THE TRAUMA-INFORMED SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

Missouri
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY
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Pursuant to Section 161.1050, RSMo, DESE established the "Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative" which includes providing information and training to school districts regarding the trauma-informed approach, how schools can become trauma-informed schools, and developed a website about the trauma-informed schools initiative that includes information for schools and parents.

DESE would like to thank everyone who contributed to this important work.

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Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative

Pursuant to Missouri Senate Bill 638, Section 161.1050, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has established the "Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative"

For the purposes of this initiative, the following terms are defined as follows:

1. "Trauma-informed approach" -an approach that involves understanding and responding to the symptoms of chronic interpersonal trauma and traumatic stress across the lifespan
2. "Trauma-informed school" -a school that:
    a. realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery
    b. recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in students, teachers and staff
    c. responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into its policies, procedures and practices; and
    d. seeks to actively resist re-traumatization

DESE recommends The Missouri Model as the developmental framework for the Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative.

The implementation of a trauma-informed approach is an ongoing organizational change process. A "trauma-informed approach" is not a program model that can be implemented and then simply monitored by a fidelity checklist. Rather, it is a profound paradigm shift in knowledge, perspective, attitudes and skills that continues to deepen and unfold over time. Some leaders in the field are beginning to talk about a "continuum" of implementation, where organizations move through stages. The continuum begins with becoming trauma aware and moves to trauma sensitive to responsive to being fully trauma informed.

The Missouri Model: A Developmental Framework for Trauma-Informed:
http://dmh.mo.gov/trauma/MO%20Model%20Working%20Document%20february%202015.pdf

An Introduction to Trauma (Professional Training):

"Research has revealed that the prevalence of trauma is high particularly in specific target populations. This webinar will introduce viewers to the definition and prevalence of trauma, as well as examining the social, biological and health impact."
http://www.mimhtraining.com/introduction-to-trauma/
University of Missouri St. Louis / Missouri Institute of Mental Health

Legislative Workgroup Participants and Organizations

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Angie Stuckenschneider	Division of Behavioral Health/Department of Mental Health
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Dr. Shari Sevier	Missouri School Counselor Association
Elizabeth Makulec	Kids Under Twenty One (KUTO)
Emily Luft	St. Louis Regional Health/Alive and Well STL
Hillary Williams	American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
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Jean West	School Social Workers Association of Missouri/St. Joseph School District
Kelly Hopkins	Missouri School Boards' Association
Kevin Sandlin	Missouri Association of Rural Education
Kim Harrelson	School Social Workers Association of Missouri
Kim Moore	Missouri Association of School Psychologists
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