ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF A TRAUMA INFORMED CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT
Question 1: Multiple Choice

- I would define myself in regards to this training and initiative:
  - Resistant: No openness to new ideas or change
  - Skeptic: Here we go again with some new idea!
  - Listener: I will listen to what you have to say
  - Dreamer: I know we can do something better
Question 2

- I started this work with energy and passion to make a difference and now I have:
  - More than when I started
  - About the same
  - Less than when I started
  - None left, but what else am I going to do
“An entirely different way is being developed of viewing all kinds of individual and social misbehaviors and maladaptions, moving from viewing as “sick” or “bad” or (or both) to \textit{injured}”. (Bloom, 1997)
Our CTAC Assessment Children
“I wake up every morning and I think about my grandma telling me I’ll never amount to anything, and I’ll end up just like my mom, then she’d slap me. When other things happen during the day, I hear my grandma’s words in my head and feel her hitting me. Then I’m rude and assault other kids and adults.” (15 year old girl)
System Betrayal:

- Removal from mother, placement with abusive paternal grandmother
- Transporter an unknown male to transport sexualized teen girl – supervisor told worker “too much paperwork” to do
What is Trauma?

• *Overwhelming* event or events that render a child helpless, powerless, creating a threat of harm and/or loss.

• *Internalization* of the experience that continues to impact perception of self, others, world, and development.
Are you willing to consider the following?

We must *move* from viewing the *individual* as *failing* if s/he does not do well in a program to viewing the *program* as *not providing* what the individual needs in order to succeed.”

*Dubovsky, 2000*
The Trauma Informed Child Welfare System

- Identification of Trauma
- Treatment for Impact of Trauma
- Trauma Informed Decision Making
- Assessment of Impact of Trauma
- Common Language

Child
CTAC's Trauma Informed Initiative

DHS Mental Health Courts Schools Parents/Foster Parents

Develop Trauma Assessment Centers

Trainings: Mental Health DHS Schools Courts Community

Identify/Support Local Champions

Build Capacity EB Trauma Treatments

Participatory Evaluation Methods/Consultation
The Process:

TRAUMA INFORMED SYSTEM

Parents

Mental Health

Courts

DHS

Schools
Self Reflection

WILLINGNESS

• Learn Something New
• Confront Own Resistance
• Move Beyond Habits/Patterns
• Fail
THE BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

SHAWN WHITE
SNOWBOARDING CHAMPION

WHEATIES

TOASTED WHOLE WHEAT FLAKES

NET WT 15.6 OZ (442g)
Trauma Informed Child Welfare Systems

- Systemic Organizational Level
- Treatment Provider
- Child Outcomes
Child Outcomes

- Recovery from Trauma
- "Rewiring" of the Brain
- Reduction of Removals and Placement
• Where is your system on the continuum of change?
  – Measurement of system change