



# Boston Public Health Commission

## Division of Violence Prevention

### Capacity Building & Training Initiative

*Formerly the Boston Defending Childhood Initiative*

## GOAL

The Division of Violence Prevention's Capacity Building & Training Initiative works in collaboration with internal BPHC programs, and community and city partners, to build capacity, improve quality, and spread and sustain trauma-informed systems and violence prevention efforts in the City of Boston and beyond.

## BACKGROUND

The DVP Capacity Building & Training Initiative originated in part as the Defending Childhood Initiative, a strategy funded under the Obama Administration to prevent and reduce the impact of exposure to violence of children 0 to 17 years old in their homes, schools, and communities.

Over 65 organizations and agencies representing multiple sectors came together to create and implement DCI's five strategies. Through one of these strategies (training and capacity building) DCI reached **over 5,000 providers serving over 125,000 individuals since 2010.**

Our audiences have included youth workers, advocates, teachers, case workers, early childcare providers, law enforcement, housing providers, and clinicians.



## CONTACT:

Bronwen White, Director of  
Capacity Building & Training,  
Division of Violence Prevention  
bwhite@bphc.org, (617) 416-2699



## CURRENT ACTIVITIES

In response to feedback from partners and emerging needs, we have increasingly focused on addressing multiple forms of violence and trauma (domestic, sexual, community, vicarious, and structural), promoting health equity and racial- and gender- justice, and a broader life course (infant to elders) perspective.

In 2018-2019, the DVP Capacity Building & Training Initiative will continue to deliver our core public training institutes, with a particular focus on those related to domestic violence and health equity. We will also continue to offer adapted, agency- or program-specific training sessions, technical assistance and coaching, as well as connecting providers to our network of resources.

We will also work with our internal, city and community partners to determine the future direction of the Initiative, considering how to both continue the work and partnerships of the Boston Defending Childhood Initiative, as well as ways we can expand upon these activities and support new efforts.

# Division of Violence Prevention Capacity Building & Training Initiative

Below is a current menu of training and capacity building activities, contingent on staff availability. This does not include the additional learning opportunities offered by both our internal and external partners.



## BRIEF AWARENESS TRAININGS

- Initiative delivers 3-12 hour interactive training workshop
- Provides foundation knowledge on content including: trauma, resilience, domestic violence, health equity
- Participants consider basic approaches to support resilience and access to safety and healing resources.



## PUBLIC TRAINING INSTITUTES

- Throughout the year, Initiative delivers 3-day Training Institutes designed to increase provider knowledge and skills, including:
- Trauma & Resilience for Youth Workers (18-hours)
- Trauma & Resilience for Early Childcare Providers (15-hours)
- Trauma, Domestic Violence & Resilience for Home Visiting and Community-Embedded Providers (21-hours)
- Family Justice Center Training Institute: Addressing Safety & Healing Through Cultural Awareness (18-hours)



## ORGANIZATIONAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

- Initiative partners with organizations to assess training needs and design a tailored training program over a 3 to 6 month time period
- Depending on agency size, multiple cohorts of 20-30 staff, management and leadership may participate in foundation training
- Booster sessions and ongoing technical assistance are then provided to support application of learning.



## TRAINING-OF- THE-TRAINER

- Following an application process, new trainers participate in a two-day "Training of the Trainer" to prepare them to deliver content from a Training Institute.
- Initiative staff provide ongoing support to new trainers to adapt and implement the training in their organizations and/or community.



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: Why do you generally recommend longer (12+ hour) training?**

**A:** Our evaluation findings have shown that the more hours of training, the more prepared participants are to apply trauma-informed approaches to their work. We know organizations are pressed for time, and are happy to think creatively with you about how we design and deliver training (for instance, shorter sessions over more days).

**Q: Do you provide training for youth, parents/caregivers, or clinical training?**

**A:** Currently our focus is on training providers (such as youth workers, advocates, etc.) working with children, youth, adults, and families. While our trainings are clinically-informed, we do not provide clinical training in trauma-specific treatments/interventions. We work with a network of providers who we can connect you who do offer these types of training and related resources.

**Q: How can I get involved?**

**A:** Contact Bronwen White, Director of Capacity Building and Training, to be added to our listserv for public training institutes and/or to fill out our training request form.