



KCDC Leads Effort to Obtain Trauma-Informed Training Grant *(continued)*

A Team Effort

To help raise awareness of the importance of trauma-informed care within the Washington state criminal justice system, KCDC partnered with the following organizations to obtain the DHHS grant:

- Washington State Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
- District and Municipal Court Management Association (DMCMA)
- Misdemeanant Probation Association (MPA)

Twenty staff from KCDC and these organizations will participate in the “Train-the-Trainer” event to provide trauma-informed care training to KCDC staff and criminal justice system employees throughout the state.

The training is sponsored by the DHHS’s [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\) GAINS Center](#). The GAINS Center (An acronym for “Gather, Assess, Integrate, Network, and Stimulate”) focuses on expanding access to services for people with mental and/or substance use disorders who come into contact with the adult criminal justice system.

Leveraging KCDC’s Expertise

“The need for trauma-informed care training is especially important given the populations our Regional Mental Health Court (RMHC), Regional Veterans Court (RVC) and Community Courts work with,” says **Kate Tramontana**, RMHC/RVC coordinator for KCDC. “Many of the people in these therapeutic courts have behavioral health needs and histories of trauma.”

The KCDC Equity and Social Justice (ESJ) Committee saw the value the training could provide beyond the therapeutic courts programs to reach a broad range of people involved in the criminal justice system, so played a key role in the grant application work.

Becoming More Cognizant of People’s Needs

“The SAMHSA training will help KCDC and other court professionals in Washington be more cognizant of the impacts of past traumas on the people we serve in the court and probation systems,” Kate says. “This is especially important as we do not want to re-traumatize them.”

After the completing the training, the KCDC attendees will provide trauma-informed care training to all KCDC employees annually.