

I. DRAFT PRINCIPLES FOR TOXIC STRESS, TRAUMA and RESILIENCE
LEGISLATION

(1) Childhood trauma impacts all aspects of society. Each of Vermont's systems addressing trauma, particularly social services, health care, education, and the criminal justice system, shall collaborate to address the causes and symptoms of childhood trauma.

(2) The State's social services, health care, education, and criminal justice systems shall be redesigned in a manner that is trauma-informed to address effectively: adverse childhood experience prevention; the impacts of trauma; and resilience building.

(3) Current efforts to address childhood trauma in Vermont shall be recognized, coordinated, and strengthened.

(4) Addressing trauma in Vermont requires the building of resilience in those individuals already affected and preventing childhood trauma within the next generation.

(5) Early childhood adversity and adverse family events are common and can be preventable. When not preventable; early intervention is essential to ameliorate the effects. A state-wide, community-based, public health approach is necessary to effectively address what is a chronic public health disorder. Every citizen deserves to have this information about the most powerful determinants of their own—and their children's—health outcomes and well-being. To that end, Vermont shall implement an overarching public health model based on neurobiology, resilience, epigenetics, and the science of adverse childhood experiences and adverse family experiences with regard to toxic stress and trauma. This model shall include training for local leaders to facilitate a culture change around the prevention and treatment of childhood trauma.

(6) Service systems shall be integrated at the local and regional levels to maximize resources, increase flexibility, and simplify how systems respond to individual and family needs. All programs and services shall be evidence-informed and research-based, adhering to best practices in trauma treatment, including flexibility and innovation.

II. Trauma-INFORMED SERVICES DIRECTOR

(a) A trauma-informed services director shall be established in the Office of the Secretary of Human Services for the purpose of:

(1) developing and coordinating evidence informed and family-focused initiatives to prevent adverse childhood experiences and adverse family experiences from occurring; and

(2) directing the Agency's response to the impact of adverse childhood experiences and adverse family experiences by coordinating services ~~for individuals who~~ for schools, community organizations, businesses, state agencies or departments where have experienced toxic stress and trauma. traumatic events have occurred or are impacting staff/students/personnel.

(b) The Trauma-Informed Service Director shall provide advice and support to the Secretary and to each of the Agency's departments in establishing evidence-informed, -and family-focused mechanisms for the screening, assessment and prevention of adverse childhood experiences and adverse family experiences. The Director shall also support the Secretary and departments in ensuring that appropriate resources are available for community members ~~connecting~~ affected individuals with the appropriate resources for recovery. by traumatic events and/or toxic stress.

(c) The Trauma Services Director shall develop and implement an AHS policy to ensure all departments are trauma informed and that all AHS policies and practices are revised as necessary to ensure they are trauma informed and responsive.

(d) The Trauma Services Director shall collaborate with other service systems, especially the Agency of Education, health care providers, criminal justice, and the law enforcement system to ensure that all systems are working together in as integrated a fashion as possible to provide trauma informed services.

(e) The Trauma Services Director shall chair an advisory committee as described below.

III. Trauma Services Advisory Committee

AHS shall establish a Trauma Services Committee to provide advice to the Trauma Services Director. The Committee shall be built upon the foundation of the existing Child and Family Trauma Work Group. It shall:

- a. Provide advice to the AHS Trauma Services Director on development of policies and programs to address trauma prevention and treatment.
- b. Consist of a balanced representation from state government and the private sector.
- c. Includes representatives from different geographic areas of Vermont.
- d. Includes representatives from at least the following groups and services: schools, primary care, home visiting programs, mental health, substance treatment and recovery, restorative justice, law enforcement, -early childhood programs, sexual and domestic violence services, child abuse services, programs serving homeless, disabled, incarcerated, low income and refugee individuals.
- e. The Advisory Committee shall meet no less than monthly. Any member who does not have costs reimbursed by an employer shall receive compensation for travel and time at the usual state rate.