Today’s Objectives

1. Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP)
2. ACEs and program logistics
3. Handle with Care Maryland
4. Next steps
Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP)

Vision

● A Safer Maryland

Mission

● To serve as a coordinating office that advises the Governor on criminal justice strategies. The office plans, promotes, and funds efforts with government entities, private organizations, and the community to advance public policy, enhance public safety, reduce crime and juvenile delinquency, and serve victims.

@MarylandGOCCP
#ASaferMD
GOCCP’s Strategic Objectives

Working closely with multidisciplinary team of state and local entities to:

- Develop coordinated juvenile criminal justice strategies at the local, state, and federal levels.
- Improve victim services for Maryland residents.
- Reduce victimization and/or delinquent behavior amongst Maryland’s children and youth.
- Maximize public safety returns on Maryland’s corrections spending.
- Increase availability of data to support data-driven approaches to criminal justice in Maryland.
### Adverse Childhood Experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Behaviors</th>
<th>Physical &amp; Mental Health Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Smoking</td>
<td>Severe Obesity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol Abuse</td>
<td>Diabetes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Use (Illicit &amp; Prescription)</td>
<td>Depression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missed Work &amp; Performance in the Workforce</td>
<td>Suicide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Physical Activity</td>
<td>HIV &amp; STIs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risky Sexual Behavior</td>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## ACEs in Maryland

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>0 ACEs</th>
<th>1-2 ACEs</th>
<th>3 or more</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>0 ACEs</th>
<th>1-2 ACEs</th>
<th>3 or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allegany</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>Frederick</td>
<td>40.8</td>
<td>32.0</td>
<td>27.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Arundel</td>
<td>40.2</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>25.7</td>
<td>Howard</td>
<td>49.2</td>
<td>34.1</td>
<td>16.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore City</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>39.1</td>
<td>41.6</td>
<td>Kent</td>
<td>43.6</td>
<td>28.9</td>
<td>27.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>44.6</td>
<td>34.2</td>
<td>21.2</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>46.1</td>
<td>38.6</td>
<td>15.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvert</td>
<td>29.1</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>Prince George’s</td>
<td>39.9</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>23.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecil</td>
<td>34.7</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>St. Mary’s</td>
<td>47.4</td>
<td>31.8</td>
<td>20.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dorchester</td>
<td>25.9</td>
<td>42.5</td>
<td>31.6</td>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>47.0</td>
<td>26.2</td>
<td>26.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*2015 Maryland Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)*
ACEs tend to get passed down from generation to generation.

Our drug endangered children are having drug endangered children.
Trauma in Children

Turns off the learning switch!
Trauma describes a lasting response to experiences or circumstances that exceeds an individual’s ability to cope and produces lasting adverse effects.

(SAMSHA, 2014)
Trauma

- A response to a overwhelmingly stressful event
- Affects all people differently
- Threat to life and well being
- Acute or chronic
- Harmful interruption
  - Trauma and social well being are married
- Creates triggers
- Safety has to be established to work through it
Examples of Trauma

- Abandonment/neglect
- Death or loss of a caregiver
- Automobile or other serious accidents
- Living in chaotic environments with inconsistent financial or housing resources
- Witnessing or suffering violence
- Bullying
- Physical or sexual abuse
- Neighborhood violence
- Life-threatening illness/painful medical procedures
- Natural disasters
- Incarceration of a loved one
- Systems-induced trauma - removal from home, multiple placements, separation from siblings
- Acts of terrorism
Trauma is...
Under Reported and Under Diagnosed

Often misinterpreted and assigned as symptoms of disorders (depression, Bipolar Disorder, ADHD, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Conduct Disorder, Attachment Disorder, etc.)*

These diagnoses generally do not capture full extent of developmental impact of trauma.

