

Trauma-Informed Awareness Day

Building a More Resilient and Just Illinois

May 25, 2021

Virtual Event: 9:30 - 11:00am CDT

bit.ly/TraumaInformedIL

Follow along on social media:

[#TraumaInformedIL](https://twitter.com/TraumaInformedIL)



Welcome!

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*With special thanks to
Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation*



State Senator Julie Morrison

Tentative



Secretary Grace B. Hou

Illinois Department of Human Services



Lieutenant Governor

Juliana Stratton



Rosalia Salgado

Parent Leader, POWER-PAC IL, COFI

Trauma-Informed Awareness Day 2021



Matt Richards

Deputy Commissioner of Behavioral Health, CDPH



Octavia Tyson

Program Manager, ReCAST, CDPH



Yaacov Delaney

Director, Justice, Equity, and Opportunity Initiative

Agenda

- Welcome & Purpose
- Action Plan to Address Childhood Adversity
- Remarks from Secretary Hou
- Leadership Panel
- Action Plan Next Steps

The poster features a stylized illustration of a city with colorful buildings and trees. Several figures are shown interacting with the buildings, symbolizing community and resilience. The background is a warm orange color with soft, glowing circles.

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**The Illinois
ACEs Response
Collaborative**
Health & Medicine
POLICY RESEARCH GROUP
40 years advancing health equity

Why Trauma?

- Trauma is common.
- Daily and long-term health and social outcomes.
- Trauma can be prevented, addressed, and healed.



ILARC, 2018

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Trauma-Informed Awareness Day 2021 Resolution

RESOLVED, That we encourage all officers, agencies and employees of the State of Illinois whose responsibilities include individuals throughout the life course and communities, including the Office of the Governor, the State Board of Education, the Department of Human Services, the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Public Health, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Department of Corrections, *to become informed regarding well-documented short-term, long-term and multi-generational impacts of adverse childhood experiences, toxic stress, systemic racism and other potentially traumatic experiences for children, adults and communities, and to become aware of and implement evidence-based and racially-just, trauma-informed healing-centered care practices, tools, and interventions that promote positive experiences and racial justice to build resilience in individuals and communities so that they will be able to maximize their well-being and thrive.*

Working Group to Address Childhood Adversity in Illinois

What does it mean to be a trauma-informed state?

What strategic priorities should we emphasize?

How do we envision healing across Illinois today?

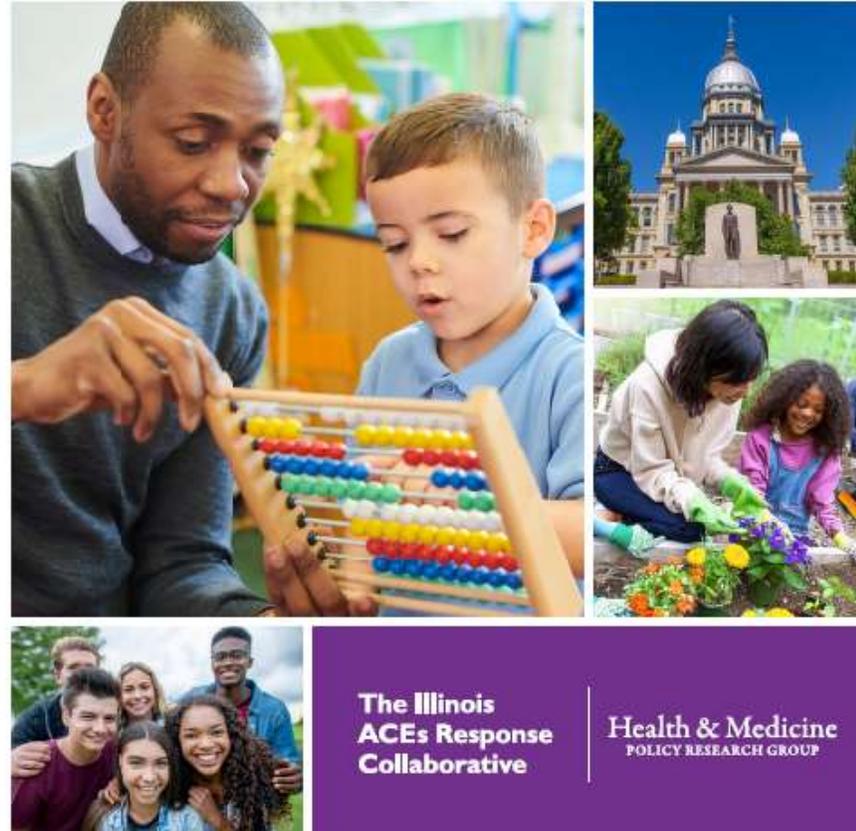
Action Plan Development Process



New Release

Action Plan to Address Childhood Adversity in Illinois

May 25, 2021



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Action Plan to Address Childhood Adversity in Illinois

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Plank 1: Trauma-Informed Policymaking. Improve the design and implementation of public policies by applying trauma-informed principles to the policymaking process.

