

Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) in the Time of COVID-19

Budget Request:

Support Assembly proposal to require trauma-informed practice training for mandated reporters. Training would also include implicit bias and detecting signs of child abuse via telecommunication. In addition, the Assembly proposal includes creation and dissemination of trauma-informed materials to be disseminated to parents/caregivers by a variety of mandated reporters, including educators, child care providers, pediatricians, and local social service staff.

In addition, this request will expand the list of services to be covered through the Child Health Plus Program. These services shall include:

- Children’s mental health rehab services
- Community psychiatric support and treatment services
- Psychosocial rehabilitation services
- Trauma informed care – including the identification and appropriate reaction and treatment of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- Preventative services
- Enhancement of Protective Factors (Parental Resilience, Social Connections, Concrete Supports in Time of Need, Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development, Social and Emotional Competencies)

Rationale:

ACEs are those traumatic experiences—such as child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, and loss of a parent—that have negative impacts into adulthood, including increases in chronic disease and unemployment, decreases in high school graduation, and other repercussions that affect family stability and well-being. ACEs are preventable and their effects can be mitigated by investments in Protective Factors—things like concrete supports (affordable child care/healthcare), knowledge of child development (via home visiting/Early Intervention), and social connections (parenting groups).

New York’s shelter in place order—while necessary from a public health standpoint—has led to increased rates of domestic violence, child abuse, and other ACEs. 325,000 New York children reached or fell below the poverty line in 2020. From March through July alone, 4,200 children experienced the death of a caregiver from COVID-19. Even children considered to be the least “at-risk” have suffered due to isolation and fear.

This legislation will help mitigate the impact of ACEs on an entire generation.

Watch the bi-cameral press conference on this topic:

https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?v=455889545527380&ref=watch_permalink