnership with Washington University and St. Louis Children's Hospital
- Trauma training for every staff person in the district—from principals to janitors
- Goal is to move away from suspending students for disruptive behavior and address the root cause of the actions



“We serve the whole child. We are changing mindsets about how do we work with people — parents, students and teachers. We are wrapping services around the whole child and helping them better their lives. So often systems are punitive in how they handle these issues. As educators we really can be proactive and be problem solvers.”—Superintendent Tiffany Anderson

Community Engagement: Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children

Report from the Task Force
on the Prevention of
Sexual Abuse of Children

2012

Task force created to prevent child sex abuse recommends changes in Missouri laws

MISSOURI TASK FORCE RELEASES RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING CHILD SAFETY

January 7, 2013 | By Darkness to Light

Mental Health Services and Treatment (Recommendation #11)

- **Recommendation:** Identify and fund the expansion of mental health services to children who have been sexually abused
- **Accomplishments:**
 - Children's Trauma Network
 - Enhanced MO HealthNet reimbursement code for evidence-based mental health services for children who have experienced trauma

Children's Trauma Network

- Funded by the Department of Mental Health
- Network of clinicians and advocates dedicated to expanding access to evidence-based mental health treatment for traumatized children
- Mission to raise the standard of care and improve access to services for children, families, and communities impacted by trauma.



Victims of Crime Act (DSS)

- **Purpose:** To support the provision of direct services to victims of crime, to assist victims of crime in order to reduce the severity of the psychological and emotional consequences of the victimization and to demonstrate on-going support for the victim in coping with the impact of the victimization.
- Federal program, administered by Missouri Department of Social Services
 - Missouri FY2019: \$45M; FY2020 (proposed): \$63M

Foster Care

- Trauma Informed Community Based Provider
 - Residential
 - Intensive In Home Services
 - Children's Treatment
 - Secondary Prevention--Providers

EMERGING POLICY OPPORTUNITIES



Family First Prevention Services Act (2018)

Family First Prevention Services Act

Historic New Reforms for Child Welfare

On February 9, 2018, President Trump signed into law the landmark bipartisan Family First Prevention Services Act, as part of Division E in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (H.R. 1892).

New federal law restructures the federal financing of child welfare, increases focus on prevention efforts

Keeping Families Together: Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) Aligns Financing with Child Wellbeing

JUNE 20, 2016

Campaign for Children Applauds Bipartisan Support of Family First Prevention Services Act

WHILE EVERYBODY SLEPT, CONGRESS DID SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Family First Prevention Services Act

Enacted February 9, 2018, in the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) creates a **reimbursement pathway** for federal funds to provide services to keep children safely with their families. When foster care is needed, it allows federal reimbursement for care in family-based settings and certain residential treatment programs for children with demonstrated clinical need.

- ✓ Child welfare federal financing legislation
- ✓ Bipartisan support
- ✓ Staged implementation timeline (2018 → 2026)

FFPSA: Overall Themes

Reinvestment in Prevention

Emphasis on Family-based Placement

Systemic Partnership

Qualifying Prevention Services



Mental Health
Services



Substance
Abuse
Treatment



Parenting Skills
Training

Trauma-Informed, Evidenced-Based, & provided by Qualified Clinician

FFPSA: Conclusion



- Family First is a contradiction of sorts: both sweeping in changes and also quite prescriptive
- It's not a silver bullet, but is a step in the right direction.
- Partnerships across systems will be critical to bring this to life in Missouri.
- Transformation will take time

State Policy Trends: Building Resilience in Children and Families

- Increase positive parenting skills and safe, stable and nurturing relationships through home visitation
 - OK: Family Support Accountability Act
 - RI: Home Visiting Act
- Expand access to quality early child care and education.
- Reduce familial stress (EITC, minimum wage)



State Policy Trends: Screening and Treatment

- Early identification of trauma in children, families and their families (Screening)
 - IA: Requires school professionals to receive training to identify ACEs
 - NY: Medicaid reimbursement of primary care contingent on ACE screening



State Policy Trends: Screening and Treatment

- Expanding access to trauma-informed support services
 - DE: Proposal to become a trauma-informed state
 - IA: State block grant for mental health services for children and youth
 - OR: Trauma Informed Oregon
 - UT: Grant program for school-based supports and school professional training
- ACE Data collection (BRFSS)



GET INVOLVED!



Get Informed

- Share your story-- Bring your voice to your community; use your expertise
- Build partnerships

Community Engagement in Trauma-Informed Practices

- Medical providers
- Teachers/Early care providers
- Coaches, bus drivers, other education professionals
- Faith communities

Engage Your Legislator

In-District



Jefferson City



Child Day April 2020



MISSOURI SENATE

Missouri General Assembly

SENATORS

COMMITTEES

LEGISLATION

HEARINGS

JOURNALS

CALENDAR

BILL SEARCH

LEGISLATOR LOOKUP

EMERGENCY ALERTS

THANK YOU!



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