

OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS TRAUMA

USING A PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

PARADIGM SHIFTS

- Recognize the central thread of trauma in disparate issues such as poverty, physical and behavioral health ailments.
- A shared understanding across systems can facilitate the integration or coordination of data that are currently kept separate
 - For example, gathering data on child maltreatment and community violence can improve the accuracy of epidemiological data.
- Trauma prevention and treatment require unified thinking and collaboration across systems.
- A broad population and community health focus is more constructive than the current individual disease model.
- Emphasis on the resilience of individuals and families is extremely important.



POLICY IMPROVEMENTS

- ACF, CMS, and SAMHSA have issued guidance to state child welfare, Medicaid, and mental health directors on screening for trauma.
- Many states have established opportunities and continuing education for child-serving professionals, medical personnel, and educators about what trauma is and steps to prevent and manage it.



HEALTHCARE FINANCING

- Moving toward population-level and preventive health interventions is effective for improving outcomes and decreasing costs.
 - The Affordable Care Act has created and furthered opportunities to support trauma prevention and treatment.
 - The healthcare system is moving away from unit-based payments and toward performance- and outcome-based payments
 - There are several key components to successfully implementing financially sustainable trauma-informed care to optimize revenue, they are:
 - Understanding state-based rules and regulations regarding same-day billing, scope of practice laws, supervised billing, etc.
 - Maximizing health information technology including electronic health records to ease the documentation and billing burden on individual providers.
 - For primary care practices considering imbedding behavioral health to expand trauma-informed care services research needs to be done to ensure understanding of provider credential and license types and related reimbursements.
 - Understanding which evidence-based practices are reimbursable and then implementing them.



PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- Many federal agencies award grants to address trauma and prevention, including:
 - Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
 - Health Resources and Service Administration
 - National Center for Child Traumatic Stress and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network
 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Place-based initiatives bring economic development, housing, transportation, physical health, behavioral, health, education, policing, and other relevant systems together to create positive communities.

