

# Childhood Trauma Task Force

January 3rd  
11am – 12:30 pm

# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Review of the Open Meeting Law
- Review of Statute (Task Force Charge)
- Review and Discussion of Proposed Year 1 Work Plan
- Presentation on State Agency Survey Results

# Introductions

Name	Organization
Maria Mossaides	Child Advocate, <i>Chair</i>
Representative Carolyn Dykema	House of Representatives (Majority)
<i>Awaiting Designee</i>	House of Representatives (Minority)
Senator Joseph Boncore	Senate (Majority)
<i>Awaiting Designee</i>	Senate (Minority)
Thomas Capasso	Chief Justice, Juvenile Court
John Millett	<i>Designee</i> , Massachusetts Probation Services
Yvonne Sparling	<i>Designee</i> , Department of Youth Services
Linda Spears	Commissioner, Department of Children & Families
Laura Brody	<i>Designee</i> , Department of Children & Families
Nancy Connolly	<i>Designee</i> , Department of Mental Health
Babanina James	<i>Designee</i> , Department of Public Health

# Introductions

Name	Organization
Stacy Cabral	<i>Designee</i> , Executive Office of Education
Claudia Dunne/Barbara Kaban	<i>Designee</i> , Committee for Public Counsel Services
<i>Awaiting Designee</i>	Massachusetts District Attorneys Association
Ruth Budelmann	Chair, Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee
Kate Lowenstein	<i>Designee</i> , Citizens for Juvenile Justice
Tammy Mello	<i>Designee</i> , Children’s League of Massachusetts
Chief Kevin Kennedy	<i>Designee</i> , Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association
<i>Awaiting Designee</i>	Parent Representative
<i>Awaiting Designee</i>	Parent Representative
<i>Awaiting Designee</i>	Data Systems Representative

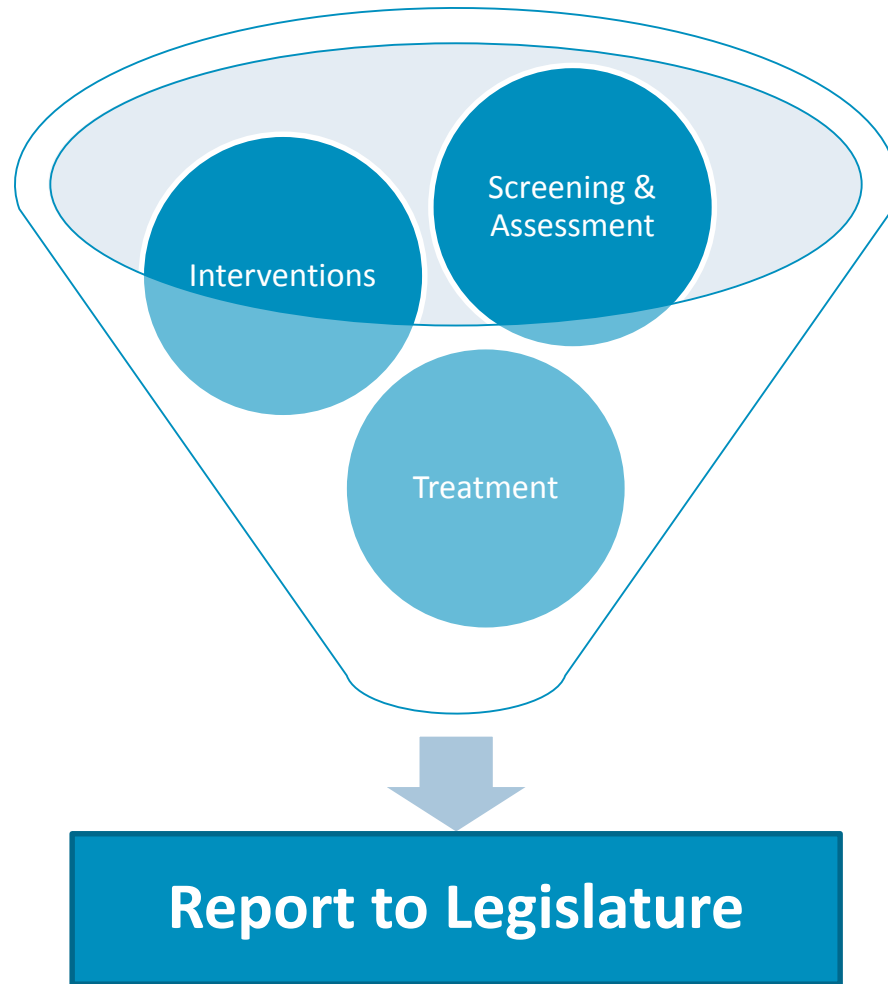
# Summary of Statutory Requirements

- Review current processes for **identifying school-aged children who have experienced trauma**
- Review **current means of providing services** to help children recover from the psychological damage caused by trauma
- Examine the feasibility of **providing school-based trainings on trauma screening, assessment, and interventions** as well as the **need for diagnostic tools**
- Study **gender-responsive and trauma-informed approaches** to treatment services for youth in the juvenile justice system make recommendations for improvements

