Research-Based, Trauma-Responsive Education Practices

Shannon Lasserre-Cortez, Ph.D., Senior Researcher, REL Southwest

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Agenda

1. Welcome, Event Orientation, and Speaker Introductions
2. Overview of Trauma in Schools
3. Researcher Perspective
4. Practitioner Perspective
5. Facilitated Practitioner Discussion
6. Thank You and Stakeholder Feedback Survey
Meet the Presenters

Shannon Lasserre-Cortez, Ph.D.
Senior Researcher, REL Southwest

Tammie Causey Konaté, Ph.D.
Senior Technical Assistance Consultant, American Institutes for Research

Amy Lansing, Ph.D.
Assistant Adjunct Professor, University of California, San Diego

Kathleen Guarino, LMHC
Senior Technical Assistance Consultant, American Institutes for Research

Kimberly Eckert, M.Ed.
2018 Louisiana State Teacher of the Year, Brusly High School
How does REL Southwest do this work?

REL Southwest conducts its work through collaborative research partnerships with stakeholders in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

To address the priorities and interests of these states, REL Southwest supports six collaborative research partnerships.
Research Partnerships

- College and Career Readiness
- Early Childhood Education
- English Learners
- Networked Improvement Communities
- School Improvement
- Teacher Preparation and Professional Development
Today’s Goal

To define and discuss trauma in schools and to provide educators with research-based, trauma-responsive strategies and opportunities.
Bridge Event Outcomes

1. Gain a better understanding of what is defined as trauma among adults and children.

2. Become aware of the research base and evidence supporting trauma-responsive strategies and practices.

3. Learn how to create a trauma-sensitive classroom.
Stakeholder Feedback Survey

Don’t forget to tell us what you thought about the webinar by completing our stakeholder feedback survey.

Your responses help us create better events in the future.
Closed Captioning by Caption First

Below are tips for customizing the closed-captioning box at the bottom of your screen:

- On the far left: select font type, color, and size.
- In the center, click the small arrow to hide the formatting choices and see more lines of captioning.
- On the right, be sure “Auto-Scroll” is checked so the captioning will automatically scroll in real time.
- On the right there also is a word search feature.
An Overview of Trauma in Schools

Tammie Causey Konaté, Ph.D., American Institutes for Research

3/28/19
EXPLORING THE CURRENT CONTEXT
Defining Trauma and Childhood Trauma
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

**ABUSE**
- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual

**NEGLECT**
- Physical
- Emotional

**HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION**
- Mental Illness
- Mother treated violently
- Divorce
- Incarcerated Relative
- Substance Abuse

SOURCE: Patterson (December 2018)
Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Physiological Changes to the Brain
- Changes in Interactions or Relationships With Others
- Cognitive Losses and Physical, Emotional, and Social Delays
- Poor School Performance
- Elevated Risk for Mental and Physical Health Problems, Substance Abuse, and Criminal Justice Involvement

SOURCE: McInerney & McKlindon (2016)
This is America

Recent research revealed that of the nearly 74 million children in the U.S.,

- Twenty-six percent experience a traumatic event before age 4.
- 14.8 million (1 in 5) live in food-insecure homes.
- 1.2 million are homeless.
- 2,805 are arrested every day.
- Eight are killed with guns daily.

SOURCE: National Center for Mental Health Promotion and Youth Violence Prevention (July 2012)
This is America

In the 2015–16 academic year, U.S. public schools

- reported **1.1 million** “serious offenses”
- gave **2.7 million** students out-of-school suspensions
- expelled nearly **120,700** students
- referred **291,000** students to law enforcement

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education. Office for Civil Rights (April 2018)
Exposure to Violence

The National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence (2013) revealed that of 4,503 children and teens:

- **41.2 percent** experienced a physical assault within the past year.
- **10.7 percent** sustained an assault-related injury.
- **2 percent** were sexually assaulted or abused.
- **13.7 percent** were maltreated by a caregiver.
- **48.4 percent** experienced multiple exposures to violence.

Our Louisiana

- Louisiana has one of the highest trauma death rates in the nation.

- Louisiana ranked 27th among all states for suicides.

- Louisiana ranked 32nd in overall drug-related deaths in the United States.

- 85 percent of Louisiana residents were recovering from a natural disaster between March 2016 and February 2017, (NOLA.com, Feb. 2017).

SOURCE: Louisiana Emergency Response Network
Our Louisiana: Our Kids

Louisiana Kids Count 2015–16

Data suggest that:

- **6 percent** (69,691) resided in unsafe neighborhoods.
- **14 percent** (144,696) had a parent incarcerated after the child’s birth.
- **20 percent** (226,000) lived in concentrated poverty.
- **28 percent** (308,712) had experienced two or more adverse experiences.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Local Considerations

- **Ongoing school closures** (Govan, Perry, & Vaughan, 2015)

- **Racism, ethnoviolence, and marginalization** (Calin, 2018; Helms, Nicolas, & Green, 2010)

- **Culturally unresponsive practices**

- **Systemic barriers particularly for LGBTQ learners** (Human Rights Campaign, 2018)

Trauma and Behavioral Extremes at School
Our Systems Reconsidered

Protective Factors That Can Mitigate Against Trauma

Racism, Ethnoviolence, and Marginalization

Sociopolitical Climate of Violence and Despair

SOURCE: Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies (December 2018)
The Urgency

People who have experienced trauma are:

- 15x more likely to attempt suicide
- 4x more likely to become an alcoholic
- 4x more likely to develop a sexually transmitted disease
- 4x more likely to inject drugs
- 3x more likely to use antidepressant medication
- 3x more likely to be absent from work
- 3x more likely to experience depression
- 3x more likely to have serious job problems
- 2.5x more likely to smoke
- 2x more likely to develop chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- 2x more likely to have a serious financial problem

SOURCE: Mental Health Connection of Tarrant County (n.d.)
THE GOAL

INTERRUPT THE CYCLE OF TRAUMA
“What the best and wisest parent wants for his child, that must we want for all the children of the community. Any other ideal for our schools is narrow and unlovely; Acted upon, it destroys our democracy.”

- John Dewey, 1907
The Process: Sankofa

“Return to the source and fetch” (Tedla, 1995, p.1).

Sankofa

"Return to the source and fetch" (Tedla, 1995, p.1).
Strategies for Addressing Trauma in Education, Health, and Workforce

Model for Strengthening Traditions of Resistance for Social, Political, and Cultural Survival

- Challenge marginalization.
- Interrupt majoritarian narratives about traumatic event and those involved.
- Empower and arouse agency and creative self-transformation.
- Develop culturally affirming, sustainable solutions.

Thank you

For more information, contact
Tammie Causey-Konaté
tcausey@air.org