

Childhood Trauma Task Force

December 4, 2023

1pm-3pm

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Presentations on Trauma Supports in Juvenile Justice
 - Transformational Prison Project
 - Trauma Response Specialists (DYS)
- Discussion and Vote on CTF Annual Report
- Approval of October 2023 Meeting Minutes
- Center on Child Wellbeing & Trauma Update

The logo consists of a dark blue rectangular background. The word "TRANSFORM" is written in white, uppercase letters on a yellow rectangular background. The word "PRISON" is written in white, uppercase letters on a light blue rectangular background. The words "ATIONAL" and "PROJECT" are written in white, uppercase letters on the dark blue background. The words "TRANSFORM" and "PRISON" are on the top line, and "ATIONAL" and "PROJECT" are on the bottom line.

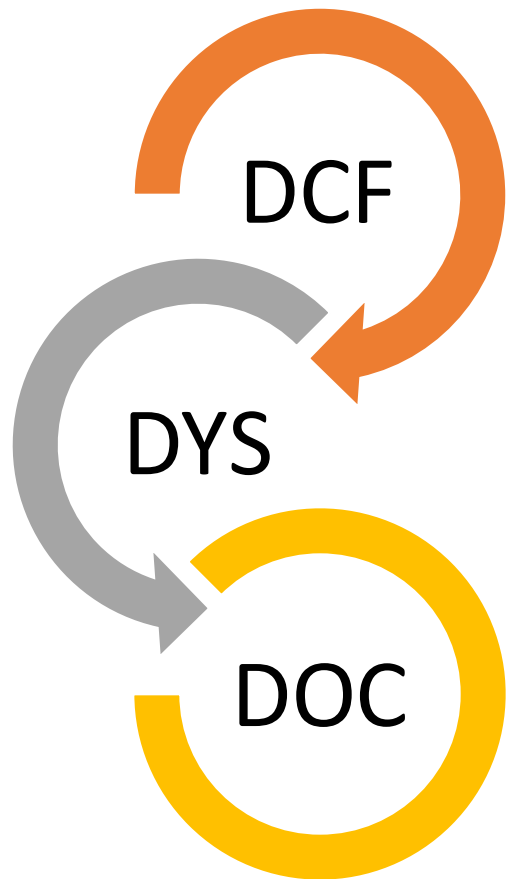
TRANSFORMATIONAL
PRISON PROJECT

Supporting Youth at the Department of Youth Services

Presentation to the Childhood Trauma Task Force

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Noble's Story



Transformational Prison Project (TPP)

- **How it began at MCI-Norfolk**

- Founded in 2013
- Restorative justice-based programming
- Young Men's Evolution as part of the programming

- **The Goal: Creating a program for us, by us**

- Bridging the gap between inside prison walls and the outside community to create a healthier transition
- Addressing the re-entry myth of "resources are readily accessible and available to those coming home"

- **TPP is currently led by formerly incarcerated individuals**

- We provide the direct solutions to the struggles and traumas we dealt with upon our own re-entry
- The same resources and programs that we were promised when coming home, but never received

TPP for Youth at DYS

- Providing youth with direct mentorship by those with lived experience of the criminal system
- 2 regions, 5 units, over 80 youth
- Restorative Justice (RJ) circles: Building community with youth and staff inside DYS
- Working with families and caseworkers in the community to be a part of wraparound team for re-entry

State's Response

WHAT IS STARTING TO WORK

- Providing youth with access to those who look like them and have been in their shoes
- Using RJ as a means to recognize harm and heal. Providing resources to aid youth in realizing their full potential beyond the streets. Gear resources towards potential of being successful vs. security.

WHAT DOESN'T WORK

- Forgetting they are young, lack of patience from staff
- Implications of point system- everyone should be able to call home to loved ones. “Not allowed” to have a bad day while incarcerated; can lose level for one bad day.
- Units need to be updated. Metro-region looks the exact same as when TPP staff were incarcerated.
- More staff support. Need more clinicians that look like youth- extra emphasis on mental health.