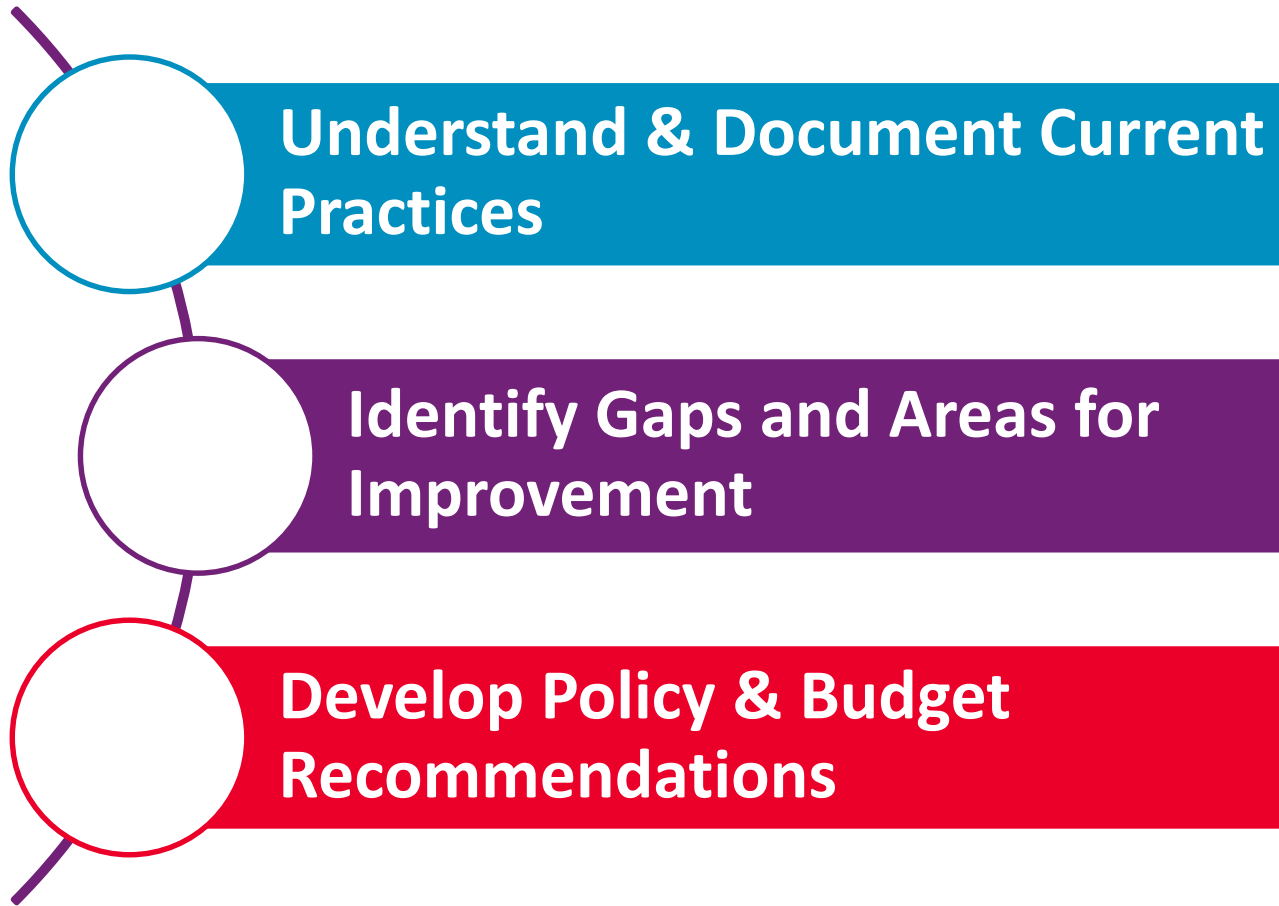
*Chapter 69, Section 17 of the Acts of 2018*

# **PROPOSED YEAR 1 CTTF WORK PLAN**

# What's the End Goal?



# Proposed Year 1 Objectives





# Understand & Document Current Practices

## Questions to Be Answered:

### How are we identifying children who have experienced trauma?

- How do we define trauma?
- Who/where do we identify children?
- What methods or tools do we use and in what settings?
- Once we have identified trauma, what comes next?

