



Shining the Light on Childhood Trauma in Ohio

Regional Educational Forums Evaluation Summary

"I think the seminar was a great idea to bring light to the issue of child trauma and how it is a very prevalent problem that needs to be addressed in the proper manner for the trauma(s) experienced by the child(ren)."

- Participant Comment

CHILDHOOD TRAUMA TASK FORCE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) and the Childhood Trauma Task Force, in partnership with the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council, hosted five regional educational forums on childhood trauma in November and December 2007. Over 800 individuals attended the forums, which were held in Columbus, Athens, Toledo, Cincinnati and Akron. Ohio's Childhood Trauma Strategic Plan, developed by the Task Force, was unveiled at the forums. Conference participants included trauma survivors, family members and representatives from child welfare, behavioral health, law enforcement, juvenile justice, education and health systems.

ODMH convened the Task Force in 2005 to look at childhood trauma issues and its impact on children. The charge of the Task Force was to develop a strategic plan to:

- Create a shared vision of effective prevention and treatment of childhood trauma
- Identify what is needed to improve service system competence
- Lay the groundwork for implementation of needed cross-system improvements

The Strategic Plan recommendations offer practical and concrete solutions to address this pervasive issue through four key goals:

1. Articulating the message to increase statewide understanding and awareness of the broad range of impacts of childhood trauma on individuals, families and communities.
2. Screening and assessment to ensure that all child-serving systems conduct trauma-focused screening and assessment to identify the need for informed interventions.
3. Training and practice so that all child and family-serving systems understand and have a unified response to the impact of trauma on children and their families, and will advance trauma-informed intervention for those in need.
4. Intersystem data to be collected and shared within and between agencies to identify and serve children and families who have been traumatized to improve resource allocation and quality of services.

The forums also included presentations by trauma survivors who shared their personal experiences with participants, including Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, Legislative Director, PCSAO; Rachel K. Buehrer, FLE Coordinator of Advocacy and Community Programming, Cullen Center; and Gayle Campbell, Consultant, Cullen Center. State and national child trauma experts, including Kristine Buffington, Program Director of the Cullen Center of Toledo Children's Hospital, Frank Putnam, MD, Director of the Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children in Cincinnati and Steven Friedman, Executive Director of Mental Health Services, Inc. in Cleveland also presented. Two national experts on trauma and post-traumatic stress syndrome who are Co-Directors of the UCLA/Duke University National Center for Child Traumatic Stress (NCCTS) also participated in two of the forums:

- John A. Fairbank, Associate Professor of Medical Psychiatry, Duke University Medical Center
- Robert Pynoos, MD, Professor of Psychiatry in Residence and Director of the Trauma Psychiatry Program, UCLA

Each forum concluded with a survivor luncheon with 59 trauma survivors completing surveys. They provided suggestions for improving the mental health system and input into the overall design of a statewide trauma-informed care effort.

"My agency is currently in the process of becoming a trauma sensitive environment. This new information is instrumental in my role in speaking for and advocating for clients."

FORUM EVALUATION RESULTS

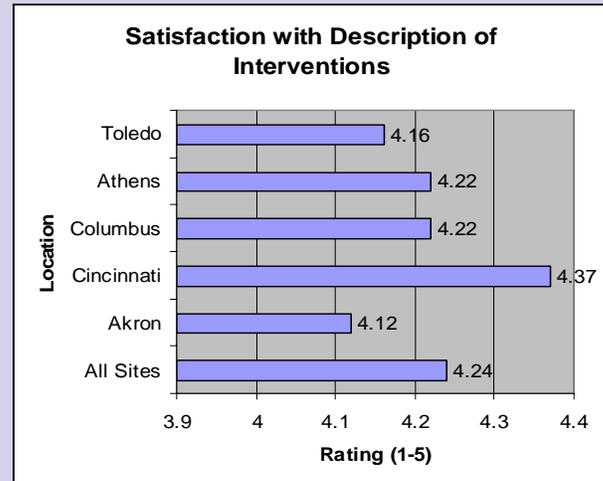
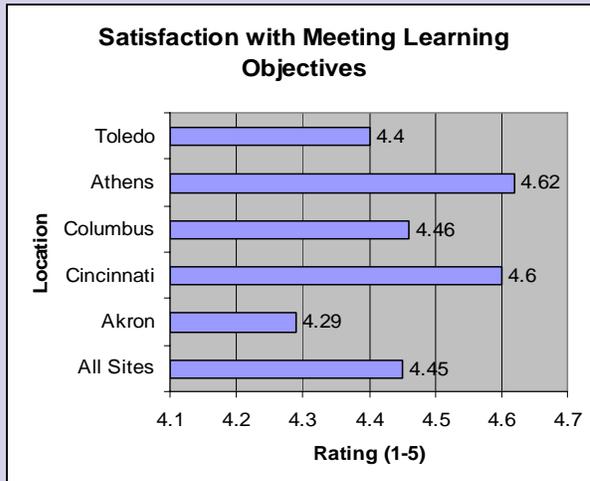
Approximately 480 individuals completed forum evaluation questionnaires. The questionnaire included 18 closed-ended items and three open-ended items. Respondents rated each statement about the forum presenters on a five point scale (Poor = 1 to Excellent = 5). Close-ended questions asked about the method of presentation, level of effectiveness, the syllabus and meeting learning objectives. The open-ended questions asked participants how they would apply the information provided at the forums to their professional work, what information they found most/least effective and additional comments/suggestions.

