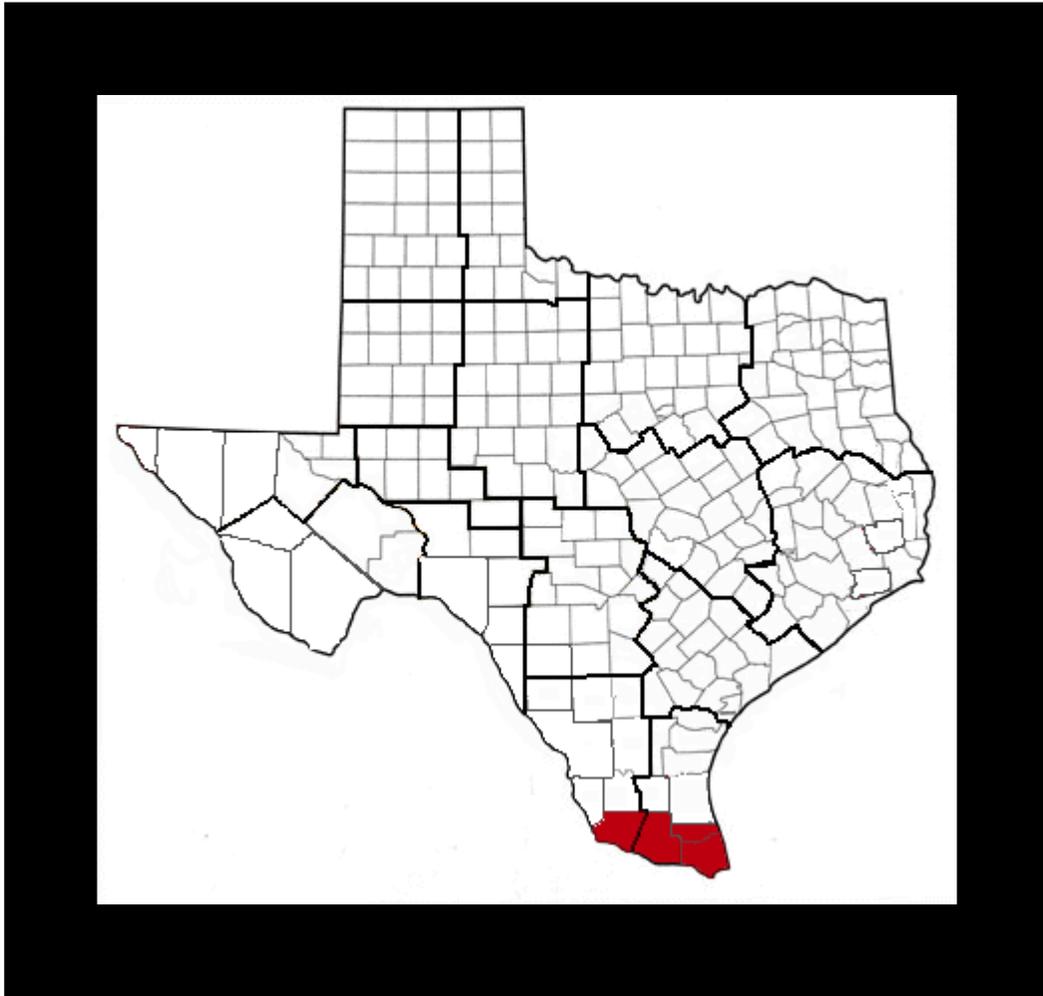


RGV Trauma-Informed Approach



RGV Trauma-Informed Coalition

RGV Trauma Informed Care Teams

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The UTRGV Early Head Start Agency was awarded supplemental Quality Improvement funds. These funds will be used to develop a Health and Wellness Advocacy Program to promote the Trauma-Informed Approach at a systems level and to provide the Community with trauma-informed content and resources. The Health and Wellness Advocacy Program will focus on addressing Educators, Families, and Healthcare professionals in partnerships with the UTRGV Early Head Start Agency. The UTRGV Early Head Start Agency has recognized the need to develop a community-wide approach and will serve as the leader as the RGV becomes aware of the Trauma-Informed Approach.