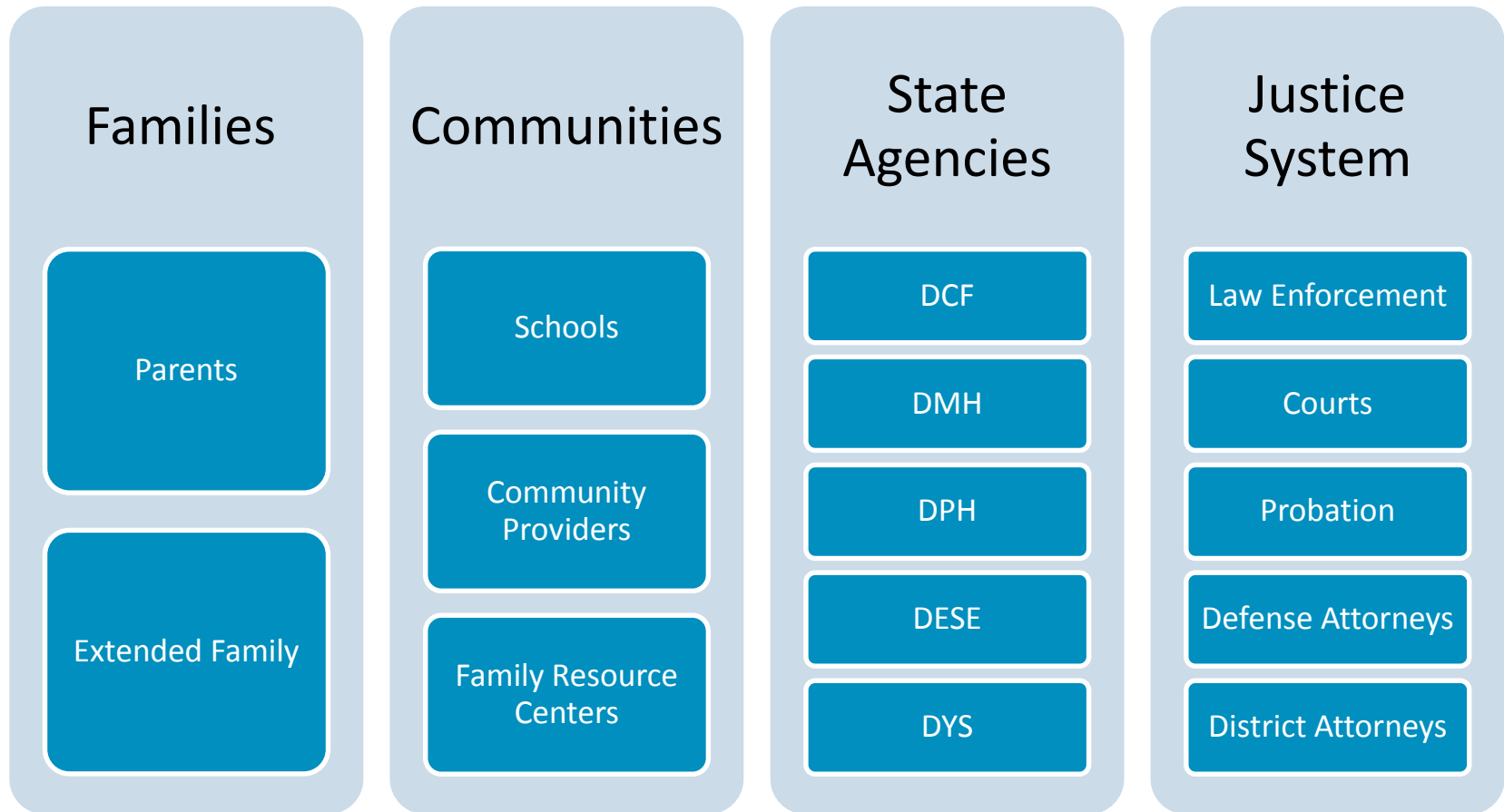
### What services do we provide to help children recover from effects of trauma?

- How do we determine what services are necessary?
- Who provides services, and where are they provided?
- What types of services are provided?
- How do we measure if they are effective?