Presenters

On the overall impression of the presenters, the weighted average for each speaker was between good to excellent. No location had a score of lower than 4.47. The scores on speakers' method of presentation were also good to excellent, with no location's average score below 4.40.

Learning Objectives

The first learning objective – identifying the needs and problems associated with childhood trauma - had very high scores, with the average score at all forum locations 4.47. With the second learning objective, participants rated the description of interventions and common solutions to address childhood trauma as good (average rating 4.15). While most comments were positive on this question, a number of comments suggested a need for further information about effective interventions to treat children who have experienced trauma.

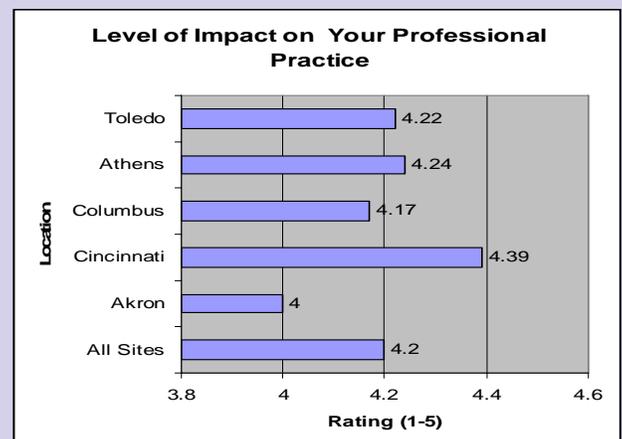


The average score for the third learning objective - how the forums increased participants' knowledge of Ohio's Childhood Trauma Strategic Plan - was 4.24.

In terms of level of impact on participants' professional practice, on average participants suggested that the information provided would have a "good impact" on their professional practice (average score 4.20). Respondents were asked to rate the amount that the forums met their own learning expectations and they indicated that the forum program overwhelmingly (4.21 average) met their learning objectives.

"I will apply this new information by making sure I look at the history of the child and what trauma the child has been through before I refer the child for services."

- Participant Comment



Qualitative Results

There were three open-ended questions and 95% of the evaluation forms had comments on them. Several important themes emerged in participant responses:

Application to Professional Practice

- A number of respondents suggested that the information provided in the forums would **increase their rate of referral** for children who have experienced the effects of trauma. (n=30)
- Several respondents indicated they would use the information provided to **advocate for increased funding and services** either back at their agencies or in their communities. (n=15)
- Some respondents indicated they would potentially **use the available resources** (e.g., NCTSN information) shared at the forums. (n=33)
- Many respondents stated they would bring back the information from the forums to their agencies and **share it with staff and/or supervisors/administrators**. (n=94)
- The most common answer was that respondents would **improve their own knowledge and understanding** and apply the information to their own practice. (n=130)

Most Effective

- Hearing **personal-survivor stories** from those who have experienced trauma (n=69)
- The **DVD** (Children Who Witness Violence) – a number of respondents enjoyed this (n=41)
- Speaker **PowerPoint/handouts** (n=24)
- Dr. Putnam's **presentation on the neuro-biology** of trauma (n=33)
- Speaker's **examples of treating children** with histories of trauma (n=20)

Least Effective

- **Too short** – many participants thought the forums could have been longer (n=20)
- **Too much information** for such a short amount of time (n=42)
- Not enough information about **application to local communities** (n=23)
- Insufficient information on **cultural issues** (n=5)
- More information was needed on **how to perform specific trauma-focused interventions** with consumers (n=26)

SUMMARY OF CONSUMER/SURVIVORS FOCUS GROUP LUNCHEON RESULTS

Fifty-nine consumer/survivors participated in the focus group luncheons at the five regional forum sites. They shared their perceptions of trauma treatment in behavioral health care in Ohio with members of the Survivor Subgroup of the Childhood Trauma Task Force. Consumer/survivors voiced their opinions by completing the *How Often Survey* and by engaging in facilitated group discussions.

