California Center of Excellence for Trauma Informed Care

Trauma-Informed Brief Agency Assessment

Developed by the California Center of Excellence for Trauma Informed Care
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All staff can complete the assessment. Areas in need of improvement can be seen when staff agree that no or not enough work has been done in that area or when no consensus exists. Trauma-informed transformation is a process. Note strengths as well.

1. Has your agency or program identified trauma as a central factor affecting clients being served by your agency?
   - In terms of direct service provision? Yes No Need more
   - In terms of administrative policy? Yes No Need more

2. Has your agency reviewed program policies, procedures and materials to ensure they focus on safety, empowerment and connection for clients?
   Yes No Need more

3. Does your agency and staff acknowledge that providing services inherently involves power dynamics that can re-create and re-enact past abusive experiences, reinforcing feelings of helplessness and powerlessness? Yes No Need more

4. Has your program trained staff how to engage clients by using invitation, asking permission and offering choices? Yes No Need more

5. Does your program emphasize the client's physical and emotional safety and choice in all interactions (versus an emphasis on compliance or on other people)?
   Yes No Need more

6. Does your program train staff on the impact of trauma on the caregiver and discuss self-care as a part of one's job? Yes No Need more

7. Does your program listen to and incorporate feedback from clients themselves, including complaints? Yes No Need more

8. Does your program help clients understand the real needs they are trying to meet when coping unsafely (substance use, returning to unsafe relationships, isolation, etc.) in order to help them find safer ways to meet those needs?
   Yes No Need more

9. Does your program refer to, provide lists of and reinforce key safe coping-skills (e.g., the 84 safe coping skills of Seeking Safety)? Yes No Need more

10. Does your program evaluate client rules annually for physical and emotional safety, clarity and warmth and strive to reduce them to the minimum necessary?
    Yes No Need more

For training and consultation on trauma-informed transformation and assistance in these and other areas, go to www.trauma-informed-california.org