### How are we adapting our processes and practices to be more trauma-informed?

- What training and tools do we provide for staff?
- What policies and processes are we changing and developing as our understanding of trauma grows?
- Given how widespread trauma/the experience of ACES is, how are we building resiliency in all our children?
- What data are we collecting to measure scope of problem and/or progress?

## Who Has a Role to Play? \*



\*A non-exhaustive list...

# Potential Methods for Gathering Information:

### Surveys

- Schools
- Community Providers
- State Agencies
- Justice System Practitioners

### Regional Meetings or Focus Groups

- Families
- School Leaders
- Justice System Practitioners

## Discussion Questions:

- Do we need to narrow our focus for the first year? Ways to narrow could include:
  - Setting (e.g. schools)
  - Timeframe (e.g. post-arrest)
  - Process point (e.g. screening & assessment)
- Are there additional questions to be answered? (see slide 9)
- Are there additional methods for gathering information about current practices we should consider? (see slide 11)
  - Are there data sets we should be aware of?

# Identify Gaps & Areas for Improvement

## Develop Shared Goals & Vision

- Understanding of Current System & CTF Member Expertise
- Promising Practices & Research

## Identify Gaps

- e.g. Services; Training

## Identify Barriers to Improvement

- Statutory
- Financial

# Engaging Outside Expertise & Learning About Promising Practices

### Examples of potential invited presenters:

- Center on the Developing Child
- Trauma and Learning Policy Initiative
- UMass Child Trauma Training Center
- Child Trauma Institute
- Alliance for Inclusion & Prevention
- Institute for Health & Recovery
- The Trauma Center
- National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice
- A “Trauma Sensitive” School District

## Discussion Questions:

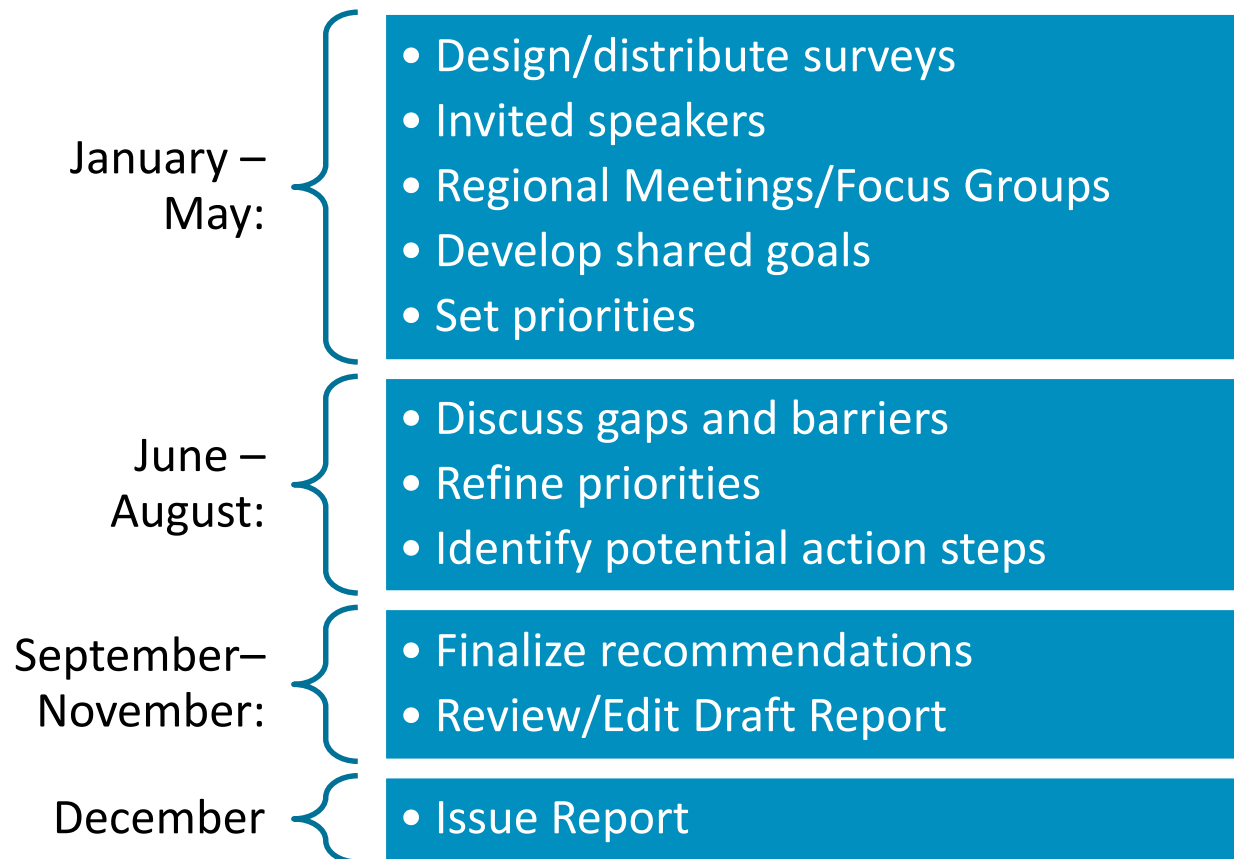
- Would invited presentations help the CTFF achieve objectives?
- If so, are there particular presenters we should prioritize (or avoid)? Who is missing from the list?
- Are there particular topics the group would like presentations on?
- What other supports would help this group identify areas for improvement and ideas for change?