Of these 59 consumer/survivors, 55 reported that they had traumatic experiences as a child and that they believed these traumatic experiences caused or increased the severity of their mental health problems or symptoms in their adult life. They reported that they received services in the past five years from both public and private providers. However, when surveyed about issues such as human dignity, access to services, co-creating services and respect (all of which are paramount in trauma treatment), consumer/survivors responded that positive results were only rarely to sometimes experienced.



Between 25% - 43% of the population of youth who live in the United States may experience at least one traumatic event in their lifetime.

Of Ohio's 44,353 victims in 2005: 10,257 (23%) were physically abused; 22,811 (51%) were neglected; and 8,171 (18%) were sexually abused.

For the years 2003-2005, on average there were 45,486 indicated and substantiated reports of child abuse and neglect in Ohio.

Every year three to ten million children in the United States are exposed to domestic violence between their parents.

CHILDHOOD TRAUMA TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP

In May 2005, the Ohio Department of Mental Health convened the Childhood Trauma Task Force, bringing together state and local representatives of Ohio's child-serving systems, as well as trauma survivors/consumers and family members. The membership includes:

Athens, Hocking & Vinton 317 Board

Roger Buck, PhD

Beech Brook

Mark Groner, MSSA

Buckeye Ranch

John Cantrell

Center for Child and Family Advocacy

Shari Uncapher, MSW, LISW

Center for Innovative Practices

Patrick Canary, MEd

Center for Safe & Healthy Children

Mayerson Center for Safe and Healthy Children

Frank Putnam, MD

Children's Resource Center

William O. Donnelly, PhD

Clark County Department of Job and Family Services

Nancy Mahoney

Cleveland Department of Public Health

Louis Weigele, LISW, BCD

Columbus Children's Hospital

Nancy Cunningham, PsyD

Cullen Center of Toledo, Children's Hospital

Rachel Buehrer

Kristine Buffington, MSW, LISW

Gayle Campbell, MLS

Gallia County Local Schools

Charla C. Evans, PhD

Lorain County Children Services

Trista Piccola, PhD, LISW

Mental Health Services, Inc. - Cleveland

Rosemary H. Creeden, LISW

Steven M. Friedman, PhD

NAMI Ohio

Betsy Johnson

National Center for Child Traumatic Stress - UCLA

Ellen Gerrity, PhD

Christine Siegfried, MSSW

Ohio Advocates for Mental Health

Catherine Rhoades, MSW, LSW

Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies

Bryan S. Brown

Ohio Association of County Behavioral Health Authorities

Liz Henrich

Ohio CASA/GAL Association

Jackie Wilson, MSW

Ohio Department of Education

Christine Kane, MS, LSW

Ohio Department of Health

Debra Seltzer, MPA

Ohio Department of Mental Health

Leslie Brower, PhD, RN

Carol Carstens, PhD

Mary Jane Frank

Carrol Hernandez, PhD

Marla Himmeger

Kay Rietz

Ohio Department of Job and Family Services

Kristin Gilbert

Sue Williams

Ohio Department of Youth Services

Monique Marrow, PhD

Ohio Domestic Violence Network

Rebecca Cline, LISW, ACSW

Ohio Family & Children First

Angela Sausser Short

Cindy Lafollett

Ohio Legal Rights Service

Beth Oberdier

Public Children Services Association

Gayle Channing Tenenbaum

Stark County Court of Common Pleas Family Court Division

The Honorable Michael L Howard

Stark County Mental Health Board

Les Abel

Pat Goetz, MD

Washington University in St. Louis

George Warren Brown School of Social Work

Ramesh Raghavan, MD, PhD

OHIO FAMILY AND CHILDREN FIRST CABINET COUNCIL

- Ohio Department of Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services
- Ohio Department of Education
- Ohio Department of Job and Family Services
- Ohio Department of Health
- Ohio Department of Mental Health
- Ohio Department of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities
- Ohio Department of Youth Services

The information provided is sponsored by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and the Childhood Trauma Task Force in partnership with the Ohio Family and Children First Cabinet Council.

For more information, contact the Ohio Department of Mental Health at 614-466-5415 or Leesj@mh.state.oh.us.

