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Trauma Informed Investigation Practice Training Efforts at OAAPI

The Office of Adult Abuse Prevention and Investigation (OAPPI) is developing a trauma informed practice training process for both internal investigators and the DHS/OHA investigators we train for the programs we serve.



For our internal investigators (including those who conduct abuse investigations of 'children in care' we are developing the following:

- Specific trauma informed curriculum and training for OAAPI internal investigators as part of initial on-boarding (core competency).
- Internal (state government) and external (community partners) training resources to provide continuing education for our investigators.
- Partnering with child welfare's training to ensure consistency in trauma informed practice curriculum.

Training already accomplished in 2017:

CARES NW TRAINING-February 23, 2017- CARES NW provided two half day sessions in forensic interviewing of children and vulnerable adults focusing on trauma informed practice.

OAAPI investigator attendance at the Child Abuse Summit in Oregon April 11-14, 2017.

Presentations included:

- Childhood Trauma: Costs, Consequences and Proven Interventions
- Following the evidence in the commercial sexual exploitation forensic interview
- Take out the drama bring in the trauma: How to convert challenges into convictions
- ACE Study: Adverse Childhood Experiences: Identify, Intervene and Interrupt

OAAPI's training unit is currently working to include more material on trauma informed practice in OAAPI's core curriculum for DHS/OHA investigators (including staff at APD, Area Agencies on Aging, community DD programs and community MH programs) that investigate allegations of abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults (APD,DD, MH clients) in both community and facility settings.

Trauma Informed Training Efforts in Child Welfare

Child Welfare has a history of trauma informed training and information development dating back to around 2008 when The Foster Care subcommittee of the Oregon Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force identified the need to address the trauma to children associated with the investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect and the initial out-of-home placement. They contracted with PSU's Center for Improvement of Child and Family Services to design and conduct a project to address that need. The outgrowth of that work was compiled on a website was developed as a tool for dissemination of the various products developed in this project as well as links to resources on other websites, particularly the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (www.nctsn.org). The various resources and materials may be accessed through the links below.

<https://www.pdx.edu/ccf/reducing-the-trauma-to-children>

In addition, the following materials were developed:

1. A 3 hour curriculum, including a PowerPoint presentation, case studies, video clips and handouts addressing the impact of trauma on children of different ages and during the processes of investigation, removal, and initial placement.
2. Supplemental hands on trauma-informed practice strategies for caseworkers, educators, foster parents, law enforcement, medical examiners, and parents.
3. Four video clips of individual personal stories; excerpts of these videos were grouped under the topics of removal, entering foster care, suggestions to reduce trauma, protective factors, and message for educators.

Currently, Child Welfare offers a two-day training, provided by Portland State University's Child Welfare Partnership that is required for all new caseworkers called "Trauma-Informed Practice Strategies (T.I.P.S.) for Child Welfare Workers. Content of this training includes:

- Essential elements of a trauma-informed child welfare system
- Child traumatic stress defined; types of traumatic situations
- Enhancing the well-being and resilience of child welfare practitioners
- How trauma affects children
- The impact of trauma on a child's brain and body
- The influence of trauma on developmental stage
- The influence of culture
- Maximizing physical and psychological safety for children
- Identifying trauma-related needs of children
- Enhancing child well-being and resilience
- Enhancing family well-being and resilience
- Partnering with children and families
- Partnering with systems that interact with children and families

Trauma, its impact and how to mitigate it is weaved through many other training sessions including but not limited to:

- Full-day on child interviewing techniques
- Half-day on developmental issues of abused and neglected children
- Full-day on engagement strategies.
- Full-day on Trauma Informed Parenting for Foster, Adopt and Relative Caregivers.

Structured simulations are scheduled to begin in September 2017 with the caseworker training redesign, to enhance the interviewing skills of training participants which will include using a trauma informed approach as a behavioral benchmark. The ultimate goal is to provide all Child Welfare training through a trauma-informed lens.

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