

HCR 33 A STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Rep. Huffman

House Committee On Rules

Action Date: 04/27/17

Action: Be adopted with amendments. (Printed A-Eng.)

Vote: 7-0-2-0

Yeas: 7 - Barreto, Hack, Holvey, McLane, Nosse, Rayfield, Williamson

Exc: 2 - Kennemer, Smith Warner

Fiscal: No fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Encourages state officers, agencies and employees to learn about impact of trauma and to implement evidence-based trauma-informed care practices and interventions.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Importance of understanding principles of trauma-informed care
- Impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on person's life
- Variety of ACEs person can be exposed to
- Instances where trauma-informed care has differed from approach of state agency

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

Provides additional details on impact emotional neglect and exposure to traumatic events has on children and adults. Identifies and reinforces positive impact evidence-based and evidence-informed trauma-informed care practices in early childhood, can have on mitigating long-term negative impact of childhood trauma.

BACKGROUND:

Research over the past two decades has resulted in a significantly increased understanding of how emotional neglect and exposure to trauma and toxic stress affect the way children perceive and interact with their world during childhood. These patterns of perception and interaction persist into adulthood and are passed on to subsequent generations.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and trauma-related symptoms expressed by children and adults can result from both exposure to a single traumatic incident or from a cumulative series of traumatic events and toxic stress. Abuse, neglect and traumatic events compose part of what has been described as adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and the cumulative potential impact to a child who has a history of exposure to neglect and trauma can be calculated using what is called an ACE score. Children and adults, whose brains have been negatively affected by exposure to severe or repeated trauma, often develop negative coping behaviors and emotions that limit a person's capacity to:

- form healthy and stable relationships
- foster social capital
- learn from experiences or mistakes
- set and achieve short-term and long-term goals
- succeed in educational and vocational pursuits

With an increase in understanding about the impacts of trauma has come the development of evidence-based and evidence-informed trauma-informed care practices that foster environments of safety for both the workforce and those accessing services and promote healing and resiliency. Early childhood offers an important window of opportunity to prevent, treat and heal the impacts of ACEs and toxic stress on a child's brain and body. A critical

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factor in buffering a child from the negative effects of ACEs is the existence of at least one stable and supportive relationship between the child and a nurturing adult. Positively influencing the architecture of a child's developing brain is more effective and less costly than attempting to correct poor learning, health and behaviors later in life.

House Concurrent Resolution 33-A encourages state officers, agencies and employees to become informed regarding impacts of trauma and to implement evidence-based trauma-informed care practices and interventions.