



# WASHINGTON

**"TTI funds provided another avenue for trauma-informed training."**

## CREATING ONLINE TRAUMA INFORMED TRAINING MODULES FOR HOSPITAL STAFF, LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND JAILS

### Project Background, Vision, and Outcomes

Washington wanted to increase individual and organizational knowledge regarding trauma informed care among criminal-legal and behavioral health partners by training law enforcement, jail staff, forensic hospital personnel and other community partners in the approach.

The vision was to integrate trauma informed care into the different systems that work with jail populations. Virtual training modules were developed with consultation from representatives from underserved health groups, tribal members, and trauma survivors to minimize the gap between training theory and practical knowledge applications. The initial trainings were later revised based on feedback from law enforcement and designed to be more general than proscriptive. Training topics included understanding trauma, vicarious trauma, intergenerational trauma, complex trauma, and adverse childhood experiences.

The established outcome of the project was the development of the training modules, which was successfully completed.

### Project Implementation: Challenges and Lessons Learned

When conducting research on trauma informed jail programming, it was discovered that much of the correctional health literature and trainings were focused on prisons. Since jails have different structures and programming needs than prisons, this limitation created the need for an inductive approach to creating a trauma informed training program that was appropriate for jail stakeholders. This led to another challenge wherein law enforcement did not think the training was reflective of their job positions and could see it was developed by someone "off the beat". By working closely with law enforcement to receive their feedback, Washington

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Transformation Transfer Initiative (TTI) awardees were able to focus the training at the more general level to be more reflective of various components of law enforcement.

The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic was not a barrier for this TTI project. The virtual nature of the trauma informed trainings meant that the modules could be developed without physically accessing jail and/or hospital settings. This project highlights the benefits of technology in delivering training and development tools for health and law enforcement despite major external factors.

## Sustainability and Project Legacy

Using TTI funds, Washington has been able to increase and expand trauma informed training to various health, law enforcement, and jail job positions throughout the state. The legacy of this project is the creation of a trauma informed system between health and justice partners that frequently service the same population.

## Health Equity

This project was designed to improve the individual and organizational knowledge about trauma informed

care. The awardees sought to increase awareness and education about trauma informed services so that partners could provide more equitable services to jail-based populations.

## Peer Services Utilization

The focus of this award was not peer-specific, although Washington currently utilizes peer support services are used within the health delivery model. There is a peer support specialist on various teams (e.g., hospital and community) and they have access to trauma informed training.

## Trauma Informed Care

Prior to receiving TTI award funding, Washington was already working to create a trauma informed agency and had worked with a contractor to develop a trauma informed training.

**For further information about this project contact Tim Hunter at [timothy.hunter@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:timothy.hunter@dshs.wa.gov).**