

# Vermont Child & Family Trauma Workgroup

The Vermont Child & Family Trauma Workgroup was formed in 2004 as a subcommittee of the AHS Trauma Cluster. These groups were formed in response to the recognition by the Governor's Commission on Psychological Trauma that many people obtaining AHS services have multiple or complex experiences of trauma in their history and that this has significant implications on how to provide services. The Child & Family Trauma Workgroup, as it was renamed in 2013, currently functions with collaborative public/ private membership from:

- AHS Central Office
  - Department of Mental Health
  - Department for Children and Families
    - Family Services Division
    - Child Development Division
  - Developmental Disabilities Services
  - Department of Health
    - Maternal Child Health
    - Alcohol & Drug Abuse Programs
  - Agency of Education
  - Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
  - Vermont Adoption Consortium
  - Vermont Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
  - Prevent Child Abuse VT
  - University of Vermont & UVM-Medical Center
  - Washington County Mental Health Services
  - HowardCenter
  - Northwestern Counseling & Support Services
  - Northeastern Family Institute
  - Vermont Counseling & Trauma Services
  - Restorative Justice Centers
  - Resilience Beyond Incarceration
  - and trauma survivors/family
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- Vision: Implementation of trauma-informed systems and communities
  - Mission - We help to build trauma-informed systems through:
    - Influencing creation of policies that reflect trauma-informed practices
    - Prevention efforts and policies that reflect trauma-informed concepts and impact
    - Training in trauma-informed care across sectors
    - Screening and assessment of trauma (protocols, toolbox, menu of tools)
    - Implementation of effective trauma treatments ("Attachment, Self- Regulation & Competency (ARC); Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT); etc.)
    - Being a resource "think tank" on trauma-informed practices for public/private needs
    - to identify unmet needs in the system of care and build capacity for traumatized children and their families, adults and communities.
    - bring trauma-specific best practices to the practitioners in the system of care;
    - share information about what's happening in Vermont and nationally in the field of trauma services;
    - Evaluate unmet needs for response to community tragedy/disaster; spread concepts of best practice response to tragedy, natural disaster, etc.; especially in regard to longer-term follow-up to these incidents; and
    - pursue funding opportunities to facilitate attainment of these goals.

The CFTWG has been involved in the following activities to meet the goals of the group:

- Surveyed treatment professionals in Vermont and developed a list of unmet needs;
- Reviewed and revised [\*The Effects of Psychological Trauma on Children and Adolescents\*](#), a white paper on child trauma in Vermont, written by Kathy Moroz, DSW, LICSW (2005);

- Developed and continue work to expand upon the goals and activities outlined in the Blueprint for Action: Building Trauma Informed Mental Health Service Systems: State Accomplishments, Activities & Resources Vermont 2007 Report ([http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/report/DMH-Trauma-Informed\\_Service\\_2007.pdf](http://mentalhealth.vermont.gov/sites/dmh/files/report/DMH-Trauma-Informed_Service_2007.pdf));
- Reviewed the [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#)'s list of evidenced-based practices in child & family trauma treatments to determine appropriate match for Vermont's needs and system of care;
- Sponsored a three-day workshop on the Attachment, Self-Regulation & Competency (ARC) framework for treating youth with complex trauma and their families, presented by Margaret Blaustein, PhD and Kristine Kinniburgh, LICSW in the fall of 2006;
- Reviewed standardized trauma assessment instruments;
- Successful submission of grant proposal to SAMHSA's National Child Traumatic Stress Network. Establishment of the advisory group for the NCTSN grant funded Vermont Child Trauma Collaborative, held by the Department of Mental Health (2009-2012);
- Collaborative organization of the Improving Clinical Outcomes Conference regarding the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) research and follow-up community forums for implementation of concepts (2013-present).
- Input on policy and legislation regarding trauma and trauma-informed care
- Engaged Vermont Certified Public Managers to conduct survey of AHS on trauma-informed care (2016)
- Building Flourishing Communities conference with Dr. Laura Porter (Dec 2016)
- Building Flourishing Communities, Master Trainer Series for trainers across Vermont (Fall 2017)
- Updated AHS Trauma Policy (Oct 2017)

The CFTWG continually welcomes consumers with lived experiences of trauma or their family and also other interested AHS staff, providers, and community partners to join the group. The CFTWG meets on a monthly basis in Waterbury. For more information, please contact workgroup co-facilitators Laurel Omland of DMH (802-241-0162, [laurel.omland@vermont.gov](mailto:laurel.omland@vermont.gov)) or Cara Capparelli of NFI (802-658-0040, [CaraCapparelli@nafi.com](mailto:CaraCapparelli@nafi.com)).