



SERENDIPITY CENTER, INC. POLICY AND PROCEDURE

SUBJECT: Trauma Informed Services

EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2011; revised February 2016, revised October 2025

PURPOSE

Serendipity serves students with histories of traumatic life experiences. We recognize the potential impacts of trauma on the development, learning, and response to treatment in our students. We recognize that the purpose of Trauma Informed Policy is to promote resiliency, health and wellness for those who have experienced trauma and to create a minimum standard of care in addressing the impact of trauma. Therefore, we seek to implement policies and procedures for how services and supports are delivered within our therapeutic school program that are sensitive to and informed by our understanding of trauma and its impact on our children and families.

POLICY

Serendipity has developed policies and procedures that define and specify how services and supports are delivered to students and families within our therapeutic school program. Included in these policies are policy statements and specific procedures that define trauma informed services and describe how service delivery remains sensitive to issues of trauma.

Serendipity defines trauma informed services as services that are reflective of the consideration and evaluation of the role that trauma plays in the lives of our students and their families. Serendipity's 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.

PROCEDURE

- Serendipity gathers all available records prior to admission, pertinent histories of trauma that could impact treatment and learning.
- An assessment and screening for trauma is included in the mental health assessment that explores the presence of symptoms related to the presence of psychological and/or physical trauma.
- Prior to enrollment into Serendipity Center, an interdisciplinary team meeting is convened with the admissions coordinator, intervention staff, classroom teacher, tier 1

coordinator, and the clinical case manager. All staff members who will be working with the newly admitted student are informed of trauma histories and potential impacts on functioning, participating, and responding to the therapeutic supports and environment.

- Both annual and on-going staff development focuses on cultivating the awareness of the impacts of trauma, abuse, and neglect on students and families, as well as on the development of responses marked by empathy, trust, and the ability to creatively accommodate individual differences. Training focuses on trauma responses in our clients (acute, chronic, and complex) as well as Secondary and Vicarious Traumatization of professional working with our student population.
- Through on-going training in the implementation of Serendipity Center's Integrated Intervention Model for service delivery, emphasis is place on student engagement in the recovery process and on partnering with students in the acquisition of pro-social behavioral skills rather than the coercing of change.
- It is Serendipity Center's practice for students to be empowered to, in collaboration with their teams, identify personal strengths, plan strategies for change, and recognize personal progress towards recovery.