

Childhood Trauma Task Force

June 15, 2026

Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Vote on March Meeting Minutes
- Discussion of Research Plan
- Discussion of Research To-Date

Research Plan Presentation & Discussion

Promoting trauma-responsive
healthcare services for children
utilizing state services

CTTF's Previous Work on Trauma-Informed and Responsive Healthcare

The CTTF was tasked by the Legislature with determining how the state can better identify and provide services to children who have experienced trauma:

- CTTF's [2021 report](#) discusses trauma identification across sectors, including screening and surveillance in healthcare settings
- CTTF's [2022 report](#) presents recommendations on trauma identification for providers, healthcare systems, and the state

Aligning Research to CTTF Mandate

TIC COMPETENCIES FOR ALL CLINICIANS IN MA

Improving access to trauma-informed care training for medical and behavioral health clinicians who work with youth and families



STATE HEALTHCARE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AT RISK OF HAVING EXPERIENCED TRAUMA

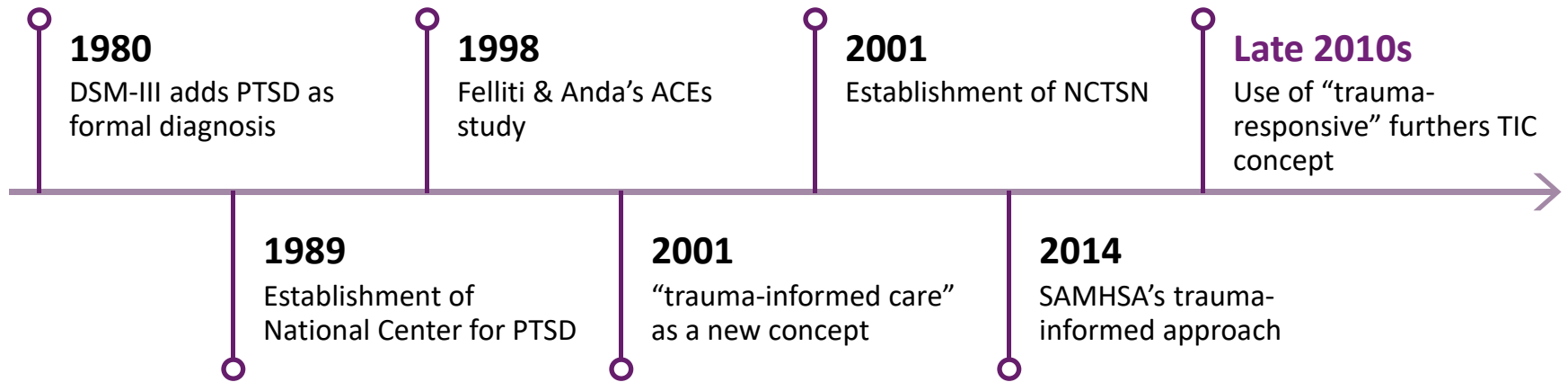
Promoting trauma-responsive medical and behavioral health services for children utilizing state services

Aligning Research to CTTF Mandate

Focusing on trauma-responsive healthcare services for children utilizing state services would help:

- Focus on child outcomes
- Better align with CTTF mission focused on children at risk of having experienced trauma
- Broaden solutions beyond training of clinicians as the sole mechanism for trauma-responsive healthcare
- Ensure recommendations can more effectively leverage state-level policies and programs

Note on Terminology: From Trauma-Informed to Trauma-Responsive Care



In 2020, the CTFP published its *Framework for Trauma-Informed and Responsive Organizations*, recognizing that practices should be informed by knowledge and responsive to the needs of children who have experienced trauma at the individual and organizational levels.

Although a term of art in healthcare, the OCA proposes the CTFP use "trauma-responsive care" instead of "trauma-informed care."

Research Questions

- What constitutes trauma-responsive care?
- What is the effectiveness of trauma-responsive care training among healthcare providers?
- Who, among healthcare providers in MA, is currently required to receive training on trauma-responsive care? Do these trainings promote child-focused competencies?
- In what ways does the Commonwealth promote trauma-responsive competencies among healthcare providers?
 - Who, at the state level, oversees and tracks training for healthcare providers?
 - Are there efforts to understand the effectiveness of such trainings?
- Outside of training, how does MA promote trauma-responsive healthcare services?
- How are other jurisdictions in the US promoting trauma-responsive healthcare services ?

