

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO CARE: SYSTEMIC RACISM IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH



A STATEWIDE APPROACH TO TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

- **Legislative Committee on Children:** The importance of seeing those in distress or in need of care through a trauma lens.
- **Joint Counsel on Children and Adolescents (JCCA)** was asked to formulate a plan to incorporate trauma-informed care training on a statewide level.
 - The Goal: All providers/caregivers who touch the lives of South Carolina's children should be trauma-informed, at a minimum.
 - JCCA workforce committee trains entire communities, school districts, foster parents, about trauma.
- **Children's Trust of South Carolina** educates and provides training about the ACE studies.
- **SCDMH partnership with Project Best** to ensure that clinicians were trained and competent in the delivery of trauma-focused CBT. SCDMH is the largest provider of behavioral health services in the first cohort trained 624 clinicians over a 24 month period.

TRAUMA INFORMED/CULTURALLY SENSITIVE AND AWARE

- Workforce: “It is impossible to be trauma informed if you are not culturally sensitive and aware.”
- Multiple standing workgroups and committees willing to embark on addressing equity, diversity and inclusion in behavioral health.

The approach: Using data to inform our plan to improve access to care to those who most in need.



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Understanding the importance of the strengths and needs of families as well as the communities and how to partner based on the identified strengths and needs.
- Using facts, poverty, crime and violence rates, as a road map as to how to position families to lift themselves out of poverty. Addressing policies and practices that contribute to the lack of equity in communities - especially in rural, impoverished communities of color. Placing policies/strategies in place that would require and embrace the voice and value of our stakeholders/consumers in achieving the desired outcomes.
- Understanding the uncertainties, lack of trust and fear that exist in communities of color where they are disproportionately impacted by Covid-19, police violence, social unrest, joblessness, lack of housing and increased poverty. Understanding that we need to be willing to meet people where they are.
- Eliminate all efforts to “Blame and shame” for the issues families face on a daily basis.



SCDMH

- Hired a manager whose role is to ensure accessibility to trauma-informed training to all clinicians as well as partnering to expand the knowledge to communities and school districts.
- Continued partnership with MUSC/Project Best to ensure clinicians are not only trauma-informed and trauma-skilled, but rostered in Trauma-Focused CBT and evidenced based treatment models.
- Hired a chief diversity and inclusion officer for the agency to begin to shed light and unravel policies, procedures, and practices that may contribute to systemic racism within the agency.
- Leads a huge summit every year on cultural awareness, equity, diversity and inclusion for the state.