*39% of kids at WV pilot school have these diagnoses
The Problem

A national survey by the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention found that 60% of American children have been exposed to violence, crime, or abuse in their homes, schools or communities – and that 40% were direct victims of two or more violent acts.
Handle with Care

- West Virginia Center for Children’s Justice
- Aimed at ensuring children exposed to violence and trauma receive appropriate interventions so they can succeed in school to the best of their ability.
  - Trauma can undermine a child’s ability to:
    - Learn
    - Form relationships
    - Function appropriately in the classroom

FOCUS BEHAVE APPROPRIATELY LEARN
Handle with Care Maryland

- Governor Hogan - February 2018
- GOCCP’s three goals:
  1. Increasing trauma-informed approaches
  2. Addressing ACEs
  3. Preventing future victimization or criminality
- Progress in Maryland
  - 11 counties implementing
  - 8 counties developing/planning
How does it work?
HWC Three Steps

1. Notice from law enforcement
2. Trauma sensitive schools
3. Therapy/support services on and off site
Law Enforcement/First Responders

Who gets a HWC notice?
- A child exposed to crime, violence, or abuse
- If you have to ask “Should I send a HWC notice?” then you need to send one

How will the notice get to the school?
- Get the child(ren)’s name, age or grade, and school
- Send to secure centralized HWC email address
- The child’s individual school will be notified
HWC Notice from LE

It needs to be at the school at the start of the next school day!
Examples of HWC Notifications*

- Arrest of a household member
- Search warrant served in residence
- Drug/alcohol overdose of a family member
- Death/suicide of a family member
- Incident of domestic violence
- Physical/sexual abuse
- Community violence
- Forced displacement from residence
- House fires
- Household member release from jail/prison
- Responder discretion

*when a child is present
The Simple HWC Notice

● Arrives at school before the start of the next school day
● Just three words - “Handle with Care”
● NO DETAILS of incident
● Does not stay in child’s permanent record
● Need to know basis only
● Does not mean you immediately approach the child!
The Solution: A Trauma Sensitive School

A respectful and safe environment where children can build positive relationships with adults and peers, learn to manage their emotions and behavioral responses, and find academic success.
We need to stop saying:

“What’s wrong with you?”

And start saying:

“What happened to you?”
A Different Perspective...  

“Thinking of a child as behaving badly disposes you to think of punishment. Thinking of a child as struggling to handle something difficult encourages you to help them through their distress.”  

~unknown
Goals of a Trauma-Sensitive School

- Reduce time spent on disruptions and discipline problems
- Increase teaching and learning time
- Help all traumatized students become successful members of their school communities
Interventions
School Response without HWC Intervention

1. Comes to school without homework
   *He got a zero*

2. Fell asleep in class
   *Lost his recess*

3. Got into a scuffle at lunch
   *Received detention*

3. Didn’t bring permission slip for field trip
   *Had to stay back and read in the library*
School Response with HWC Intervention

1. Comes to school without homework
   *Math teacher gave extra time to do homework and offered 1:1 help if he needed it*

2. Fell asleep in class
   *Sent to the school nurse to get some rest*

3. Got into a scuffle at lunch
   *There was no scuffle because he was rested and supported throughout the morning. He had a good lunch with no issues*

4. Didn’t bring permission slip for field trip
   *Homeroom teacher made a phone call to his family and got verbal permission over the phone*
Handle with Care IS:

- A program aimed at increasing trauma-informed approaches to address ACEs
  - Children who are not safe at home develop behaviors that can make them not welcome at school.
  - Children not welcome at school can drop out, flunk out, or potentially get kicked out.
  - Once forced out of school, they can be rapidly swept into the justice system.
- A program aimed to prevent future victimization or delinquency

Success in school is success in life!
Handle with Care IS NOT:

- A program that excuses bad behavior
  - Accountability!

- Does not replace mandated reporting of child abuse and neglect
Program Overview

● Identifies youth exposed to trauma and violence
● Provides teachers and counselors with a “heads up”
● Connects children with accessible mental health services, if needed
● Strengthens and improves relationships in the community
Things to start thinking about:

- Community stakeholder meeting
  - Law enforcement
  - Schools
  - Mental health providers
- How will the HWC notice be sent
- Training for school personnel and law enforcement
Success in school is success in life.
Let’s help children succeed in school everyday to the best of their ability!
Thank you!

Kelly Gorman
Handle with Care Coordinator/Program Assistant
Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention
410-697-9313
kelly.gorman@maryland.gov

Jessica Wheeler
Chief of Juvenile Justice and Prevention Services
Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention
410-697-9342
jessica.wheeler@maryland.gov

goccp.maryland.gov
Handlewithcaremd.org
#ASaferMD
@MarylandGOCCP