Re-Imagining the Future

DYS NEEDS MORE:

- Support for staff: restorative training and spaces for everyone to heal
- More clinicians that reflect the population and that come from the population (and education team to reflect the youth as well)
- Customized support packet for every youth returning to community. Everyone should have opportunity to utilize every resource of DYS, despite they level they are on when they leave
- More people in leadership who are not afraid to try something different

Trauma Response Specialists (TRS)

Department of Youth
Services (DYS)

Background

- ▶ DYS staff feedback from listening tours with the Commissioner and Chief of Staff
- ▶ Support from Center on Child Wellbeing and Trauma
- ▶ Lookout Foundation grant

Mission & Goals

The Mission of the DYS Trauma Response Specialists is to support DYS staff to address the primary and vicarious trauma experienced in their direct care roles. Additionally, Trauma Response Specialists serve as subject matter experts in the areas of race equity and trauma informed care and champion work in these areas both within DYS and among the communities we serve.

Goals:

- ▶ Increase agency support of DYS staff, especially our BIPOC and LGBTQ+ staff, to combat trauma and burnout
- ▶ Increase staff resilience and reduce turnover
- ▶ Increase opportunities to support DYS involved youth in programs and communities

Meet the TRS Team

Ruchel D'Angelo

Jen O'Neill

Charlotte Williams

What We Do

Staff Support & Incident Response

Serve as a resource to staff to debrief and process incidents that occur in DYS programs and communities.
Quickly assess and provide brief solution focused interventions utilizing de-escalation techniques and supportive counseling to intervene with individuals/families in crisis.

Training

Coordinate and facilitate ongoing agencywide trauma informed practice and positive youth development training in collaboration with JDAI Staff and DYS Training Academy.

Promote Race Equity

Connect with communities and families to lead conversations about race, equity, and trauma.

Build Resilience

Coordinate provision and facilitation of Youth Identity Curriculum to all youth within DYS care and custody.
Lead the agency's response to the needs of youth and families of color through inclusiveness and outreach.

Support for TRS Team

- ▶ DYS
 - ▶ Supervision by Senior Leadership
 - ▶ Collaboration with Victim Services & Employee Supports
- ▶ Center on Child Wellbeing & Trauma, OCA
- ▶ Jernigan & Associates Consulting, LLC

Current Work & Next Steps

Current

- ▶ Incident response
- ▶ Individual staff support
- ▶ Establishing best practices
- ▶ Assess training/resource needs

Next Steps

- ▶ Youth Racial Identity Development Curriculum launch
- ▶ Onboard additional TRSs
- ▶ Offer supports to youth in DYS programs and communities

CTTF 2023 Annual Report

- Section 1: Towards a Trauma-Informed and Responsive Commonwealth
 - CTTF Word To-Date
 - Center on Child Wellbeing & Trauma Work in FY23 and FY24
- Section 2: CTTF Work Plan 2023-2024
 - Increasing Access and Availability of Trauma Supports
 - Panel Presentations
 - Understanding State Agency Trauma Trainings
 - Understanding the Landscape of Trauma Services
 - Studying Dually Involved Youth

Center on Child Wellbeing & Trauma

- Established in 2021 following recommendations of the CTTF
- CCWT supports child-serving organizations and systems in becoming trauma-informed and responsive through TTA, communities of practice, and coaching.
- In 2023, CCWT transitioned from ForHealth Consulting at UMass Chan Medical School to OCA

