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Promoting trauma-informed care through consultation as intervention: Reviewing a model

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More than 420,000 children are in foster care in the United States (Children's Bureau, 2019); children enter the system after experiencing trauma, often multiple traumas (Kramer et al., 2013), usually perpetuated by a caregiver (Greeson et al., 2011). Childhood traumatic experiences impact functioning across domains throughout the lifespan (Mersky & Topitzes, 2010). These children require effective mental health care, yet the mental health system can itself be traumatizing (Onken et al., 2002). Trauma informed care is a model of systems-level change in child-welfare associated systems promoting effective collaboration, prevention, and intervention to benefit those they serve (Beyerlein & Bloch, 2014; Bunting et al., 2019). To this end, the Vanderbilt Center of Excellence implemented a client-centered case consultation model bringing together key members of teams serving children and families involved with child welfare in Tennessee. This intervention aims to facilitate collaboration, empower stakeholders, and strengthen resilience in team-members in ways that generalize benefits from the client to other children, families, and the systems themselves. The current project will explicate the consultation model, situating it within existing consultation and trauma-informed care literature, report on the status of the satisfaction-related data, and provide next steps to promote continued quality improvement in service provision.