



STATE OF VERMONT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sec. 1 Purpose S. 261

It is the purpose of this bill to build on the actions of Act 43 and support the work asked for in Act 43 by AHS in establishing principles regarding Vermont's response to trauma and toxic stress during childhood. A 43 also requires the Agency of Human Services to present to House Human Services and Senate health and welfare a plan to address the integration of evidence-informed and family focused prevention, intervention, treatment and recovery services for those affected by trauma and toxic stress, and to report on this plan by Jan 15, 2018 .

Sec 2 Definitions

1- "Toxic stress" means strong, frequent, or prolonged experience of adversity without adequate support.

2- " Trauma-informed" means a type of program, organization, or system that recognizes the widespread impact of trauma and potential paths for recovery; recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved in a system; responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and seeks actively to resist retraumatization and build resilience among the population served.

Sec 3 AHS Director of Trauma Informed Services

See- Job Description attached

Managerial, administrative, and policy development work for the Agency of Human Services involving the development and implementation of trauma-informed systems for all aspects of state government. A primary focus area is implementation of Act 45 – An Act Relating to Restructuring the Agency of Human Services,"(May 2003). That act stated that "Service delivery systems should recognize the prevalence of the many kinds of trauma, including psychological trauma, and agency staff and service providers should be trained to ensure that client interactions are respectful and sensitive to trauma" (Section 2 (12)). Create culture within AHS and its service providers and partners that recognizes impact of trauma on employees and service recipients alike. Develop strategies to prevent trauma; promote prenatal- and family- wellness; and broadly provide

evidence-based and “promising-practice” treatment services for those with existing trauma.

Duties include policy development, implementation and coordination of AHS partners across state government, including grant recipients and contractors; and trainings for AHS, grants management and program evaluation. Work is performed under the direction of the Secretary of the AHS with significant latitude for independent initiative. All employees of the Agency of Human Services perform their respective functions adhering to four key practices: customer service, holistic service, strengths-based relationships and results orientation.

Examples of Work:

Supports development of consistent data sets across agencies. Develops strategies and processes to optimize the use of existing data, resources and quality assurance/improvement activities within state government and external stakeholders (e.g., contracted provider organizations).

Participates in the planning, development, implementation and administration of a comprehensive and coordinated delivery of trauma-informed policies. Develops strategies for implementation of trauma-informed policies. Works with AHS department commissioners and directors to monitor implementation of the AHS trauma-informed policy. Re-establishes and leads the AHS Trauma Steering Committee. Leads the Child & Family Trauma Workgroup.

Participates in the planning, development, implementation and administration of a comprehensive and coordinated delivery of trauma-informed trainings, treatment resources and referral systems and current best-practices.

Liases with Agency of Education on trauma-informed systems work and supports trauma-informed training work in schools. Supports development of evidence-based trauma screening and referral systems in appropriate settings, such as, but not limited to; health care settings, education systems, home visitation and early childhood programs.

Liases with the legislature to support trauma informed policy development.

Liases with the Blueprint for Health to support integration of trauma-informed principles and advises on screening and referral systems for patients identified with childhood trauma. Provides statewide consultation to increase awareness of childhood trauma and its impacts on health and well-being. Supports development of community partnerships to improve access to trauma treatment.

Liases with non-state agency partners and stakeholders across Vermont to build a multi-stakeholder, coordinated, statewide response to trauma, including prevention, intervention and education.

Coordinates grants awarded to AHS trauma initiatives, which includes the following: coordinating, facilitating and implementing planning activities, including developing and implementing a plan for engaging and facilitating stakeholder participation; coordinating the development of operational plans; managing day-to-day project work; ensuring compliance with grant timelines; preparing reports and disseminating findings; convening and providing staff support for grant committees.

Performs related duties as assigned.

Environmental Factors:

There may be need for travel around the state, so private means of transportation is required. Some work outside of normal working hours may be required. Significant amounts of skill and perseverance are needed to build consensus across a variety of perspectives and opinions.

AHS will report on the option of using an open position (s) to fund this position.

Sec 4 Oversight Coordination of Trauma Informed Services Committee

There is created an Oversight Committee to oversee the work of AHS and the Trauma Coordinator re; implementing Act 43 Plan

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The committee will meet quarterly and be composed of

A member of House Human Services Committee Comm

A member of Senate Health and Welfare Comm

A member of House Education Comm

A member of Senate Education Comm

A member of House health Comm

A member of Senate health Comm

A Representative of the Judicial Branch , Administrative Judge or designee

The committee is also charged with setting outcomes and indicators of the programs addressing trauma and promoting resilience and their evaluation, mapping current services and locating holes in the service providing, reporting back to committees of jurisdiction and the administration. Committee members will receive per diem and have an assistnatn from Leg council

The bill will take effect on July 1.

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