

October 17, 2016

## **\$2 Million Federal Grant Awarded to CHDI to Establish Early Childhood Trauma Collaborative in Connecticut**

### *Initiative to Improve Care for Young Children Experiencing Trauma*

Farmington, CT -- The Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) was awarded a five-year, \$2 million grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([SAMHSA](#)) to expand services to young children in Connecticut suffering from exposure to trauma, including violence, abuse, chronic neglect, loss of a family member, serious accident or illness and other forms of trauma. Traumatic stress compromises a young child's growth and brain development. If left untreated, it is associated with poorer lifelong outcomes including chronic health and mental health problems, impaired academic performance, and involvement with juvenile justice and adult criminal justice systems.

"For the past decade we have partnered with state agencies and mental health centers to develop a robust system of [trauma-informed care](#) for school-aged children in Connecticut," said Judith Meyers, President and CEO of CHDI. "However, there has been a notable gap in services for younger children and their families. This grant provides a wonderful opportunity to meet this important need by helping to expand trauma-informed care to children of all ages and their families in Connecticut."

**The grant will fund [CHDI's Early Childhood Trauma Collaborative initiative](#).** Led by CHDI, the Early Childhood Trauma Collaborative will partner with the Office of Early Childhood, the Department of Children and Families, The Consultation Center at Yale (evaluator), treatment developers, and nine mental health provider agencies. CHDI's Early Childhood Trauma Collaborative is part of the [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#) (NCTSN), a federal network of 81 funded members and over 100 affiliates.

The goals of CHDI's Early Childhood Trauma Collaborative are to:

- Improve knowledge about childhood trauma and screening among Connecticut's early childhood workforce, including early care and education providers, home visitors, child health providers and child welfare workers.
- Increase access to trauma-focused evidence-based and best practices for children under age seven and their families, including: [Attachment, Regulation, and Competency](#) (ARC), [Child Parent Psychotherapy](#) (CPP), [Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention](#) (CFTSI), and [TARGET](#)
- Facilitate collaboration between behavioral health and early childhood systems.

*For information on the Early Childhood Trauma Coalition, visit [www.chdi.org](http://www.chdi.org). For information on trauma-informed care in Connecticut visit [www.chdi.org/our-work/mental-health/trauma-informed-initiatives](http://www.chdi.org/our-work/mental-health/trauma-informed-initiatives). For media questions, contact Julie Tacinelli at [tacinelli@uchc.edu](mailto:tacinelli@uchc.edu) or 860-679-1534.*

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