



Dear Faculty:

We know that students today experience many scary events that can affect the way they act at school. Studies show that more than 25 percent of American youth experience a serious traumatic event by the age of 16, and many children suffer multiple and repeated traumas. Common sources of trauma include abuse and neglect; foster care placement, parent incarceration, divorce, bullying, serious accidental injury; experiencing or witnessing violence in neighborhoods, schools, and homes; homelessness and treatment for life-threatening illness.

A traumatic event can seriously interrupt the school routine and the processes of teaching and learning. A student who has experienced psychological trauma may have increased difficulties concentrating and learning at school and may engage in unusually reckless or aggressive behavior. Trauma can have an effect on his/her performance resulting in lower grade point averages and higher rates of absences. The involvement of the school is critical in supporting students through the emotional and physical challenges they may face following an exposure to a traumatic event.

Akron Children's Hospital partnered with the Stark County Family, the Stark County Family Council, and the Stark County CARE Team Initiative is dedicated to helping schools better understand how students experience traumatic events and how to help them through this challenging time. With a grant awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Akron Children's Hospital is able to provide a comprehensive training to school districts in Northeast Ohio.

We would like to offer this free training to your district faculty and staff. The training includes an introduction to trauma and its effect on students, creating trauma informed classrooms, and responding to a school crisis. This training will give your staff the tools needed to assist students who have experienced trauma, keep students in the classroom, and expand their learning capacity.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the **FREE** training, do not hesitate to contact me at 330-620-4355 or [mmclain@chmca.org](mailto:mmclain@chmca.org). I look forward to speaking with you.

Sincerely,

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