Juvenile Justice

Description of Juvenile Justice

The juvenile justice system is meant to handle criminal law for children under the age of 18 who have committed a crime. Children in the juvenile justice system are typically between the ages of 10 and 17. The ultimate goal of the juvenile justice system is positive change through prevention, accountability, empowerment, and hope. There are typically several divisions of a juvenile justice department:

- Prevention and Diversion Efforts / Community-Based Alternatives to Juvenile Justice
- Juvenile Courts
- Juvenile Detention Centers
- Juvenile Probation Services
- Juvenile Justice Alternative Education Programs (JJAEP)
- County Managed Residential Placement Facilities
- State Managed Residential Placement Facilities
- Other Specialized Programs Dealing with Intense Mental Health/Family Cases

As mandated by the state of Texas, all juvenile justice professionals must complete the full day training on Trauma Informed Care prior to being certified as a Juvenile Supervision Officer (JSO) or Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO). This training was developed by the Training Academy at the Texas Juvenile Justice Department and the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

Screener vs. Assessment

Screener	Assessment
• Widely administered	• Targeted administration
• Brief	• In-depth
• Easy to complete	• Requires training to administer
• Gives yes or no information	• Gives unique client picture
• Focused on a specific topic	• Informs treatment
	• Completed over 1-3 visits

Recommendation

Universal trauma screening, or screening all clients that enter the juvenile justice system for trauma, is recommended because nearly 100% of youth involved in this system have been exposed to trauma, and many have experienced complex trauma and multiple traumas. Youth that screen positive for trauma should be provided a more in-depth trauma assessment by a mental health professional.

Potential Trauma Screening Tools (* indicates availability of tool in other languages)

- *UCLA PTSD-Reaction Index for Children/Adolesents-DSM-5 –
  http://www.ptsd.va.gov/professional/assessment/child/ucla_child_reaction_dsm-5.asp
  (contact preston@reactionindex.com for assistance)
- *Childhood Trust Events Survey -
  https://www.cincinnatichildrens.org/service/c/childhood-trust/events-survey
- Rapid Assessment of Pediatric Psychological Trauma (RAPPT) - available from
  jsugar@usc.edu
- Traumatic Events Screening Inventory for Children (TESI-C) - available from
  jford@uchc.edu and Parent Report Form (TESI-PRR) - available from
  Chandra.ghosh@ucsf.edu
- Structured Trauma-Related Experiences and Symptoms Screener (STRESS) - available
  from dgrasso@uchc.edu
- Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire Screener Sum Version -
  http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/jvq/available_versions.html
- Child Welfare Trauma Referral Tool -
  http://www.nctsn.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/CWT3_SHO_Referral.pdf

Resources

- To access additional materials and webinars visit:
  http://www.nctsn.org/resources/topics/juvenile-justice-system#q2
- Ford, J. D., Chapman, J. F., Pearson, G., Borum, R., & Wolpaw, J. M. (2008). MAYSI-2 factor structure, reliability, and predictive validity in juvenile detention. Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment, 30, 87-99.
- Hennessey, M., Ford, J.D., Mahoney, K., Ko, S.J., & Siegfried, C.B. (2004). Trauma Among Girls in the Juvenile Justice System. National Child Traumatic Stress Network Juvenile Justice Working Group.
  http://www.nctsnet.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/edu_materials/trauma_among_girls_in_jjsys.pdf
- Kerig, P. K., Arnzen Moeddel, M., & Becker, S. P. (2011). Assessing the sensitivity and specificity of the MAYSI-2 for detecting trauma among youth in juvenile detention. Child & Youth Care Forum, 40, 345-352.
- Keirg, P. K., Ford, J.D., & Olafson, E. (2014). Assessing Exposure to Psychological Trauma and Posttraumatic Stress Symptoms in the Juvenile Justice Population. National Child Traumatic Stress Network Juvenile Justice Working Group.
  http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/assessing_trauma_in_jj_2014.pdf
- Mahoney, K., Ford, J.D., Ko, S.J., & Siegfried, C.B. (2004). Trauma-Focused Interventions for Youth in the Juvenile Justice System. National Child Traumatic Stress Network Juvenile Justice Working Group.
  http://www.nctsnet.org/nctsn_assets/pdfs/edu_materials/trauma_focused_interventions_youth_jjsys.pdf

- Siegfriend, C.B., Ko, S.J., & Kelley, A. (2004). Victimization and Juvenile Offending. National Child Traumatic Stress Network Juvenile Justice Working Group. http://www.kscourts.org/court-administration/Legal_Institute_on_Adverse_Childhood_Exp/Victimization%20and%20Juvenile%20Offending%20(NCTSN).pdf
- Think Trauma Toolkit from The National Child Traumatic Stress Network –
  - http://learn.nctsn.org/enrol/index.php?id=92
  - http://nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/jj_ee_final.pdf
  - http://www.journalofjuvjustice.org/JOJJ0501/epub.htm?utm_source=DynamicsMarketing&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=JUVJUST_JournalofJJ_Spring2016_041816&ed2f26df2d9c416fbddddd2330a778c6=bchgzemrik-bekrmgzz

Questions to Consider Before Implementation

- What is the goal of screening youth involved in or at risk for involvement in juvenile justice?
  - Document youths' trauma history?
  - Provide information requested from courts, protection workers, attorneys, or others?
  - Inform adjudication or disposition decisions?
  - Identify youth in need of referral for trauma-specific mental health assessment or treatment?
  - Identify youth at risk for adverse reactions to detention, probation, or court procedures?
  - Inform a trauma-informed safety plan to reduce harm to self or others while youth are in care?
  - Increase staff's ability work effectively with youth?
- What is the institution's readiness to implement screening?
  - Are staff and resources available to conduct screening?
  - Are effective measures available?
  - Is there training available to equip staff to respond sensitively and effectively to youth disclosures and to protect staff from vicarious traumatization?
- Who will see the screening findings, and how will they be utilized?
  - What is the youth's state of mind and understanding of the purpose of trauma screening, and how might this affect her/his ability and willingness to respond accurately and completely?
  - How will disclosures be handled in keeping with mandated reporting laws?
  - Will youths' privacy and rights to avoid self-incrimination be protected?
- What capacities are available to implement follow-through after screening?
  - Are resources available to refer youth in need to trauma-informed behavioral health assessments?

- Are trauma-informed behavioral health services available and accessible to the youth and family?
- How will the institution's and staff's practices be adapted in ways that are trauma-informed?
- Will your agency track the number screened vs. the number who screen positive for trauma?
- How will you use the data collected to guide service delivery?
- What outcome data with you track to ensure that trauma informed practices are being implemented and are effective?