



ADMINISTRATION FOR
CHILDREN & FAMILIES

OFFICE OF FAMILY ASSISTANCE
An Office of the Administration for Children & Families

2017 Linking TANF Families to Employment and Economic Opportunities Meeting

Community-Based Services for TANF Recipients

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The Life Link

Santa Fe, NM

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The Life Link

- Founded in 1987 as La Luz de Santa Fe Family Shelter
- 501(c)(3) nonprofit status
- Licensed Community Mental Health Center and Core Service Agency.
- HUD-approved Housing Agency
- Funded by a combination of city, state, federal funding, grants, and private donations.



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Programs and Services

- Comprehensive Community Support Services (CCSS)
- Supportive Housing
- Psychosocial Rehabilitation
- Peer Support Services
- Outpatient Clinical Services
- Intensive Outpatient Program
- Psychiatric Services/Medication Assisted Treatment
- Integrated Medical Services
- Supportive Employment
- Specialty Outreach Services
- Human Trafficking Aftercare Services
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion



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TANF Clients

- 20-25% of clients are TANF recipients
- Provide assistance with housing, employment, mental health and substance abuse services
- Community partnerships
 - Income Service Division to acquire TANF benefits
 - Agencies in community to get children and family services, or address other needs



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Service Philosophies

- Client-driven and strengths-based
- Comprehensive wraparound care
 - In-house or through partnerships
 - CCSS addresses barriers to employment, housing
- Harm Reduction
 - Lessen the social and/or physical consequences of behavior
- Motivational enhancement approaches
 - Readiness for change, strategies to approach, engage, and serve clients
- Trauma-informed



Trauma

- Trauma is pervasive, especially in vulnerable populations.
- Impact of trauma is broad and encompasses many life domains.
- Trauma affects the way people approach potentially helpful relationships.
- Trauma has often occurred in the service context itself.



Trauma

- ACE Study
 - Large scale (17,000+) epidemiological study of influence of stressful/traumatic childhood experiences.
 - Brief questionnaire looked at physical, emotional and sexual abuse, and impact of growing up in a household with substance user, mentally ill family member, domestic violence, divorce, and incarceration.
 - Looked at impact of adverse childhood experiences on adult health status.



Trauma

- ACE Study Findings
 - Multiple categories of trauma resulted in exponential increases in a variety of health-related issues.
 - ACE scores of 0 vs 4 or higher
 - Pulmonary lung disease increased 390%
 - Hepatitis increase 240%
 - Depression increase 460%
 - Suicide increase 1220%
 - ACE Score of 6 led to 4600% increase in likelihood of becoming IV drug user
 - With 0 ACE score, 60% of people live to 65, with ACE of 4, only 3%!



Trauma-Informed Care

- A safety-based, client-centered, strengths-promoting, consumer-oriented system of care.
- Trauma affects the way people approach potentially helpful relationships.
- People with trauma history are reluctant to engage in, or quickly drop out of, services.
- Trauma-informed care is designed specifically to avoid re-traumatizing those who come seeking assistance.



Trauma-Informed Care

- Fallot and Harris, 2009
- Every individual, at every level of the system, needs to be sensitive to the sequelae of long-term traumatization
- Trauma-informed care should be automatic in the way we work
 - Importance of asking questions, not making assumptions
 - Step back, take time, look at personal and agency biases
- Programs need to be communicating a sense of realistic optimism
 - Values are not compliance, rules, etc., but growth and recovery



Values of Trauma-Informed Care

- Safety
- Trustworthiness
- Choice
- Collaboration
- Empowerment



Trauma-Informed Organizations

- Safe, calm and secure environment with supportive care
- System-wide understanding of trauma prevalence, impact and trauma-informed care.
- Cultural competence
- Consumer voice, choice, and self-advocacy
- Recovery, consumer-driven and trauma specific services
- Healing, hopeful, honest and trusting relationships.



Conclusions

- What we know about the prevalence of trauma, its devastating impact on lives, and the process of recovery, demands that we take a trauma-informed approach.
- This approach involves fundamental shifts in thinking and practice at ALL levels of the social service system.
 - Shift from “what is wrong with you?” to “what happened to you?”
- Trauma-informed care leads to improved partnerships and enhanced collaboration for all participants in the human service system

