



Anchorage

3601 C Street, Suite 902
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-5923
Main: 907.269.7800
Fax: 907.269.0060

Juneau

PO Box 110601
350 Main Street, Suite 404
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0601
Main: 907.465.3030
Fax: 907.465.3068

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Policy Statement

The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) acknowledges the principles of early childhood and youth brain development and, whenever possible, considers the concepts of early adversity, toxic stress, childhood trauma, and the promotion of resilience through protective relationships, supports, self-regulation, and services. DHSS further recognizes the impact of traumatic stress on the Alaskans that we serve and is committed to being a trauma informed workplace.

Focusing on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) is a high priority at DHSS. Many divisions have already put in place policies and procedures to help recognize and respond to the impact of trauma.

To ensure that the Department is trauma-informed, DHSS will:

- Implement Department wide trauma-informed policies and procedures;
- Require mandatory DHSS employee training on ACEs and trauma responsive practices;
- Utilize common trauma screening tools when appropriate;
- Use culturally responsive assessments and treatment;
- Provide resources to the public and stakeholders on ACEs and TIC;
- Continue interdepartmental and intradepartmental collaboration;
- Create trauma-informed environments;
- Build meaningful partnerships;
- Address intersection disparities and diversity;
- Maximize physical and psychological safety;
- Work to prevent secondary traumatic stress;
- Engage families that we serve and offer peer supports;
- Assess trauma related to the body and mental health issues; and
- Integrate care across the department.

This policy will require the involvement of all DHSS employees through continued collaboration with community partners. DHSS will continue its work to protect the health of all Alaskans through their entire lifespan by working to address and reduce childhood trauma.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Crum', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam Crum
Commissioner