## Questions to Be Answered:

- What role can/should state government play in identifying and addressing childhood trauma?
- What are the CTTF's Year 1 Recommendations?
- What information will best support those recommendations?



# Draft Timeline to Produce Legislative Report



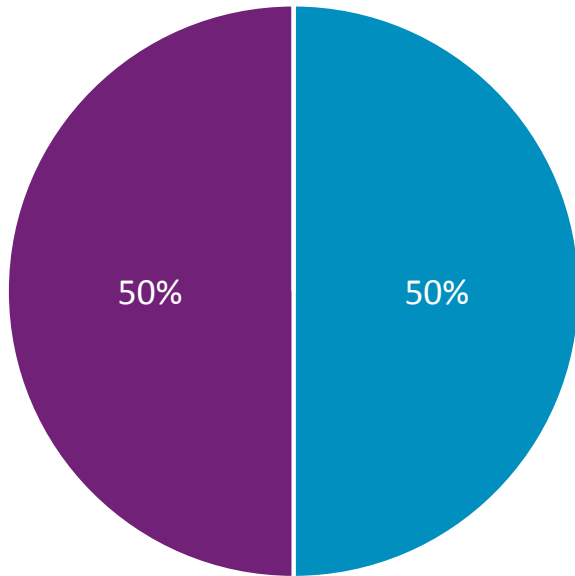
# Overall Discussion Questions

- Are these the right objectives?
- Will this process help us achieve these objectives?
- Does this timeline seem feasible?
  - Are ~monthly meetings reasonable?
- Are there key voices missing from the table? If so, how should we include them?

# **SURVEY FINDINGS**

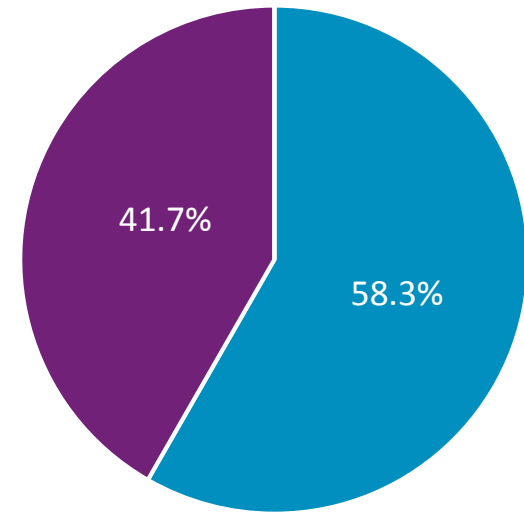
# Defining Trauma

Does your agency or office define "trauma"? (12 responses)



■ Yes ■ No ■ Not Sure

Does your agency or office define "trauma-informed care" or "trauma-informed approach"? (12 responses)