Trauma-Informed Approach

“A program organization or system that is trauma-informed REALIZES the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery; RECOGNIZES the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system; and RESPONDS by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies and procedures, and practices, and seeks to actively RESIST RE-TRAUMATIZATION.” Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

“Trauma-informed practice is a responsibility to be taken up and shared by all public sector service systems.

It benefits from collaboration and co-operation between all levels of service delivery.

It requires adjustments in practice and system designs: supported by research and leadership by engagement of service providers and service users alike.”

Trauma-Informed Child Welfare System

- Is one in which all parties involved recognize and respond to the impact of traumatic stress on those who have contact with the system including children, caregivers, and service providers.
- Programs and agencies within such a system infuse and sustain trauma awareness knowledge, and skills into their organizational cultures, practices, and policies. They act in collaboration with all those who are involved with the child using the best available science, to maximize physical and psychological safety, facilitate the recovery of the child and family, and support their ability to thrive.

Provided by Center for Child Welfare Trauma-Informed Policies, Programs, and Practices

Systems Level Approach

Broadly defined, a TI approach reflects an understanding of how to recognize and respond to the impact of traumatic stress in ways that promote healing and avoid retraumatization. This includes offering services responsive to people who have experienced trauma in an overall environment that maximizes the outcomes of such services and promotes healing and recovery. TI service systems infuse and sustain trauma awareness, knowledge, and skills into their organizational cultures, practices, and policies to create a climate of empathy and respect. SAMHSA, for example, recognizes that a comprehensive TI approach must be adopted at two levels: Clinical (i.e., direct service interventions for trauma) System (i.e., climate and conditions in which direct services are provided) The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and other federal agencies have invested in efforts to promote TI approaches—including efforts at the systems level. Many states and communities have also funded, designed, and implemented TI initiatives within and across child serving sectors, such as child welfare, education, early care and education, and juvenile justice.

Trauma-Informed Care

Trauma-informed care (TIC) refers to services that incorporate an understanding of trauma into all aspects of care and service provision but do not treat trauma symptoms. Trauma specific interventions are clinical treatments shown to treat trauma symptoms and promote recovery.

RGV Trauma-Informed Coalition

The RGV Trauma-Informed Initiative developed by Community Stakeholders, Educators, and Professional community members (from the Trauma-Informed Coalition) will serve as a resource as the Region begins to implement a Trauma-Informed Approach. The Early Head Start Agency will inform Administrators and Community Stakeholders on the Trauma-Informed Approach by providing workshops on topics such as:

- Trauma-Sensitive Learning Environments
- Trauma-Specific Services
- Trauma-Informed Services
- Trauma-Informed Intervention
- Trauma Lens
- Trauma-Informed Policies and Procedures
- Trauma-Informed Screening and Assessment
- The impact of trauma on children and families

This is of extreme importance given multiple stressors created during the Coronavirus/COVID-19 sheltered-in circumstances.

Trauma-Informed Coalition

A broad public-policy agenda is needed to advocate for laws, policies, and funding streams that enable schools to achieve the school-wide vision embodied in our definition: addressing trauma's impact on learning as a core part of the educational mission so that all students feel safe, welcomed and supported.

RGV Trauma-Informed Care Teams

A group of members representing agencies or schools supported by the RGV Trauma-Informed Coalition that will hereby provide on-going feedback and support.

RGV Trauma-Informed Coalition

- **Governance and Leadership**
- **Policy**
- **Physical Environment**
- **Engagement and Involvement**
- **Cross Sector Collaboration**
- **Screening, Assessment, Treatment Services**
- **Training and Workforce Development**
- **Progress Monitoring and Quality Assurance**
- **Financing**
- **Evaluation**

The UTRGV-EHS-CCP Agency is seeking leaders who are passionate about advocating for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) to support the Trauma-Informed Approach in educational settings and related Agencies. The Coalition will meet to develop a Mission Statement, Values, Core Principles, and become a supportive resource for the Region as the Trauma-Informed Approach continues to grow.

Please e-mail: Amanda.Garcia@UTRGV.edu to express your interest in being a member of the Coalition or if you desire to develop a RGV Trauma-Informed Care Team for your agency or school setting.

First formal Coalition Meeting: 12/9/2020

First formal RGV Trauma-Informed Care Teams Meeting: 12/10/2020