



THE CHIEF JUSTICE'S TASK FORCE ON ACES-INFORMED COURTS MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2023

Friday, February 3, 2023

The Chief Justice's Task Force on ACEs-Informed Courts (TFAC) met at Wake Forest University School of Law in Winston-Salem on Friday, February 3, 2023. The meeting convened at 8:30 AM. The following TFAC members, Advisory Group members, North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts (NCAOC) staff, and guests were present.

TFAC Members

- Chief Justice Paul Newby, Convenor
- Judge Andrew Heath, Co-Chair
- District Attorney Ben David, Co-Chair
- Clerk Meredith Edwards
- Chief Johnny Jennings
- Judge Quentin McGee
- District Attorney Spencer Merriweather
- Latoya Powell
- Mike Silver
- Seth Banks
- Judge J.H. Corpening II

Guests

- Margaret Bradsher
- Leanne Winner
- Dr. Beth Moracco
- Meaghan Dennison
- Dr. Wayne Sparks
- Laneita Williamson
- Amber Bellamy
- Sibyl Farr
- Mazie Gibson
- Siarra Scott
- Meghan Chua
- Amber Harris
- Kevin Leonard
- Raza Lamb
- Sean Callan
- Liz Henderson

Advisory Group Members

- Dr. Peter Kuhns
- Emma Paul
- Emily Mehta
- Peter Kuhns
- Ryan Boyce
- Phillip Brown
- Bill Goebel

NCAOC Staff

- Lori Cole
- Asia Prince
- Kaylin Bennett
- Ann Zemba

Approval of October 28th Meeting Minutes





Novant Health and Atrium Health Presentation

Laneita Williamson, Atrium Health, gave an overview on implementing trauma-informed care principles within healthcare systems. Ms. Williamson shared that because ACEs have been linked to 40+ negative health outcomes, it is vital that the medical field utilize trauma-informed care. Ms. Williamson describes trauma-informed care as fierce compassion for both the patient/client and the provider. Trauma-informed care requires authenticity, vulnerability, and disclosure. For providers, it also requires understanding one's own reaction to stressors and when to use self-care to self-regulate.

Atrium Health is investing in trauma-informed care by surveying hospital staff to obtain the current baseline of trauma knowledge, scheduling 60+ training programs for healthcare professionals in 2023, and creating a 40 hour Train-the-Trainer curriculum to improve dissemination of trauma-informed care principles.

Ms. Williamson described some of the challenges to implementing trauma-informed care. First, she mentioned that while many different groups are interested in the topic, there is less enthusiasm for collaborating across sectors. Ms. Williamson also shared that some healthcare providers have concerns about how they should handle a trauma disclosure and liken trauma-informed care to "opening Pandora's box." Trauma-informed care, however, can reduce the number of patients leaving care against medical advice, improve the rates of patients seeking follow-up care, and reduces provider compassion fatigue and burn out.

Chief Johnny Jennings asked Ms. Williamson how she recommends providers proceed with someone when trauma-informed care isn't deescalating a tense situation. Ms. Williamson shared that she sees trauma-informed care effectively deescalating a conflict 80% of the time. When it doesn't work, the next step should be caring for the provider to prevent burn out. DA Spencer Merriweather asked how someone can use trauma-informed care when they don't have much time with someone. Ms. Williamson shared that using trauma-informed care is a muscle one can develop so that one can deploy the principles quickly. Kelly Graves recommended the training Psychological First Aid, which provides practices for quickly utilizing trauma-informed care. DA Ben David shared that it is helpful for the Task Force to hear about Atrium Health's approach to system change. DA David noted that hospitals and courts see many of the same people at different points of their journey

Education Subcommittee Update

Success Sequence Program

Judge Quintin McGee introduced Amy Bellamy of the Dream Center. The Dream Center serves young people by providing information and mentorship around life decisions, relationships, and sex. The Dream Center runs a program, Relationships Plus, that consists of 13 modules that aim to teach young people skills to engage in healthy relationships. The goal of this program is that 85% of participants will gain the confidence and skills to create healthy relationships. Martha McConnell asked whether the Dream Center partners with Communities in Schools. Ms. Bellamy shared that while they would be open to partnering with CIS, some schools are wary about providing a setting for transparent discussions about sex and relationships. Beth Moracco suggested that the Dream Center partner with UNC for the purpose of analyzing and disseminating the program's data.

Mazie Gibson and Sibyl Farr of Robeson County introduced themselves and discussed their educational backgrounds. Sibyl introduced Project REACH-R. The program is designed to empower young people to redirect their emotional attitudes and cultivate healthy relationships throughout their lives. The Love Notes Curriculum is used to provide a positive and proactive way to prevent intimate partner violence. Young people learn to make wise relationship and sexual choices, rather than create barriers for achievement. The program official began January 5th of this year. The ladies have partnered with a local church (Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church, St. Paul's, NC) to utilize the space for meetings. Dinner and other incentives like trips and gift cards are planned. They will also host a closing banquet. So far there are a total 7 girls. The referral process is used through local high schools, local health departments, court liaisons and churches. Trusted adult connections are created for the members through parent group mentor training.