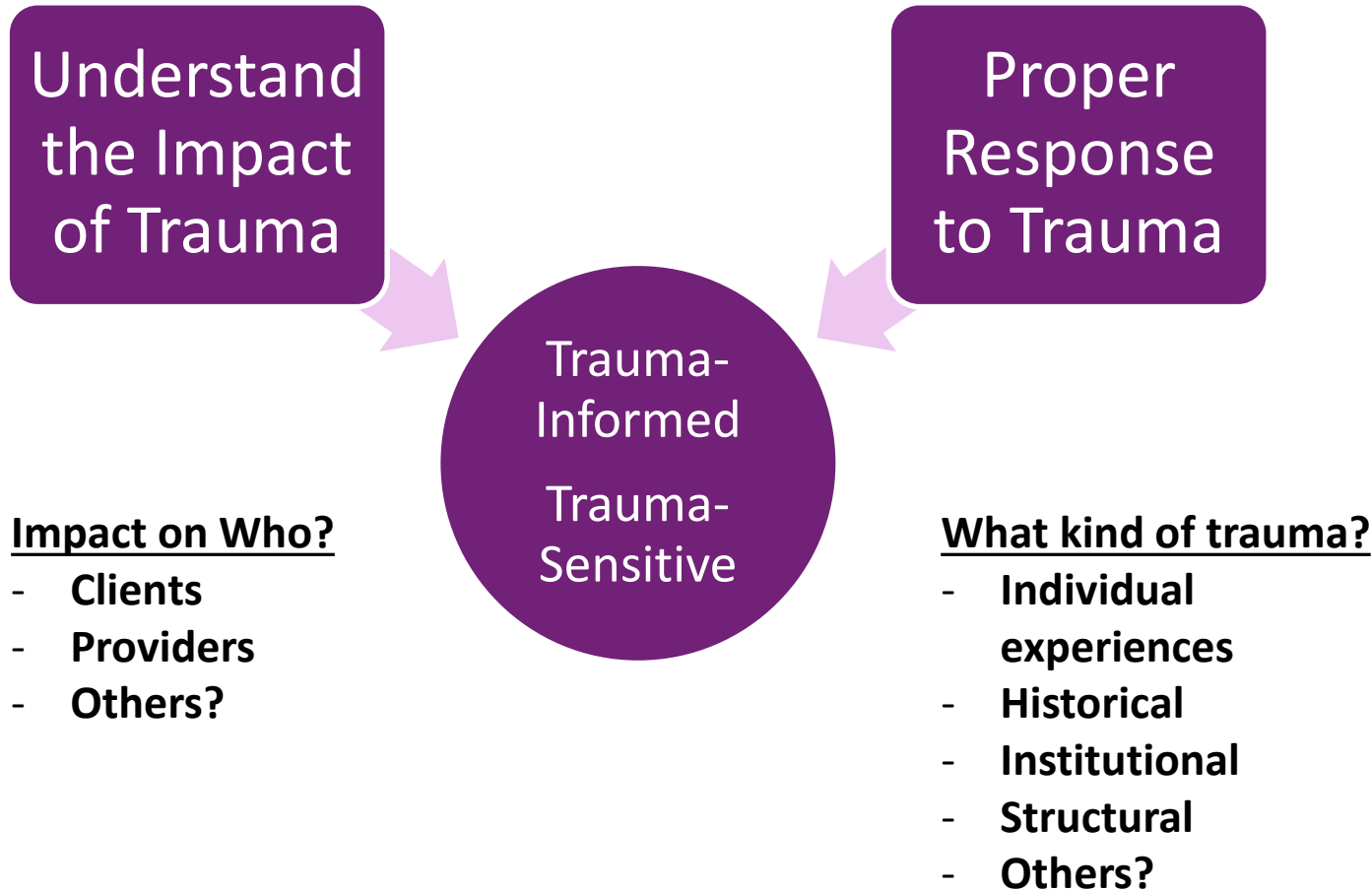


■ Yes ■ No ■ Not Sure

# Defining Trauma

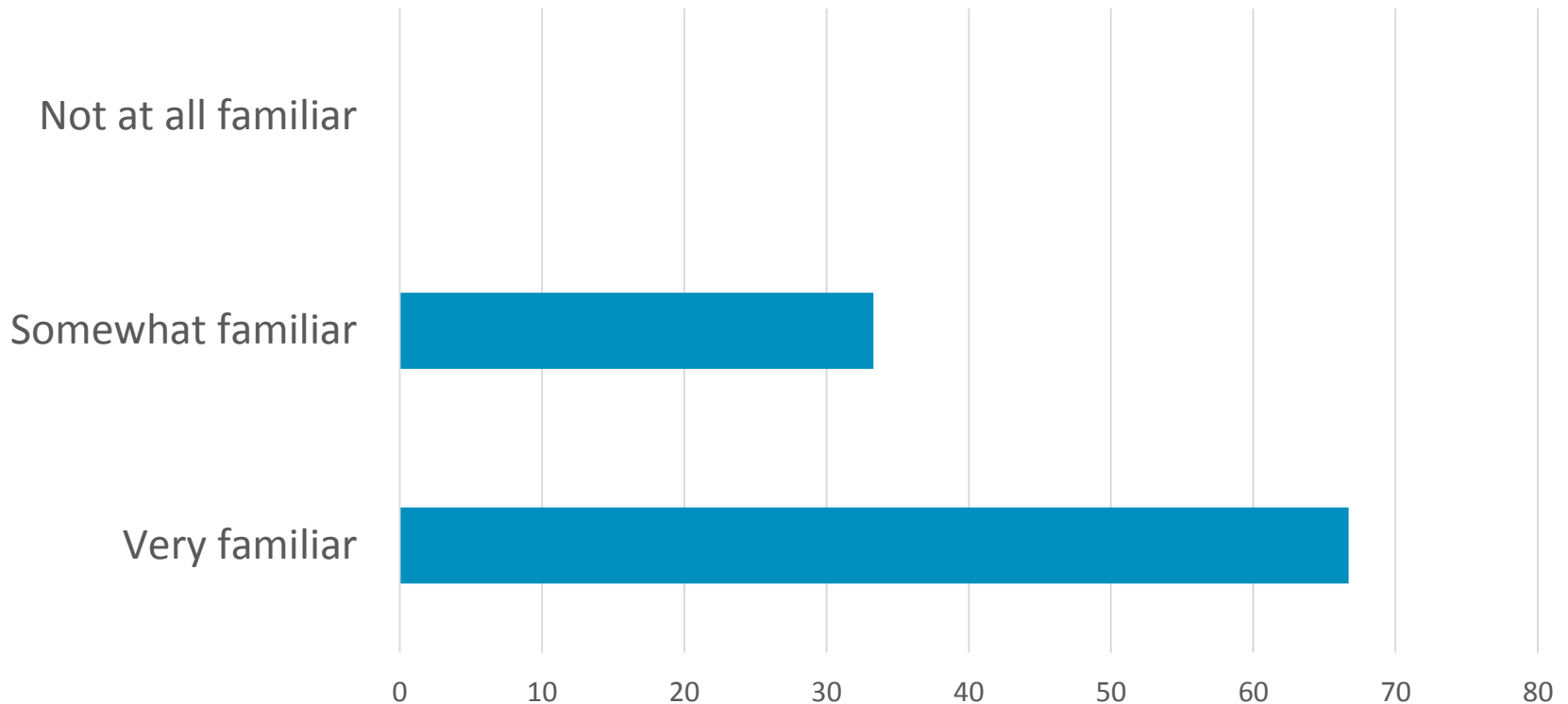
Similarities	Differences
1. Trauma is the <u>response</u> a person has to one or more events	1. Descriptions/examples of what the responses might look like: physically harmful, emotionally harmful, “strong reactions,” decrease in daily functioning skills
2. Precipitating events described as <u>overwhelming</u> and/or <u>stressful</u>	2. Descriptions of the long-term impact of trauma

