

Can we improve human services to positively change the future for trauma survivors?

YES WE CAN!

Psychological trauma is a universal experience for survivors of violence, disaster, and war – experiences that have become common for Americans. When left unaddressed, the impact of trauma can affect the survivor's physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wellbeing. It impacts relationships, economic strength, and engagement in community.

Trauma-informed change in human services is a positive shift in how service providers approach healing and support for trauma survivors. It recognizes trauma as a central issue that needs to be addressed as part of the healing process and honors a survivor's voice and choice in treatment and services. This approach understands and recognizes many symptoms that surface as a means of coping with the impact of the traumatic experience. Trauma-informed change is a paradigm shift in approach that empowers survivors and views them as equal collaborators in their healing.

It is the position of the organizations signing on to this statement that trauma-informed change in human services is not only essential to mental health reform, but to the wellness of Americans, their families, and our communities.

We ask the Obama Administration and our governing leaders on Capitol Hill to support trauma-informed change in related human service policies and practices.

Trauma-Informed Change: What Makes A Difference for Survivors of Violence, Disaster, War