

Trauma-Informed System Across Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH), Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), and the Division of Juvenile Justice Services (DJJS)

The directors of the DSAMH, DCFS, and DJJS agreed to engage in inter-division efforts to develop trauma-informed system. As a result, a task force consists of the staff from the three divisions has been meeting since January 2012 to develop a strategic plan on trauma-informed system. The plan follows the five guiding principles of trauma-informed care: safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, and empowerment. The strategic plan addresses elements critical to system transformation, including: vision and mission, contract process, workforce development, work environment, assessment process, and clinical intervention, etc. On January 8 and 9, 2013, forty three (43) staff members of the Department of Human Services attended a two-day training by Dr. Stephanie Covington on trauma informed care. The agencies represented include Executive Director's Office, Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Division of Juvenile Justice Services, Division of Child and Family Services, and Division of Services for People with Disabilities. Staff members include Directors, Program Administrators, and Program Managers. The training is based on the five core values of trauma-informed services (safety, trustworthiness, choice, collaboration, and empowerment) as well as the guiding principles for gender-responsive services. The focus is on incorporating these values (applicable for both clients and staff) into the services of the participating agencies. Training objectives are: 1) To define trauma-informed and gender-responsive services; 2) To describe the process of trauma; 3) To delineate the relationships between trauma, mental health and addiction; 4) To develop a self-assessment of the five core values of trauma-informed services; and 5) To develop a process for transformative change. As a result of the training, each division (Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, Division of Juvenile Justice Services, Division of Child and Family Services, and Division of Services for People with Disabilities) will organize a Division Guide Team to develop division specific strategic plan. The Executive Director's Office will organize a Department Guide Team to coordinate division efforts and ensure that it is seamless.