

Guiding Principles and Recommendations for Trauma- Responsive Treatment Courts

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Learning Objectives

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the importance of incorporating trauma-responsive policies and practices into their treatment court.
- Have strategies for implementing the recommendations for a trauma-responsive treatment court in their jurisdiction.

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Overview of Guidance for a Trauma-Informed Approach

SAMHSA's
Concept of Trauma
and Guidance for a
Trauma-Informed Approach

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SIX KEY PRINCIPLES OF A TRAUMA-INFORMED APPROACH

1. Safety
2. Trustworthiness and Transparency
3. Peer Support
4. Collaboration and Mutuality
5. Empowerment, Voice and Choice
6. Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues

TEN IMPLEMENTATION DOMAINS

1. Governance and Leadership
2. Policy
3. Physical Environment
4. Engagement and Involvement
5. Cross Sector Collaboration
6. Screening, Assessment, Treatment Services
7. Training and Workforce Development
8. Progress Monitoring and Quality Assurance
9. Financing
10. Evaluation



Implementation of a Trauma-Informed Approach

- Requires change at multiple levels of an organization
- Requires alignment with the Six Key Principles
- Must involve stakeholders of all types and at all levels within the organization
 - Clients/participants
 - Courtroom staff
 - Court house staff
 - Treatment and other service and support providers
 - Other criminal justice system stakeholders/staff
- Requires a systematic review and comprehensive organizational assessment aligned with the 10 Implementation Domains

10 Implementation Domains for Trauma-Informed Approach

1. Governance and Leadership
2. Policy
3. Physical Environment
4. Engagement and Involvement
5. Cross Sector Collaboration
6. Screening, Assessment, and Treatment Services
7. Training and Workforce Development
8. Progress Monitoring and Quality Assurance*
9. Financing*
10. Evaluation*

Domain 1: Governance/Leadership

The Treatment Court (TC) judge must serve as a champion for the implementation of a trauma-informed approach and must strive to communicate support and guidance in a manner that is inclusive and welcoming for both TC staff and persons receiving services.

Domain 2: Policy

Written policies and procedures should acknowledge the prevalence and impact of direct and vicarious trauma on TC staff and participants and should look to promote diversity in the composition of TC teams.

Targeted documentation for TC staff and TC participants should be accessible in a variety of formats, and provide clear, but flexible, rules and opportunities for safeguarding the physical and emotional safety of staff and persons receiving services.

Domain 3: Physical Environment

Whenever possible within the TC process, modifications to the physical setting, relational arrangements and professional interactions should be introduced to minimize triggering occurrences and language, and to promote both perceived and actual safety.

Domain 4: Engagement and Involvement of Persons in Recovery, People Receiving Services, and Family Members Receiving Services

Whenever possible, TC leadership should introduce initiatives designed to expand family and social supports with targeted goals of lessening stress, strengthening resilience and promoting recovery.

Domain 4: Engagement and Involvement of Persons in Recovery, People Receiving Services, and Family Members Receiving Services

Trained and fairly compensated peers should play prominent and diverse roles in all aspects of court operation, goal setting and process improvement. Peers should be recognized as core members of the TC team and provided with opportunities for professional growth.

Domain 5: Cross Sector Collaboration

TC leadership should undertake and support cross sector efforts to promote trustworthiness and transparency, and support empowerment, voice and choice of TC stakeholders. These efforts should be designed to invite greater collaboration, enhance communication, and provide culturally inclusive training across multiple stakeholder groups - among TC members and participants, between Treatment Court and community providers/referral agencies, and within the general public.

Domain 6: Screening, Assessment, Treatment Services

Each Treatment Court should employ comprehensive, evidence-based, and culturally appropriate instrumentation for screening and assessment of all persons being considered for referral to services and supports. Screening instruments should be universally administered; targeted assessments should follow positive screens. Instruments used for purposes of assessment should be validated and normed and, when possible, standardized across providers.

Domain 6: Screening, Assessment, Treatment Services

Interventions should be multi-faceted and culturally informed. Clinical interventions and supervision plans should be delivered by providers who are appropriately credentialed and who engage in on-going training on evidence-based practice. Trauma-specific practices should be incorporated across TC operations.

Domain 7: Training and Workforce Development

Comprehensive trauma training is a critical need. Each Treatment Court should establish a schedule for the regular delivery of trauma-informed and trauma-responsive content that should be mandated for TC staff and affiliated personnel, and strongly encouraged for all clinical, supervision, and recovery service providers. Treatment Courts should identify a preferred provider for staff education and quality assurance.

Domain 7: Training and Workforce Development

Decision making on workforce employment, retention, and development should consider issues of equity, diversity and inclusion. These issues should also be prioritized in drafting policy and procedure, staffing, service delivery and program assessment.

Thank You



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