

Building Trauma Informed Work Force in Philadelphia

For further information on the project or to apply for this fellowship, please go to the Stoneleigh website and complete the Individual Application. Send the application to Leslie Lieberman, MSW at llieberman@healthfederation.org or 215-567-8001 ext. 3031.

Over the last two decades, advances in neuroscience have helped us better understand the devastating impact of trauma – child abuse, neglect, interpersonal and community violence - on young children. In spite of this progress, however, there remains a substantial gap between what we know and what we do. Closing this gap requires a workforce that is knowledgeable about trauma and its impact on development and is skilled in practices that prevent, reduce and ameliorate the impact of trauma on young children.

Toward this goal, Multiplying Connections, a system change initiative aimed at building capacity for trauma informed practice in the public children's service system in Philadelphia, has developed a set of core competencies for trauma informed and developmentally appropriate care which can be found on at <http://www.multiplyingconnections.org/Tools-and-Resources-for-Organizations>. The competencies outline the essential knowledge, values, attitudes, and skills needed by individuals, organizations and systems to provide trauma informed care to young children and their families. These competencies are intended to guide workforce development activities including training, curriculum development, and professional standards.

It is now time to assess the current state of training available to children's services professionals in Philadelphia and the extent to which existing curriculum address the Multiplying Connections competencies. This will be accomplished through a process called curriculum mapping. Curriculum mapping is a systematic way to gather and analyze data on what is taught within a curriculum. Data gathered can include content, teaching methods, assessment methods and where specific competencies are addressed in individual courses and a program as a whole.

The Stoneleigh Center Junior Fellow will have responsibility for mapping curriculum offered to children's services professionals in behavioral health and/or child welfare. Once the mapping process is complete, the Fellow will analyze the data from the mapping process and make in-depth recommendations to the organizations providing the training, as well as to the Multiplying Connections Steering Committee. Recommendations will include how to improve, revise, augment, and supplement existing curricula so that it supports trauma informed practice, as well as suggestions for organizational activities and changes that reinforce the transfer of learning from training to practice. The mapping project and the Fellow's recommendations have the potential to significantly shape the future of trauma informed training, and inform practice for children's services professionals in Philadelphia.

The Stoneleigh Fellow will work closely with the Director of Multiplying Connections, Leslie Lieberman, MSW, who has more than 20 years of experience directing large scale public health programs for women and children. Additionally, as the Multiplying Connections Initiative is under the auspices of the Health Federation of Philadelphia (HFP), the Fellow will have access to a wide variety of health and human services professionals and many opportunities to participate in professional development activities offered by or through HFP. If desired, the Fellow will also have opportunities work on other short-term policy and practice projects related to trauma, mental health and child welfare.