Training and Technical Assistance

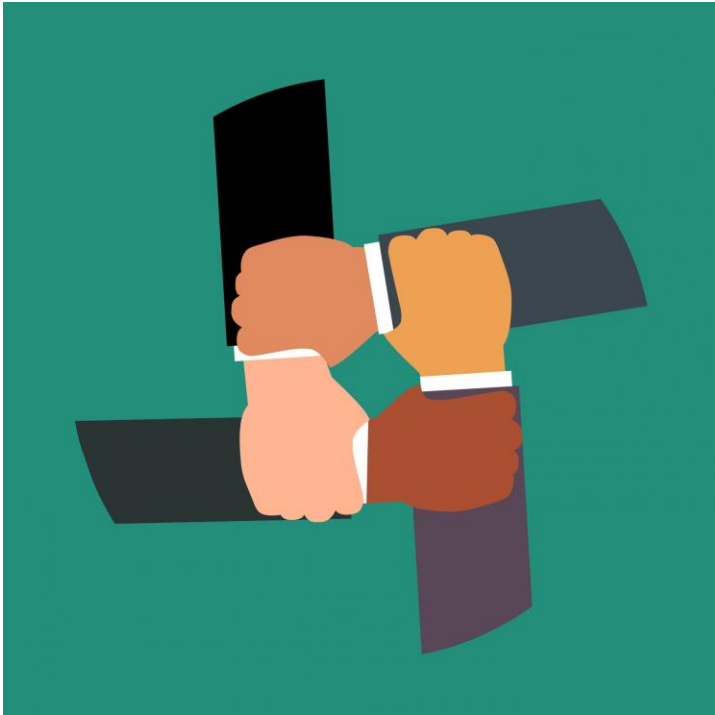
Provider/
contracted
agencies TTA

State Agency
Collaborations

Resources & Information
Website

childwellbeingandtrauma.org

Key partners



Provider
agencies



State
agencies



Schools

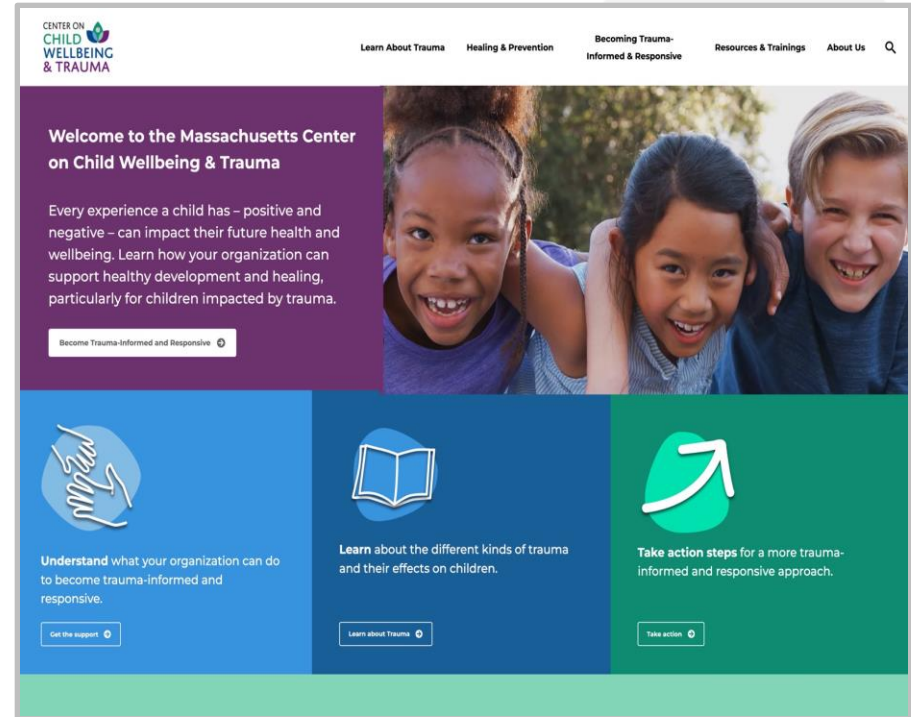
New Resources for Everyone

- **Identifying Trauma**

- Trauma Identification Approaches
- Family Engagement in Trauma Identification
- Addressing the Many Needs of Children Impacted by trauma

- **Toolkits**

- Supporting LGBTQ2IA+ Youth:
 - 3 toolkits for Community Partners, Health Care Professionals, and Schools
- Trauma-Informed, Healing-Centered School Practices



State Agency Partnerships FY24

- Early Education and Care (EEC)
 - Partnering with CFCEs to support displaced families
 - Series of trainings and technical assistance for Early Childhood providers on reducing trauma and promoting resilience
- Department of Youth Services (DYS)
 - Training for Trauma Responsive Specialists
 - Trauma responsive materials and books
 - Spring training on Think Trauma: A Training for Working with Justice Involved Youth
- Housing and Living Communities (HLC)
 - Supporting trainings on Cultural Humility and Cultural Competence
 - Training for 5 shelter liaisons, family shelter workers, and other leaders
- Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA)
 - Launching Teen Parenting toolkit
 - Monthly training and technical assistance sessions
 - Reflective Supervision training and technical assistance

DCF Provider Agencies

Agency / Program Type	Approximate # youth and families served
Multi-service agencies (5)	13,630+
Congregate Care Programs (5)	1,400
Teen Parent Congregate Care Programs (5)	60+



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School Focus: Thriving Minds

Service Type	School Based Targeted Interventions	Availability
<i>Comprehensive Cohort Coaching</i>	Outreach and recruitment underway;	6-12 districts can participate Currently enrolling
<i>Professional Learning Communities</i>	4 Proposed Topics supporting LGBTQ+ Youth, <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 series January-March• 2 series March -May	Open to unlimited school community personnel



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Offers & Asks



Be in touch if you want more information on our training and technical assistance



Stakeholder feedback welcomed!



Hiring new positions



Spread the word on toolkits and identifying trauma on the website

For questions or comment, please email

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