



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

## Department of Human Services

Addictions and Mental Health Division

500 Summer Street NE E86

Salem, OR 97301-1118

Voice 503-945-5763

Fax 503-378-8467

January 6, 2011

Dear Alcohol and Drug Treatment Provider and Community Mental Health Programs,

Many people accessing addiction treatment including people referred under a diversion agreement or who have been convicted of Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUI) have experienced psychological and/or physical trauma. The Addictions and Mental Health Division (AMH) developed a Trauma Policy to provide guidance for addiction and mental health service providers which can be located at: <http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/addiction/trauma.shtml>

The Integrated Supports and Service Rule (ISSR), Oregon Administrative Rule OAR 309-032-15XX emphasizes the use of best-practices related to trauma-informed services. The ISSR states, "Trauma-Informed Services means services that are reflective of the consideration and evaluation of the role that trauma plays in the lives of people seeking mental health and addictions services, including recognition of the traumatic effect of misdiagnosis and coercive treatment. Services are responsive to the vulnerabilities of trauma survivors and are delivered in a way that avoids inadvertent re-traumatization and facilitates individual direction of services. Furthermore, every person that receives an assessment is screened for the presence of symptoms related to psychological and physical trauma.

It is the responsibility of an agency to have written policies ensuring individuals never feel coerced during their treatment experience. Many of the individuals seeking treatment may not even realize they were traumatized and thus not be able to articulate their concerns. Evaluating the individual's responses during the assessment should guide the clinician when placing an individual in a group milieu.

The National Center for Trauma-Informed Care (NCTIC) was created to stimulate and support trauma informed care concepts and services within publicly funded mental health systems and programs. The goal is to make the trauma healing and recovery process more supportive, comprehensively integrated, and empowering

---

If you need this letter in alternate format, please call 503-945-5763 (Voice) or 800-375-2863 (TTY)

*"Assisting People to Become Independent, Healthy and Safe"*

An Equal Opportunity Employer

HSS1601 (11/06) 

for trauma survivors through the development and implementation of trauma informed care systems. In order to accomplish this, NCTIC provides trauma training and technical assistance that is free or low cost to publicly funded programs and systems. They also provide education and outreach, a speaker's bureau, and topical resources to stimulate and support trauma informed change in service environments to address the trauma experienced by so many consumers and survivors. Information on clinical practices related to women can be found in Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) 51 Substance Abuse Treatment Addressing the Specific Needs of Women <http://kap.samhsa.gov/products/manuals/tips/pdf/TIP51.pdf>

Please call Shawn Clark at 503-945-9720 if you have further questions about the Trauma Policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Wheeler".

Karen Wheeler, M.A.  
Addiction Programs Administrator

DL/pt