Research Methods

Review of policies & regulations

- Regulations re: licensure and continuing education (CE)
- Policies re: training and CE for federally and/or state funded programs providing medical and BH services to children

Literature reviews & landscape analyses

- Definition of trauma-responsive care training
- Effectiveness of trauma-responsive care training
- Other jurisdictions' efforts

Stakeholder Interviews

- MassHealth
- Health Policy Commission
- UMass
- Child-serving state agencies
- Training divisions of major children's hospitals

Research Methods

Review of policies & regulations

- Regulations re: licensure and continuing education (CE)
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Medical and BH services provided to children through:

- MassHealth
- Child-serving agencies:
 - Department of Children and Families (DCF)
 - Department of Youth Services (DYS)
 - Department of Mental Health (DMH)
 - Department of Developmental Services (DDS)
 - Department of Public Health (DPH)
- Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance (MOVA)
- Children's Advocacy Centers
- Other?

Research To-Date

What is Trauma-Responsive Care?

- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network defines trauma-informed care (TIC) as “medical care in which **all parties involved assess, recognize, and respond** to the effects of traumatic stress on children, caregivers, and health care providers.”
- American Academy of Pediatrics’ 2021 [Clinical Report on TIC](#) presents the following clinical strategies and skills:
 - knowledge about trauma and its potential lifelong effects
 - support for the caregiver-child relationship to build resilience and prevent traumatic stress reactions
 - screening for trauma history and symptoms
 - recognition of cultural context of trauma experiences, response, and recovery
 - anticipatory guidance for families and health care workers
 - avoidance of retraumatization
 - processes for referral to counseling with evidence-based therapies when indicated
 - attention to the prevention and treatment of STS and associated sequelae

Defining Trauma-Responsive Care



Building on American Academy of Pediatrics' Clinical Report (2021) and our shared knowledge of trauma-responsive strategies, **how should the CTTF define trauma-responsive care?**

Brainstorming in Breakout Rooms (15 min): What are core components of trauma-responsive practices for healthcare providers?

Review of Training Requirements in Regulations

- The Department of Public Health oversees 27 boards of registration, licensure, and certification in health professions.
- The OCA reviewed MA regulations pertaining to licensure/certification and Continuing Education requirements to understand what, if any, trauma-related training are required by the state.

DPH Boards of Registration

Medicine	Physician Assistant	Nursing	Midwifery	Allied Health Professions	Social Workers
Nurse Aides	Pharmacy	Dentistry	Naturopathy	Chiropractors	Dieticians & Nutritionists
Hearing Instrum. Specialists	Optometry	Genetic Counselors	Perfusionists	Respiratory Care	Speech-Language Pathology
Podiatry	Community Health Workers	Psychologists	Drug Control Program	Allied MH and Human Services	Controlled Substances
Dispensing Opticians		Nursing Home Administrators		Foreign Trained Med Professionals	

Boards Selected For Review

Medicine	Physician Assistant	Nursing	Midwifery	Allied Health Professions	Social Workers
Nurse Aides	Pharmacy	Dentistry	Naturopathy	Chiropractors	Dieticians & Nutritionists
Hearing Instrum. Specialists	Optometry	Genetic Counselors	Perfusionists	Respiratory Care	Speech-Language Pathology
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Summary of Findings

Review of regulations pertaining to Continuing Education (CE) and licensure or certification show that:

- Regulations in MA do not require licensed or certified healthcare professionals to undertake training in trauma-responsive care as part of licensure or certification.
- Many of the reviewed regulations do not list specific topics to be covered in CE for licensure.
- Regulations do require certain licensed or certified healthcare professionals to pursue CE on topics related to trauma-responsive care.

Summary of Findings

The following trainings related to trauma are required:

- Recognizing and reporting child abuse:
 - Physicians*
 - Optometrists★
- Domestic and Sexual Violence (MGL c 112 §264)
 - Physicians*
 - Nurses*
 - Social Workers*
 - Allied Mental Health Professionals* : mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, rehabilitation counselors, and educational psychologists

* one-time requirement ★ Licensure renewal

Summary of Findings

- As part of licensure renewal, Social Workers are required to engage in CE on “issues in clinical or non-clinical social work practice” including “diversity, aging, multiculturalism, new approaches to diagnosis and treatment of mental or emotional disorders, etc.”
- Nurse Aide certification requires training from a DPH-approved program.
 - DPH developed a Curriculum Framework including many competencies related to TIC
 - Certification exam available in multiple languages
- Community Health Worker certification requires training from a DPH-approved program, which covers many competencies related to TIC.

Discussion

- Are CE requirements for licensure and/or certification an effective way to promote trauma-responsive competencies among providers?
- Aside from training healthcare providers, how can MA promote trauma-responsive healthcare services?

Next Steps

- The OCA will continue its research throughout the summer
- Next meeting: September 14, 2026 (1-2.30pm)
 - OCA will present findings to-date
- OCA will schedule an additional fall meeting to ensure members have sufficient opportunities to review draft report.

Contact

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