

Trauma-Informed Primary Care Implementation Advisory Committee Meeting: Key Themes

October 26, 2020

The Trauma-Informed Primary Care (TIPC) Implementation Advisory Committee met virtually on October 14, 2020, and was attended by 31 members. This document summarizes the meeting and the key themes, which will be considered in the ongoing implementation of the ACEs Aware initiative. Visit ACEsAware.org for meeting materials.

Meeting Summary

California Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Burke Harris opened the meeting by sharing a clip from a popular children's television show portraying a doctor's conversation with a teenager about ACEs and the lasting impacts of childhood trauma on a child's stress response. Seeing ACEs conveyed in a popular cartoon speaks to the rising public interest and awareness for ACEs and toxic stress.

Dr. Burke Harris introduced two new TIPC members: Linda Tenerowicz from the California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN) and Dr. Samar Muzaffar from the California Health & Human Services Agency.

The objectives of the meeting included:

- Sharing highlights from the October 2020 ACEs Aware Provider Training Report & Provider Directory.
- Discussing proposed ACEs Aware initiative goals for 2020-2021.
- Highlighting and discussing the progress of and goals for ACEs Aware subcommittees.
- Talking about the Medi-Cal managed care plan engagement strategy, with a presentation from L.A. Care Health Plan.
- Providing an update on the California ACEs Learning and Quality Improvement Collaborative (CALQIC).
- Giving an update on the California Initiative to Advance Precision Medicine (CIAPM).

ACEs Aware Initiative Updates: Provider Training Report & Provider Directory

Dr. Karen Mark, Medical Director for the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), presented an update on ACEs Aware implementation by sharing highlights of the October 2020 [ACEs Aware Provider Training Report](#) and unveiling the newly-launched [ACEs Aware Provider Directory](#). The Provider Training Report shows that nearly 14,000 health care providers have completed the ACEs Aware core training program; of those trained, 8,300 are Medi-Cal providers who have attested to completing the training and are now eligible to receive Medi-Cal payment for conducting ACE screenings. The Provider Directory offers patients a way to find and connect with trained ACEs Aware providers throughout California.

ACEs Aware Goals and Objectives 2020 – 2021

Dr. Burke Harris provided a recap of the 2019-2020 TIPC goals, highlighted accomplishments to date, and obtained input from TIPC members on the initiative's proposed 2020 – 2021 goals and objectives.

1. Raising Awareness

The first goal focused on training and promoting awareness among Medi-Cal providers on ACE screening and response, with the primary objective to increase the number of Medi-Cal providers who have completed the ACEs Aware core training.

TIPC members made the following key recommendations:

- Share positive provider anecdotes on how ACEs Aware training and materials have alleviated provider anxiety related to how to clinically respond to positive ACE screens, as well as stories of patients benefiting from visits with ACEs Aware-trained providers.
- Encourage providers to utilize ACEs Aware materials to help children and families cope with stress during the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Leverage peer-to-peer outreach, including ACEs Aware grants, to increase the number of providers who have completed the ACEs Aware core training and to normalize ACE screening to promote its integration in the usual standard of care.

- Analyze provider types and specialties that have lower rates of completing the ACEs Aware core training and execute marketing and communication strategies to target those providers.
- Highlight the impact of intergenerational trauma to engage family medicine physicians.
- Continue to identify provider concerns about ACE screening and clinical response and address them through ACEs Aware activities, including the development of resources/tools and webinars.
- Build a pipeline of providers through outreach to medical students who may be receptive to ACE screening and clinical response.

2. Practice Change

The second goal is to support implementation of ACE screening and response among Medi-Cal providers by identifying and embedding ACE screening and response into other DHCS initiatives and by developing tools/resources to support providers.

TIPC members made the following key recommendations:

- Create short educational vignettes that provide concrete strategies for making practice change.
- Develop resources related to intergenerational trauma.
- Identify and train provider champions to support oversight, monitoring, and training to facilitate practice change at organizational levels.
- Identify existing DHCS programs/initiatives that ACEs Aware may want to collaborate with to promote and integrate ACE screening and clinical response.

3. Network of Care

The third goal is focused on supporting the development of a functional network of care by building an infrastructure as identified in the Network of Care Roadmap and by providing funding to build and expand this network. The Network of Care Subcommittee is supporting these efforts.

TIPC members made the following key recommendations:

- Explore how to create and maintain available resources in different communities.
- Focus on screening and referral by tracking screening/referral data and utilize system-level stakeholder and county-level data.

- Define referral networks to help providers navigate next steps after screening.
- Encourage incremental progress with network of care grants to supplement progress and supplement with CalAIM efforts.
- Look at similar work from stakeholders, such as The California Endowment and the California Accountable Communities for Health, particularly regarding network of care milestones.
- Explore the role of technology in supporting patients with mental health needs or who are at high risk for toxic stress.
- Connect with local public health departments to identify opportunities for wraparound support.

ACEs Aware Subcommittee Updates

Co-chairs and lead facilitators from each of the three ACEs Aware subcommittees (Provider Engagement & Education, Clinical Implementation, and Network of Care) shared updates on work accomplished since the June TIPC meeting.

The Network of Care Subcommittee highlighted its work on the Network of Care Roadmap, a document that aims to improve collaboration and coordination across the health care and social service system in responding to the identification of ACEs in primary care. The Network of Care Roadmap will be released in December 2020.

ACEs Aware Managed Care Plan Engagement

Medi-Cal Managed Care Engagement

Dr. Tanya Dansky, Clinical Advisor to the ACEs Aware initiative, shared key findings from a survey sent to Medi-Cal managed care plan (MCP) leadership on their progress in implementing ACEs Aware. She also summarized the planned ACEs Aware approach to engage Medi-Cal MCPs.

Dr. Michael Brodsky, Medical Director for Behavioral Health at L.A. Care Health Plan, also presented on L.A. Care's ACEs Aware implementation activities.

Dr. Burke Harris asked members to provide input on how to coordinate with Medi-Cal MCPs to successfully implement ACE screening and response and how to assign accountability for creating a network of care.

TIPC members made the following key recommendations:



- Share what Medi-Cal MCPs have already done to support referral networks, give providers resources, and act as a nexus of social services.
- Leverage the existing MCP infrastructure to incorporate ACEs Aware, such as training new providers, adapting metrics for quality improvement and oversight, and offering informational materials to providers at various touch points.
- Define and distinguish different experiences from plans and providers on how to establish an accessible continuum of care for patients.
- Identify how to operationalize primary, secondary, and tertiary interventions for individual patients being screened for ACEs.

Additional discussion centered on discovering ways MCPs manage care coordination, especially care related to connecting patients to community resources. Many members agreed that Medi-Cal MCPs play a key role in supporting providers in connecting them with community resources after a positive screen. ACEs Aware will continue to create opportunities for members to provide input on how ACEs Aware can effectively work with Medi-Cal MCPs.

Other Initiative Updates

The meeting also featured updates from Dr. Edward Machtinger on CALQIC and Dr. Julianne McCall on CIAPM.

Dr. Burke Harris concluded the meeting by letting TIPC members know to stay tuned for the upcoming release of the Surgeon General's report on ACEs and toxic stress.