

CTIPP Policy Framework

CTIPP is a growing organization of individuals and groups from all sectors and walks of life working to create a better future by promoting trauma-informed policy and practice. CTIPP knows that people are fundamentally resilient, and prioritizes actions that support and build on natural strengths. CTIPP also maintains a particular focus on groups and individuals that have been most severely affected by trauma and adversity. In line with our public health approach, CTIPP supports policies that reduce trauma exposure, enhance resilience, mitigate impacts of trauma exposure, and enhance access to trauma-focused services.

CTIPP PROMOTES POLICIES THAT REFLECT THE FOLLOWING FIVE PRINCIPLES:

1. **Public health framework.** The threat posed to the public's health by chronic adversity and trauma can most effectively be curtailed by policies that integrate trauma education, prevention, mitigation, treatment and supports, and that address environmental as well as individual factors.
2. **Holistic, cross-systems approaches.** Our current service systems were developed before we understood that trauma is the root cause of many health, mental health and social problems. As a result, they often operate in isolation from each other. Effective responses to trauma and adversity will reduce barriers to interagency coordination and integrate responses across service systems
3. **Lifespan, intergenerational, culturally relevant approaches.** Chronic adversity and trauma affect people across the lifespan. The consequences of trauma may be passed from

generation to generation, and can result from historical trauma experienced by a group to which an individual belongs. In order to interrupt intergenerational cycles, policies need to reflect a lifespan approach, acknowledge the impact of historical trauma, and support multi-generational interventions.

4. **Re-direction and re-tooling of existing resources.** In the current service system, the majority of resources are used to treat symptoms of traumatic exposure rather than addressing the underlying trauma. New programs alone cannot solve this problem. Policies that re-direct existing resources and adequately train and re-tool the workforce are essential.
5. **Sustainable, structural change.** Public policies should promote the convening of people and groups who can effectively leverage systems and culture change, including citizens as well as professionals. New program initiatives should be directly tied to ongoing sources of funds, and support evaluation of preventive efforts and collective impact.

CATEGORY 1: PRIORITY ACTION

CTIPP will take active leadership to develop and promote policies that directly address chronic adversity and trauma through comprehensive approaches reflecting the values above. Examples might include:

- Cross-training for law enforcement, health, mental health and justice workers to promote trauma-sensitive community responses to vulnerable youth and adults.
- Programs bringing together multiple service

sectors to address the role of trauma in the current epidemic of opioid and other addictions.

- Policies promoting the co-location of trauma-informed services to improve access, such as locating health clinics in schools.
- Funding for infrastructure to monitor measures of collective community trauma and resilience.
- Re-training mental health and correctional officers to work collaboratively to reduce recidivism by addressing trauma and adversity.
- Policies requiring adult-serving systems to identify and respond to children put at risk by their parents' conditions; policies requiring child-serving systems to identify and respond to parental history of adversity and trauma.
- Legal protections ensuring that data on people's trauma histories are not misused in any way.
- Re-allocation of resources to create a better balance and coordination of treatment and prevention.

On priority issues, CTIPP might educate policymakers through visits and briefings, gather and disseminate information helpful to the development of new policies, respond to and/or support proposed legislation and regulation, develop models for dissemination to states, form coalitions to support proposed legislation, mobilize grassroots efforts, etc.

CATEGORY 2: ACTIVE SUPPORT

CTIPP will collaborate with other organizations to support policies that directly address chronic adversity and trauma in more limited ways (for example, in a single service sector), and policies that would prevent trauma by decreasing known risk factors and increasing environmental supports. Examples might include:

- Policies requiring that teachers be able to identify and respond to trauma responses in their students, or that health care workers screen for current exposure to interpersonal violence.
- Implementation of school-based prevention programs.

- Family leave policies.
- Policies encouraging mental health systems to educate the people they serve about the impact of trauma on health and well-being.
- Increasing the reimbursement rate to adequate cover trauma-specific treatment modalities.
- Policies requiring correctional facilities to support family visitation in order to lessen the adverse impact of parental incarceration on children.
- Health care policy affecting the availability of services for trauma survivors.

To provide support, CTIPP might sign on to letters drafted by other organizations, join coalitions organized by other groups, provide information and suggestions to organizations taking the lead on the issue, etc.

CATEGORY 3: ANALYSIS AND COMMENT

CTIPP may from time to time provide analysis and comment on a wide variety of public policies that do not *directly* address toxic stress and trauma, but that *indirectly* affect trauma exposure and/or population resilience. Examples might include:

- Minimum wage proposals.
- Housing policy.
- Criminal justice reform that does not directly address trauma.

CTIPP may analyze and comment on current scientific findings to project the likely impact of a proposed policy on people's exposure to trauma, review prior experience with how similar policies have affected people's well-being, propose additional research, etc.

NOTE: The CTIPP policy agenda document is intended as a general policy framework. CTIPP remains responsive and flexible to address trauma-related policy issues that may arise.

Updated January 2019