

Connecticut Collaborative on Effective Practices for Trauma (CONCEPT)

Standardized Trauma Screening

Overview: The Connecticut Collaboration on Effective Practices for Trauma (CONCEPT) will develop and institute a standardized system-wide protocol and quality assurance mechanisms for screening and referring for treatment children exposed to trauma. CONCEPT will develop a brief, standardized trauma screening protocol to ensure that all children involved with the child welfare system are screened for trauma exposure and symptoms. Staff will be trained to identify children in need of further assessment and treatment, and they will refer these children to evidence-based or evidence-supported trauma-focused treatments in their communities.

KEY COMPONENTS OF STANDARDIZED TRAUMA SCREENING:

- **Develop standardized trauma screening and referral tools and procedures**
CONCEPT will identify promising practice and analyze existing data from prior initiatives to develop trauma screening tools for child welfare staff. Development of the screening tools will include consideration of length of time to administer, appropriateness for use by child welfare system, and sensitivity and specificity for identifying children who may need more comprehensive assessment and treatment. Resources for DCF staff to refer children for further assessment or treatment will also be developed.
- **Develop and institutionalize a trauma screening and assessment/referral training curriculum**
CONCEPT will develop training materials for child welfare staff to use the screening and treatment referral procedures. This training will be integrated with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) Child Welfare Trauma Training Toolkit and other trainings in the Academy of Family, Workforce Development and Knowledge.
- **Modify existing DCF data systems to capture trauma data**
CONCEPT will work with DCF to modify existing data systems (LINK) to capture trauma screening and referral data. This will support implementation of screening and referral by including trauma exposure and symptoms as a mandatory component of child welfare assessments.
- **Quality Assurance & Technical Assistance**
CONCEPT will develop quality assurance processes to monitor the screening and treatment referral data and will provide technical assistance during implementation. CONCEPT will work to develop quality assurance expertise within each DCF region to support sustainability of the quality assurance processes. Data on screening and treatment referral will be fed back to child welfare staff to inform and improve practice, and may also be used to inform policy.
- **Phased roll out**
The screening and treatment referral procedures will be rolled out regionally from 2012 through 2016. CONCEPT will develop a regional roll-out plan to train 1-2 regions per year. This will allow more focused consultation with each region. The regional roll-out will be based in part on the availability of evidence-based treatments in the region to which children can be referred and will be coordinated with the TF-CBT and CFTSI implementations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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