

Support for Congregate Care Settings: Becoming More Trauma-Informed and Responsive



The Office of the Child Advocate, in partnership with Commonwealth Medicine, UMass Chan Medical School, has launched the Massachusetts **Center on Child Wellbeing and Trauma** with funding included in this year's state budget. The Center on Child Wellbeing and Trauma supports child-serving organizations and systems in becoming trauma-informed and responsive through free training, technical assistance, communities of practice, and other support.

The Center for Child Wellbeing & Trauma is collaborating with the Departments of Children & Families and Early Education and Care to offer a free trauma-informed and healing responsive self-assessment and coaching opportunity to congregate care organizations.



Support and Resources For Congregate Care Organizations

Virtually all youth at congregate care organizations have experienced trauma that can significantly impact **a child's development**, with long-term consequences for physical, mental, and emotional health that can last into adulthood. **But with the right supports, many who experience trauma will recover and thrive.**

The extremely high levels of acuity seen now present challenges in creating and sustaining a trauma-informed and responsive organization. Turnover, limited time for staff training, and other capacity challenges are all significant – and often costly – challenges. Becoming more trauma-informed and responsive may **support your organization in the recruitment and retention of your workforce** – as well as benefit the children in your care.

To learn more about the Center for Child Wellbeing & Trauma, email us at childwellbeingtrauma@umassmed.edu

How the Center on Child Wellbeing & Trauma Can Help You

The Center will partner with your congregate care site to implement a **free trauma-informed organizational assessment and framework**. Using the Trauma-Informed Organizational Assessment (TIOA) tool from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, we will:

- Assess your current practices in the context of serving children and families who have experienced trauma
- Review nine domains of trauma-informed care, including workforce development, strengthening resilience and protective factors, and addressing the intersections of culture, race, and trauma
- Provide individualized assessment and coaching on each area as well as follow up resources and supports

Depending on individual congregate care site needs, after the initial assessment is completed, the training and coaching process can involve about 10-15 hours spread over several months to best accommodate the organization's needs. **Recommendations and guidance from the process will help your site identify, implement, and sustain trauma-informed practices.**

Interested in learning more? Join the Center for an informational Zoom meeting on
January 26, 2022, from 2 – 3:30 p.m

Register at <https://umassmed.zoom.us/join/register/tJMvf-ihqDooHd3smDTTkW-fcSdsmCWyeMuN>.