Plank 2: Improve State-Level Coordination. Improve state-level coordination and collaboration, including in strategic planning, policy and program design, and information and data sharing, to build a more comprehensive, multigenerational approach to addressing childhood adversity in Illinois.

Plank 3: Educate, Build Awareness, and Advocate. Promote and support a commitment to shared responsibility and collective action to address childhood adversity and its impacts throughout life.

Plank 4: Improve Data Collection and Accessibility. Ensure that data collection efforts are coordinated, contribute to a cohesive and holistic understanding about the status of childhood adversity and resilience in Illinois, and are trauma-informed in their development and administration.

Plank 5: Identify Trauma-Informed Practice Metrics. Establish criteria for identifying an organization as trauma-informed and healing-centered.

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Action Plan Process and Recommendations Continued

Plank 1 Trauma-Informed Policymaking

Goal: Improve the design and implementation of public policies by applying trauma-informed principles to the policymaking process.

Key Challenges

- Policies have caused significant trauma and continue to traumatize individuals, families, and communities, including by creating and compounding inequities and disparities in health and overall well-being.
- Policies have created barriers to accessing the types of supports that prevent childhood adversity and promote healing, such as by establishing stringent eligibility requirements and by prioritizing punitive responses over restorative approaches.
- The policymaking process itself can cause harm, particularly when the voices and expertise of community members with relevant and lived experience and whose lives will be most impacted by a policy are marginalized and dismissed.
- Community members report that the grassroots engagement process by advocacy organizations is often not collaborative, with community members asked to participate in events but not given a voice in the planning or decision-making process.
- Community members also report that when asked to contribute ideas and suggestions they are often not provided with enough context about the purpose and goals of the effort or the outcomes related to the effort.



Applying Trauma-Informed Principles to Public Policies The Trauma-Informed

Policymaking Tool developed by the Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative outlines a policy approach to preventing and healing from trauma. The two-page Tool adapts the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's six principles of a trauma-informed approach and describes their application to both the process of policymaking and its outcome.

Strategies

- Educate legislative and agency staff on childhood adversity, the widespread impact of trauma throughout the life course, and the ways in which past and current policy decisions and processes create and exacerbate trauma.
- Engage in a concerted and coordinated effort to acknowledge and reconcile the harms that have been caused by public policies and by the policymaking process.

Continued

⁴ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2014). SAMHSA's Concept of Trauma and Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach. HHS Publication No. (SMA) 14-4884.

Action Plan Process and Recommendations Continued

Plank 1: Trauma-Informed Policymaking Continued

- Educate and train legislative and agency staff on approaches for incorporating trauma-informed principles, such as safety, trustworthiness, collaboration, strengths-based approaches, and social justice, into the policymaking process.
- Collaborate to support advocacy organizations in becoming trauma-informed in their engagement with community members, including by engaging community members in the development of policy recommendations.

Action Items

- Map and align current efforts by coalitions and collaboratives to educate legislative and agency staff on trauma-informed principles and policymaking.
- Coordinate to convene subject matter hearings and briefings that offer multiple perspectives (e.g., community members, advocates, professionals in the field of trauma-informed programs and policymaking) on the value and benefits of trauma-informed policymaking for relevant committees, caucuses, and task forces.
- Conduct one-on-one outreach to legislators and agency leaders to gain support for trauma-informed policymaking.
- Develop guidance, tools, and trainings to support legislative and agency staff in incorporating trauma-informed principles into the policymaking process.
- Identify and share examples of trauma-informed policymaking as well as examples of policymaking that would have been improved with a trauma-informed approach.
- Identify and promote opportunities to incorporate trauma-informed principles into the rules and policies of governing bodies, including by increasing transparency and communications with the public about how to engage in policymaking processes.
- Develop guidance, tools, and trainings to support advocacy organizations in becoming trauma-informed in their engagement with community members.

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Action Plan Next Steps

- Shared Responsibility and Leadership
- Identifying Implementation Opportunities
- Action Plan Dissemination
- Input from the Public, Policymakers, Stakeholders
- Mapping and Tracking Aligned Activities and Initiatives
- Communicating on Progress, Opportunities, Barriers

GET INVOLVED: bgavaghan@hmprg.org

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