



Department of  
Youth Services

**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed**  
**Healing the Wounds of Trauma**

March 24, 2015

Research shows that approximately 34 percent of children in the United States have experienced at least one traumatic event. However, between 75 and 93 percent of youth entering the juvenile justice system annually in the United States are estimated to have experienced some degree of trauma, according to the Justice Policy Institute.

Traumatic experiences, such as physical abuse, neglect, loss of a caregiver, and witnessing trauma, can have devastating and long-lasting effects leading to aggressive behaviors, difficulty learning in school, sleeping and eating disorders, and lack of self-confidence.

“The youth who have experienced trauma cannot be overlooked,” said Dr. Bob Stinson, Chief of Behavioral Health Services at DYS. “When youth in juvenile facilities are acting out, many people are quick to ask what is wrong with them. We are shifting our approach from asking what is wrong with them to understanding what happened to them.”

During Intake, an assessment of DYS youth is conducted to determine if they have encountered traumatic experiences.

Trauma is treatable, according to Dr. Stinson. “We have to train our staff so they understand trauma and can identify what steps to take to treat it,” he added. “It’s called Trauma-Informed Care (TIC), and it is an approach to treatment that acknowledges the role trauma plays in people’s lives.” TIC training is available to professionals working in medicine, mental health, education, foster care, and juvenile justice.

“Addressing trauma is now the expectation, not the exception,” said Ginine Trim, Deputy Director of Facility Programs and Operations. “In order for us to be successful, we must ensure that our employees are provided the resources and support to assist them in working with youth that present challenging behaviors.”

This week, Dr. Monique Morrow, the former DYS Deputy Director of Rehabilitation and Treatment Services, will be leading the staff training sessions.

Dr. Morrow is very knowledgeable about issues concerning children and trauma. She is a member of the National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network and currently serves as a Consortium Investigator for



the Center for Trauma Recovery and Juvenile Justice at the University of Connecticut. In addition, she is a training specialist at the University of Kentucky Center on Trauma and Children.

At the training session, Dr. Morrow will address the following topics: "Trauma and Delinquency," "Trauma's Impact on Development," "Coping Strategies" and "Vicarious Trauma, Organizational Stress, and Self-Care."

A total of 60 DYS employees will attend a one-day training conference. From that pool, a total of 16 people will be selected to attend additional training sessions to become trainers, with the expectation that they then educate other staff about TIC.

"This training is another component of our Path to Safer Facilities plan," said Ginine Trim. Path to Safer Facilities is designed to enhance meaningful activities, increase preventative measures and move away from seclusion. "This is not something that is independent of what we are doing. It's a continuation of what we are doing."