

TEACHING-FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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PRESS RELEASE

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MIDLOTHIAN, VIRGINIA– After receiving input from stakeholders clients, agency leaders and direct care professionals, the Teaching-Family Association (TFA) has adopted a new standard for implementation of the Teaching-Family Model (TFM). The new standard is part of the TFM Goals and focuses on delivery of trauma informed care.

The Teaching-Family Model has incorporated a trauma informed approach from its very beginning (in the early 70's). This approach includes a focus on safety and 'do no harm' in an effort to support clients and families. The Model was way ahead of its time when it incorporated goals, elements and delivery systems that ensured this support. Given the recent research surrounding the value and importance of trauma informed care, however, the Teaching-Family Association voted unanimously to extrapolate the various parts of the standards that supported a trauma informed approach to incorporate an entirely new and dedicated standard to ensuring provision of trauma informed care as a necessary goal for implementation of the Teaching-Family Model.

The standard was adopted by the Teaching-Family Association after less than one year of study and consideration. Mark Ownbey, with Barium Springs Home for Children (North Carolina), chair of the committee assigned to draft the new standard notes, "The Model has always supported a trauma-informed approach. Identification of a standard specifically addressing trauma informed care was a natural evolution to ensure continued recognition of the Teaching-Family Model as a leading evidence-based program to support clients in care."

The new standard ensures a trauma informed approach as defined by the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) definitions. The standard ensures realization of the prevalence of trauma; recognizes how trauma affects all individuals involved with the program (including staff); and responds by putting this knowledge into practice.

The new standard measures an agency's ability to train staff and support services that are focused on delivery of trauma informed care. In keeping with the key principles of a trauma informed approach, the new standard focuses on indicators related to specific areas that can be measured. The standard offers guidance for measuring safety throughout the organization; measures trustworthiness and transparency of operations and decision-making; builds on collaboration and mutuality; gives voice and choice to staff, clients and family members; screens for histories of trauma and provides training including neurological, biological, psychological and social impact of trauma on individuals, family and communities. The standard also ensures that agency staff members work to strengthen resilience and protective factors and that the environment of care addresses, minimizes and treats secondary traumatic stress and increases staff resilience as well.



The new standard, as is true with all of the Teaching-Family Model standards, can be applied to work in any environment. While the Teaching-Family Model's origins are found in residential care, the Model has been successfully implemented in all treatment environments across the continuum of care. This includes: home-based services; schools; day treatment programs; treatment foster care; and behavioral hospitals. The Model's flexibility is remarkable and its effectiveness is consistent with outcomes that are noteworthy.

The Teaching-Family Association is pleased that the incorporation of this new standard will continue to insure that the Model will provide the highest quality of care through the use of an evidence-based program. The Teaching-Family Model has been deeply studied and researched over the course of its 30+ years of implementation. Many agencies have successfully met the standards and are accredited to identify their organizations as using the Teaching-Family Model. The Teaching-Family Model is a trademark recognized with the highest standards of quality and care and available for use by agencies accredited through the TFA accreditation process.

The Teaching-Family Model standards and various applications of the Model, along with tools and techniques for success will be discussed and demonstrated at the Teaching-Family Association 37th Annual Conference on October 5-7 at the Omni Charlotte in Charlotte, North Carolina. For information about the Teaching-Family Model Standards, the Teaching-Family Association or members of the Association, please contact the TFA Office at 804.632.0155. You can email peggy-mcelgunn@comcast.net or visit the TFA website at www.teaching-family.org.

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