# Defining Trauma-Informed Care



# ACEs Knowledge

How familiar are you with the ACES studies?



# Trauma Training

## Who?

- All staff required
- Voluntary
- Voluntary for some staff, required for others
- Different trainings for different populations served

## When?

- New staff orientation
- Annual trainings
- Core training
- Forums

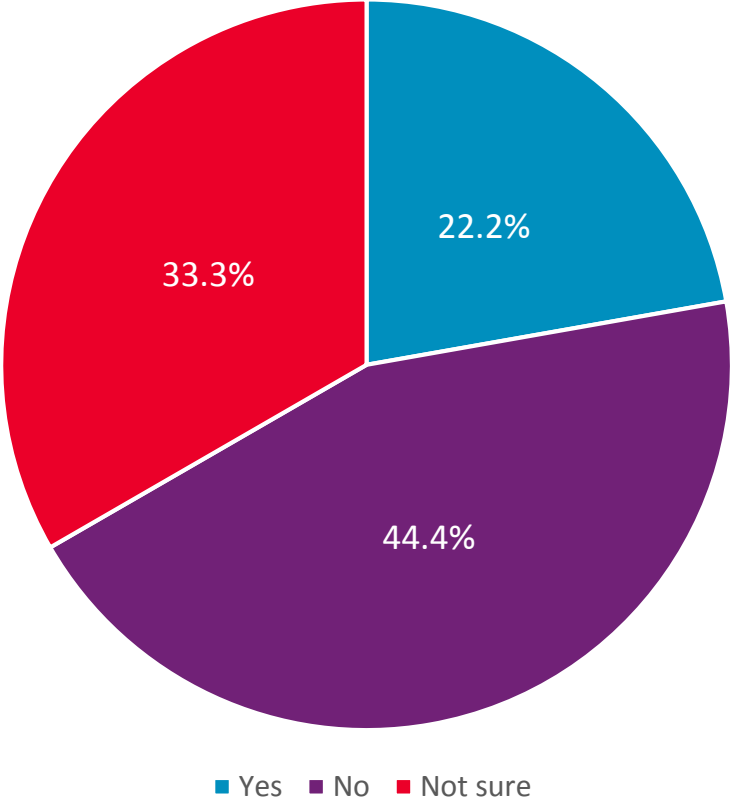
## How often?

