Multi-system Education for Better Outcomes


What is this resource?
This study evaluated a graduate program for child welfare, mental health, and education professionals that used a trauma-informed, resiliency-based curriculum. The program intended to deepen students’ understanding of their systems and to encourage more effective interaction and advocacy across the professions. The “glue” was the theoretical knowledge related to the key concepts while the “glitter” was a toolkit of concrete, applied, and collaborative skills.

What are the critical findings?
The Academy for Trauma-informed Practice in Child Welfare, Mental Health, and Schools consisted of hybrid graduate courses with online modules and in-person meetings taught by University faculty and visiting content experts.

Results showed:
• The importance of providing knowledge before employing evidence-based practices
• Significant improvements from pre- to post-training for both knowledge and skills
• Significant gains in participants’ ratings of their ability to apply concepts and skills in practice
• Participants felt optimistic about their job futures
• No change in participants’ intention to leave their organizations

Strongest improvements around collaboration and understanding were of the:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURT SYSTEM</th>
<th>SCHOOLS</th>
<th>MENTAL HEALTH AGENCIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participants had positive regard for the experience and the opportunity to learn about other systems.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What are the implications for our work?
Support multi-system education to increase professional confidence and promote collaboration among service providers.

Deepen collaborative relationships and mutual exchanges of knowledge to break down barriers in service provision to children and families who have experienced trauma.