



Trauma Informed Oregon

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Date March 26, 2019

TO: The Honorable Representative Alissa Keny-Guyer, Chair
The Honorable Representatives Ron Noble and Tawna Sanchez, Vice-Chairs
House Committee on Human Services and Housing

FROM: Mandy Davis, LCSW, PhD
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SUBJECT: HB 2969, Trauma Practice Integration Program

Chair Keny-Guyer, Vice-Chairs Noble and Sanchez and members of the committee; I am Mandy Davis the Director of Trauma Informed Oregon. Thank you for letting me take a few minutes to share my thoughts and support for HB 2969: *relating to the trauma informed practice integration program*.

My intention is to take a few minutes to share about what is happening in Oregon regarding trauma informed care and why I think it is the right time to organize this information at a system and state level.

Trauma Informed Oregon (TIO) was created in 2014 as a statewide collaborative aimed at preventing and mitigating the impact of adverse experiences on children, adults, and families through implementing trauma informed (TI) practices. This was made possible because of the work of the Children's System Advisory Committee, state leaders in children's mental health, legislators, and the many people doing this work prior to 2014.

Before we get much further, I want to share how we define trauma informed care (TIC). Most importantly TIC is an organizational and system change intervention. This is different from interventions focused on individuals who have experienced trauma, we define those as trauma specific services. An organization is TI when it understands the impact of adversity, trauma, and toxic stress on those they serve and the workforce and uses this information to prevent harm and retraumatization and promote wellness. When we talk about trauma and toxic stress, we are talking about experiences such as homelessness, abuse and neglect, untreated mental illness, domestic violence, and experiences of systemic



oppression and targeted violence such as racism, ageism, sexism, and ableism. A TIC intervention means reviewing your policies, procedures, and even your physical environment to see if it is hindering or promoting equity, inclusion, healing, and safety.

Trauma Informed Oregon's work is the result of many including staff, interns, a leadership committee, 600+ collaborative members, Oregon Trauma Advocates Coalition (OTAC) a young person advisory board, people with lived/life experiences, and representatives across systems.

We have focused our work on building capacity across the state through:

- Training and education
 - o 20,000 training attendees
 - o No-cost online training modules for onboarding
 - o 468 workshops
 - o 107 trainers trained
 - o OHSU partnership w/medical students
 - o Oregon Pediatric Society physician focused training
 - o College course on TIC
- Community building and resource development
 - o Website focused on Oregon happenings
 - o 23 county forums
 - o 1 upcoming conference to connect efforts
- Policy review and development
 - o Through a TI Lens review
 - o Examples
 - o Federal and State policy intersections
- Implementation resources and metric
 - o Technical assistance
 - o Metric development for organizations

Some takeaways of the work thus far:

- A lot is happening in Oregon—though sometimes it is not called trauma informed care.
- This work is relevant across systems including early childhood, behavioral health, corrections, judicial, disaster response, natural resource management, child welfare, and education.
- Strategies are happening at the program, organizational, system, and community level.
- We have leaders who understand the importance of this work for prevention and wellness.
- There is no one size fits all—but we can strive for the same goals.
- The OHA and PSU partnership has been essential to provide statewide accessible materials
- This work is seen in federal policies such as the [SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act](#) and the *Family First Act*.
- Oregon is recognized nationally for this work especially.



Because of the work of families and providers, systems are catching up to the importance of this lens and this work. There is much work to be done as we figure out what works and for whom, but because of all of the efforts in the state I do think it is the right time to take inventory at a system and state level of what is happening, where we can share and support resources, and what is helpful for sustained progress.

Thanks you again for giving me this time.