

## **TICC Workgroup Releases Trauma Screening Recommendations**

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In early 2015, the Travis County Children's Mental Health Plan was unveiled as a five-year plan to improve the wellness of children and youth in Travis County. One of the goals of this important plan is related to early and effective intervention, with an objective of ensuring inclusion of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and other mental health risk factors when designing screening tools for children and youth. To meet this objective, a workgroup was strategically developed focused on creating Travis County standards for trauma screening and to support the adoption of these tools by child-serving agencies within Travis County.

A diverse group of subject matter experts lent their talents to this workgroup for over a year to assist with this process. In that time, the workgroup included representation from the following sectors: child welfare, early childhood intervention, home visiting services, inpatient and outpatient mental health, schools, shelters, primary care/pediatrics, medical hospitals, and juvenile justice. The workgroup members approached their tasks with diligence and intentionality and worked towards developing screening standards that would best meet the needs of our community. The resulting outputs are standards for ten different child-serving sectors that include explicit recommendations for screening with the respective population, recommended screening tools, information for additional supportive resources for the purposes of screening, and a list of questions for agencies/organizations to consider prior to implementing screening.

With the trauma screening standards now developed, the workgroup membership is currently engaged in promoting and supporting the adoption of these tools within our community. In future months, the TICC will be exploring options to formalize a mechanism for ensuring that trauma screening continues to be encouraged and that the standards developed by the workgroup can continue to evolve as appropriate. The trauma screening standards are currently available on the "Trauma Screeners/Assessments" tab of the TICC website and all are encouraged to review and disseminate widely.

If you are interested in learning more about the trauma screening workgroup or have any questions, please contact Becky Morales at [bmorales@austinchildguidance.org](mailto:bmorales@austinchildguidance.org).