

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

## CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P.O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

**What's Inside:**July 2014 Edition of In  
Focus the CQI Newsletter**July 7, 2014**MEMORANDUM

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS AND  
ALL CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: TIM DECKER, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY CQI NEWSLETTER, [IN FOCUS](#)  
FEATURING: TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICE

Find attached the quarterly Continuous Quality Improvement newsletter, *In Focus*. Traumatic life events can severely diminish a caregiver's capacity to care for and protect their children. Traumatic life events can also impair the social and emotional development of a child, make them more vulnerable to threats of danger, and lessen their capacity to protect themselves. In this quarter's newsletter we consider the importance of trauma informed child welfare practice which is sensitive to the impact of traumatic stress on children and families who have lived through traumatic events and responsive to their individualized service needs. This quarter's featured article titled "*Child Traumatic Stress*", discusses the signs, symptoms and behaviors associated with child trauma stress, and includes data on teen suicide. "*Just Ask...Voices of Older Youth*", includes thoughts from older youth on teen suicide prevention.

In this quarter's newsletter we introduce "Early Childhood Corner", a new section submitted by *Early Childhood and Prevention Services*, which provides a brief overview on *First Steps*, *Early Head Start* and *Home Visitation*. This quarter's newsletter also includes:

- *Survey of Employee Engagement (SEE)* data focusing on traumatic events and support for CD employees,
- *Results Oriented Management (ROM)* providing "*4 Tips on How to Read a Report in ROM*",
- Updates for *Council on Accreditation (COA)*, and
- *CQI Successes*.

During CQI meetings each quarter, discuss your circuit's data related to the specific SEE items featured in the newsletter, then share information, through CQI channels, regarding local practices which produce strong scores and/or suggested strategies for improvement.

If you have any information or success stories you would like to share in next quarter's newsletter, please contact Randy McDermit, Program Development Specialist, through Microsoft Outlook or by phone at (573)751-8932, or your regional Quality Improvement Specialist. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to the children and families served by the Division.

**Necessary Action:**

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division Staff.
2. Review the In Focus newsletter during CQI Meetings.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels.

[attachment](#)