

Livingston County Trauma Informed Assessment Information Sheet

Who should receive a Trauma Informed Assessment?

Trauma Informed assessments are intended for children who have been exposed to potentially traumatic events that can affect child functioning within the cognitive, affective, behavioral, and physiological domains. Many symptoms can subsequently be manifested, including hypervigilance, withdrawal, sleeping difficulties, depression, and significant mood swings. Often, such symptoms may not be immediately revealed and are misinterpreted as learning disorders or acting out. Early detection of child trauma can minimize psychological and physiological risk to these complex and challenging children.

What are Trauma Informed Assessments?

Using a series of specialized evaluation tools that encompass various developmental domains including:

- physical
- cognitive/academic
- speech/language
- social/familial
- emotional
- behavior

Trauma informed assessments explore the effects on functioning (cognitive, affective, behavioral, and physiological) that exposure to traumatic events as a result of child abuse and/or neglect has on children ages birth to eighteen years of age. Trauma Informed Assessments are provided by a local team of interdisciplinary professionals from Livingston County who have received specialized training.

What is the Purpose of the Assessment?

The purpose of a Trauma Informed Assessment is to gather critical information from the multiple domains of a young person's life that can be synthesized into recommendations that will ultimately lead to an overall improvement in day to day functioning of the child and help maintain the child safely in the community.

Who is the Livingston Trauma Assessment Team? (LTAT)

The Livingston County Trauma Assessment Team is made up of local professionals including social workers, medical doctors, psychologists, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. LTAT members receive specialized training and coaching from the Southwest Michigan Trauma Assessment Center, a nationally recognized provider of trauma assessments.

What is the role of the Livingston County Trauma Informed Steering Committee?

The Livingston County Trauma Informed Steering Committee (TISC) is an interdisciplinary team of leaders from local human service organizations that offer oversight and provide gate keeping functions for assessment enrollment, pilot implementation and the LTAT team. The TISC reviews (accepts or declines) all LTAT referrals and assigns cases for assessment based on criteria and community priorities.

Livingston County's Pilot Plan:

On November 1, 2009 Livingston County launched a local assessment pilot that will provide approximately twenty trauma assessments over the next year for local children who have experienced trauma. Criteria to be considered as a potential referral for a trauma informed assessment is on the reverse side of this page.

The overarching goals for the pilot are to introduce and embed trauma informed knowledge and practices that are culturally competent, evidence supported/based, and responsive to the needs of traumatized children and their families into our community, targeting change at three levels:

- System change
- Service delivery
- Child & Family outcomes