



New Release: *Competence to Stand Trial* Microsite



Policy Research is pleased to release a new tool to the field, the *Competence to Stand Trial* microsite. Policy Research has been at the forefront of systems transformation in competence to stand trial (CST) and competence restoration (CR) services for individuals in contact with the criminal justice system. CST is raised when justice-involved individuals exhibit signs or symptoms of conditions that can impair their ability to competently proceed with their criminal case. These individuals are sent for evaluation to assess their competence; this process can be drawn out. Furthermore, individuals who are found incompetent to stand trial are sometimes detained for extended periods, potentially leading to harmful outcomes. Due to the difficulty faced by many jurisdictions across the

country to provide timely CST/CR services, the subject has drawn considerable interest, and many are seeking ways to improve this process and identify best practices.

The *Competence to Stand Trial* microsite is a one-stop-shop for CST/CR resources, research, and useful tools. The materials provided in the microsite may help jurisdictions improve outcomes for individuals for whom CST is raised and the jurisdictions that serve them. This microsite includes tools, publications, and an assessment of PRA's work providing technical assistance to diversion services programs in Washington State after the *Trueblood* class-action lawsuit settlement.

Visit the Microsite

Announcing the School Responder Model Podcast Series

The National Center for Youth Opportunity and Justice (NCYOJ) at Policy Research is pleased to release a podcast series designed to support schools and communities with implementation of the [School Responder Model Framework](#). This seven-episode series provides a holistic view of what is needed to implement a successful and robust school responder model. Highlighted are two episodes from the podcast—one on self-care and the other on trauma.

Self-Care and Wellness for Educators

The School Responder Model podcast series includes a timely episode on **wellness for educators** featuring Lauren Kazee, founder of [Living SLOW™](#) and consultant to NCYOJ. In this discussion, Lauren talks with PRA's Dr. Crystal L. Brandow about the importance of educator self-care for self-regulation and stress management.



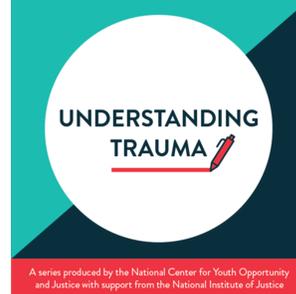
Teachers and other educators are at high risk for compassion fatigue and burnout. Secondary traumatic stress and vicarious trauma are prevalent and are connected to poor outcomes among school staff and their students. Lauren talks about the available data related to these concerns and offers some practical solutions for educators and administrators to help decrease stress and improve well-being. For more on self-care for educators, download the NCYOJ Research to Practice brief, [Self-Care and Wellness: An Important Focus for Staff Implementing a School Responder Model](#).

Listen to the Episode on Self-Care

Understanding Trauma

One of the contributors to poor wellness outcomes for educators is the impact of secondary traumatic stress on well-

being and quality of life. Traumatic experiences are prevalent among youth. For impacted young people, the symptoms of traumatic stress may manifest behaviorally and impact their relationships as well as their experiences in school. Implementing a school responder model requires a trauma-informed approach that includes **understanding trauma and its impact on learning and behavior** and supporting students by connecting them with behavioral health services and supports.



In this episode, Dr. Jeff Vanderploeg, president and chief executive officer of the Child Health and Development Institute of Connecticut (CHDI) and its parent organization, the Children’s Fund of Connecticut; Dr. Jeana Bracey, associate vice president of school and community initiatives at CHDI; and Joe O’Callaghan, department chair of social work at Stamford Public Schools in Connecticut, talk about the importance of understanding trauma and its impact in this podcast.

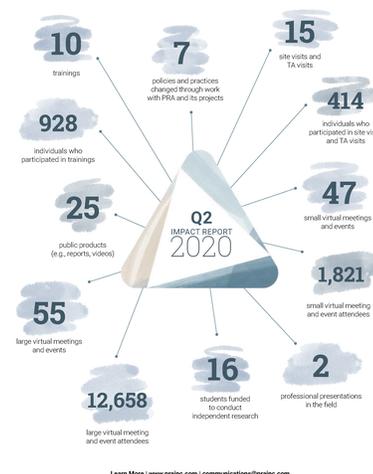
Listen to the Episode on Trauma

This project was supported by Award No. 2016-CK-BX-0010, awarded by the National Institute of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication, program, or exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Department of Justice.

