

## Trauma-Informed Care

### **Recommendation 1 – Trauma-Informed Care Workgroup**

Introduce budget language directing the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, in cooperation with the Office of the Secretary Education, to create a Trauma-Informed Care workgroup. The workgroup shall include representatives from the Department of Social Services, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, the Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Education, the Office of Children’s Services, the Department of Medical Assistance Services, the Virginia Department of Health, the Family and Children’s Trust Fund of Virginia, other state agencies as needed, stakeholders, researchers, community organizations and representatives from impacted communities. The workgroup shall (i) develop a shared vision and definition of trauma-informed care for Virginia; (ii) examine Virginia’s applicable child and family-serving programs and data; (iii) develop an implementation plan for data-sharing; (iv) develop strategies to build a trauma-informed system of care for children and families across the Commonwealth; (v) identify indicators to measure progress; and (vi) identify workforce development opportunities around evidence-based and best practices. In addition, the workgroup shall explore opportunities including the creation of public/private partnerships to expand trauma-informed care throughout the Commonwealth. The Secretary of Health and Human and the Secretary of Education shall report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees and the Virginia Commission on Youth by December 15 of each year.

Include an appropriation of \$150,000 each year for staff support to coordinate and carry out the duties of the workgroup.

### **Recommendation 2 – Establish a Small Grants Program**

Request the Family and Children’s Trust Fund (FACT) to establish a competitive small grants program to prevent, mitigate or help persons recover from adverse childhood experiences across the state and to build protective factors. Encourage FACT to pursue state, federal, private, foundation and nonprofit grants to fund community programs that demonstrate the adoption of best practices to better the health and well-being of children and families. No funds awarded to a locality under this grant may be used to supplant existing funding.

### **Recommendation 3 – Public Awareness Campaign on Trauma-informed Practice**

Request the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) to conduct a feasibility study of activities that promote public awareness related to adverse childhood experiences, the impact of trauma, and the importance of trauma-informed practice. This feasibility study may include the utilization of traditional and social media, along with state and local outreach strategies. Request that a report on the study’s findings and recommendations be submitted to the Governor and report to the Chairman of the Senate Finance and House Appropriations Committees and the Virginia Commission on Youth by December 15, 2018.