- Annually (required)
- Annually (optional)
- Ongoing

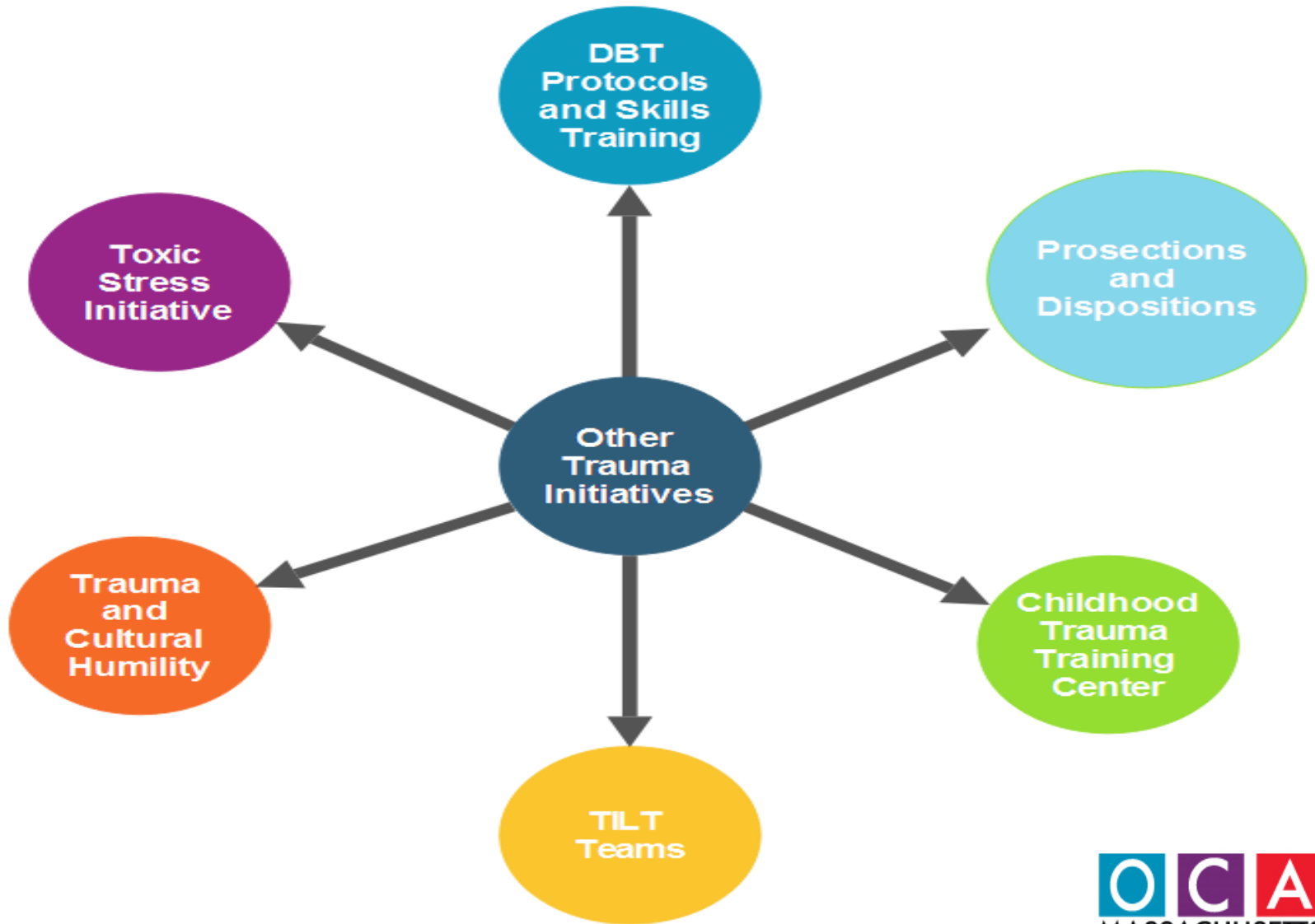


# Quality Assurance

Do you have any quality assurance procedures in place to support staff in implementing the trauma-informed care/approach taught in the training? (9 responses)



# Other Trauma-Related Initiatives



# Questions/Comments?

# Contact

Melissa Threadgill

Director of Juvenile Justice Initiatives

[melissa.threadgill@mass.gov](mailto:melissa.threadgill@mass.gov)

617-979-8368