Quarterly Impact: April to June 2020

Policy Research is pleased to release its impact report for quarter 2 of 2020. Each quarter, Policy Research publishes this document spotlighting our work across the country via our technical assistance centers, projects, and fee-for-service activities. Highlights of the April-to-June reporting period include the following:

- Reached 14,479 people through 102 virtual meetings and events
- Hosted 10 site visits, training 928 people
- Facilitated 15 site and technical assistance visits with 414 attendees
- Funded 16 students to conduct independent research on topics related to disability, rehabilitation, and employment



Read the full quarter 2 impact report for more on the following featured topics:

- Policy Research, Inc. hosts virtual town halls to support Safety and Justice Challenge sites during the COVID-19 pandemic
- ARDRAW awards grants to 16 researchers

- Virtual criminal justice/behavioral health cross-systems workshops allow communities to map local systems

Download the Impact Report

Open Solicitations From SAMHSA's GAINS Center

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) GAINS Center, operated by PRA, has open solicitations available for criminal justice and behavioral health professionals. Review the requests for applications below and apply today!

SAMHSA'S GAINS Center Seeks Communities to Develop

Trauma-Informed Training Capacity

Application deadline: November 13, 2020

SAMHSA's GAINS Center is soliciting applications from communities interested in developing a capacity to provide trauma-informed training. The GAINS Center is offering a series of Train-The-Trainer (TTT) events to train local trainers to deliver its *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses* training program.

The target audiences for this training program are primarily community-based criminal justice system professionals, including law enforcement, community corrections (probation, parole, and pre-trial services), court personnel, re-entry staff, and human service providers that serve adult justice-involved populations.

To find out more about *How Being Trauma-Informed Improves Criminal Justice System Responses*, please visit [SAMHSA's GAINS Center](#).

The GAINS Center will offer TTT events free of charge to selected communities between January and July 2021. Since the purpose of this training initiative is to offer targeted technical assistance and training to prepared communities in the field, there are no fees for registration, tuition, or materials associated with these trainings. While not a requirement to apply to this opportunity, there will be special consideration given to applications that demonstrate the inclusion of trainers who train drug court and/or re-entry program staff.

If a TTT event is of interest to your community, please review the solicitation and submit your completed application form to the GAINS Center no later than November 13, 2020.

Access the TTT Solicitation

SAMHSA's GAINS Center Accepting Applications for Sequential Intercept Model Mapping Workshops

Application deadline: November 13, 2020

SAMHSA's GAINS Center is soliciting applications from communities interested in SIM Mapping Workshops (SIM Workshops). SIM Workshops are designed to bring together a local, cross-system, multidisciplinary group of stakeholders from a particular jurisdiction to facilitate collaboration and to identify and discuss ways in which barriers between the criminal justice and behavioral systems can be reduced through the development of integrated, local strategic plans. SIM Workshop participants are expected to be drawn, in large part, from local criminal justice and behavioral health agencies and organizations.

The GAINS Center is accepting applications for two types of SIM Workshops:

- **SIM Workshops to Develop Comprehensive, Community-wide Strategic Plans for Addressing Opioid and Stimulant Use:** These SIM Workshops will focus specifically on identifying and treating opioid and stimulant use disorders across all the intercepts of the SIM, including screening and assessment, diverting individuals out of the criminal justice system and into appropriate community-based treatment programs, implementing or expanding medication-assisted treatment, and maintaining continuity of care through transitions in and out of custody.
- **Traditional SIM Workshops:** These SIM Workshops will focus on identifying and responding to the needs of adults with mental and substance use disorders who are involved or at risk for involvement in the criminal justice system.

Applications for both types of SIM Workshops are due by November 13, 2020.

[Access the SIM Solicitations](#)

PRA in the Field

[Advancing School Mental Health Conference](#)

October 29, 2020, 12:00–3:00 p.m. ET

Join PRA's Dr. Crystal L Brandow at the *Strategies for Building Community-School Partnerships for Student Support* session!

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