



Trauma Informed Oregon

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TO: Chair Williamson and Member of the Committee:

FROM: Mandy Davis, LCSW, PhD
Director Trauma Informed Oregon
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SUBJECT: HB 3300-1

Chair Williamson and members of the committee, I am Mandy Davis the Director of Trauma Informed Oregon and I am here to share my support for HB 3300 with proposed amendments to establish the Center for Incarcerated Mothers and their Children and to conduct a gender-responsive assessment and make recommendations for improved practice.

Trauma Informed Oregon (TIO), primarily funded by OHA and housed at Portland State University, was created in 2014 as a statewide collaborative aimed at preventing and mitigating the impact of adverse experiences on children, adults, and families through trauma informed care (TIC) approaches. Trauma Informed Care is an organization and system change intervention that 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.

Since our beginning we have trained over 20,000 people, completed 23 county forums, developed tools for implementation, and serve on national and international boards related to trauma informed policy and practice. The work outlined in HB 3300-1 is well aligned with our mission.

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), toxic stress and trauma are now recognized as a public health issue. When we talk about trauma and toxic stress, we are talking about experiences such as houselessness, abuse and neglect, untreated mental illness, domestic violence, experiences of systemic oppression such as racism and sexism and having a parent incarcerated. The relationship between the involvement in the judicial system, trauma, substance use, systemic oppression, and poverty is dynamic and well documented

Addressing adversity and the significant impact on people, families, and communities means to prevent the experiences from ever happening and to intervene to mitigate the negative outcomes when trauma and toxic stress occur. Having a parent incarcerated is an adverse experience and therefore we need programs that prevent incarceration all together



but also mitigate the impact to the family by promoting services that build resilience through relationship and attachment.

Oregon is doing significant work and is recognize nationally related to trauma informed care. In 2017 HCR 33 was unanimously passed and states that agencies in Oregon including the department of justice and department of corrections *become informed regarding well-documented short-term, long-term and generational impacts of adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress and structural violence on children, adults and communities and to become aware of evidence-based and evidence informed trauma-informed care practices, tools and interventions that promote healing and resiliency in children, adults and communities so that people, systems and communities can function at their full capacity and potential in school, in the workplace and in community, family and interpersonal relationships;*

HB 3300-1 builds from this foundation and is a critical to Oregon's continued work to address equity and adversity and to promote resilience. Providing trauma-informed, cultural responsive, and gender responsive services to mothers who are incarcerated and their children has the potential to simultaneously provide prevention and intervention service that will alter the impact of adversity across generations.

Thank you for this time.
Mandy Davis, LCSW, PhD