UNC BTIC Project Update





Dr Beth Moracco introduced Meghan Chua, and Siarra Scott to present Building Trauma Informed Courts (BTIC). Siarra explained the purpose is to develop, implement, evaluate, and scale up training and educational resources, with the goal to enable NC courts to foster a more trauma informed environment. The project is funded through the Governor's Crime Commission (GCC) by the Children's Justice Act (CIA) Task Force of their Juvenile Justice (JJ) Committee. Main components of the current work being done include trauma informed curriculum training and a trauma informed booklet for minors engaged with the courts. Siarra shared progress on the curriculum content. Feedback and support have been received from the BTIC Advisory Board, several ACEs Task Force members, and Judicial Branch staff. Content has been updated and clarified, with added examples and streamlined messaging. A full review is planned with AOC to make final edits of the content. Animations and other interactive elements will be in progress soon. A video montage is being prepared with more feedback and volunteers being gathered. Siarra overviewed the curriculum development timeline currently planned from February-October with training being released to Judicial Branch staff.

Next, Meghan Chua took over to discuss the trauma informed booklet development purpose, framework, and timeline. The booklet serves as an educational resource to help minors navigate the court system, as well as to distract minors during their time in court. The booklets will be available in both English and Spanish for younger minors (11 and under) and older (12-17). Outlines have been created for both. Specific framework for the booklets includes black and white illustrations, 10 pages or less, and online availability during initial roll out. Meghan explained the specific elements include. The content will include general court information, mindfulness/calming activities, coloring/drawing pages and appropriate reading level pages.

Siarra Scott completed the presentation by discussing the Immediate goals for both the curriculum and booklet. These priorities include wrapping up development, conducting all video production and plans for pilots.

Duke Bolch Law Update

Duke University student Raza Lamb started off by clarifying his background in Data Science and overviewing his topics of discussion including educational work and research. An IOLTA grant was awarded (\$120,000) which will be used mostly to support the New Judges Orientation in upcoming June 2023. The agenda is currently in progress and will include trauma science, practical applications in the courtroom, practice sessions and more. When it comes to research, the goal is to answer many trauma-based questions specific to the court room. Current progress includes a full curriculum on trauma. Judges' surveys were administered in last October, with an additional survey designed for juveniles as well. An observational tool has been designed and began piloting in Judge Corpening's courtroom (New Hanover County). Raza shared data from the October Judges Survey and discussed findings.

NCAOC Training Updates

Mike Silver, Training and Services Director of AOC began his presentation by sharing a lifetime license has been obtained by the AOC for the "Resilience" movie. Moving forward AOC is currently planning a NC HBCU campus tour to screen and host a panel discussion. The movie has already been screened at NCCU School of Law and the plan is to screen the movie at all HBCUs by the end of this semester. Panelists are needed to discuss the movie afterwards for each screening.

A partnership between the AOC and NCCU School of Law has been established to imbed trauma-informed training into their juvenile and family law clinics. Training is set to begin September of 2023.

Youth Assessment Screening Instrument (YASI) Bench Card and Video





Program Updates

Safe Baby Courts

Court Programs Director, Asia Prince kicked off the program updates by sharing the SBCT pilot sites. Since the previous meeting five pilots have been set. Those include New Hanover, Mecklenburg, Brunswick, Durham and District 24. Several funding sources have been or will soon be established. Those already confirmed including Court Improvement Program (State Director and State Coordinator Positions) and Smart Start of Mecklenburg County (Mecklenburg Pilot Site expenses). Upon confirmation of additional funding sources potential future funding after the pilot and pilot site expenses could be taken care of. Moving forward into 2023, both Mecklenburg County and District 24 (Mitchell & Yancy Counties) will roll out. Next in line will be New Hanover, Brunswick or Durham for 2024. Asia went on to discuss next steps for the program. A Duke Endowment site visit and meeting is scheduled to take place February 24th of this year. Both a timeline and rollout plan will be finalized, as well as a budget with ZT3.

Trauma Informed Programs for Adults

Kevin Leonard and Amber Harris with NCACC share an update on expenditures for TIPA. The plan is to reinvest in the courts. Currently there are two different plans of ways to spend. Plan A being a more immediately focused plan. Plan B is a more removed approach but will require more collaboration. Kevin briefly discusses the next round of pharmacy settlement coming. Dr. Morraco mentions Core NC as a potential resource.

Asia Prince took to the podium again to present the Opioid Settlement toolkit. Guests were able to view and pass around a copy as Mr. Prince discussed the content. The toolkit includes a introduction and defines recovery courts. With the Opioid Settlement toolkit, opportunity for expansion across the state becomes more attainable. Districts are encouraged to follow the six steps outlined to be a part of the discussion in their communities.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.

Future Meeting Dates

- May 5, 2023-NCJC

