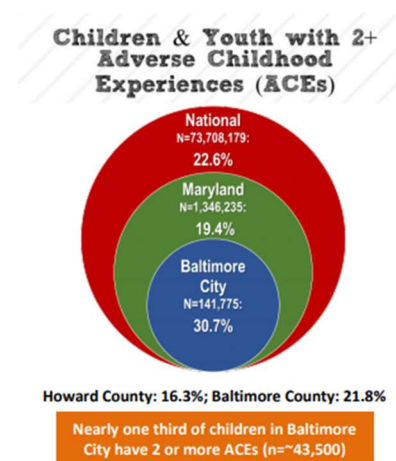




SB918– Human Services - Trauma-Informed Care - Commission and Training
Senate Finance Committee – March 6, 2020

Testimony of Adam Rosenberg, Vice President, Violence Intervention and Prevention, LifeBridge Health
Position: **SUPPORT**

LifeBridge Health supports SB918, insofar as it seeks to promote policies that prioritize the trauma-responsive and trauma-informed delivery of state services that impact children, youth, and families. We supported similar legislation at the Baltimore City level. LifeBridge Health is a regional health system that now proudly houses a comprehensive violence program that includes the Baltimore Child Abuse Center, two domestic violence programs, an elder justice program, and two street violence interruption programs. The Baltimore Child Abuse Center, is a nationally accredited trauma-informed child advocacy center, that, among other things, trains adults and youth serving organizations to recognize and respond to trauma and to implement trauma-informed policies for staff and clients.



ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Affect Us All. Decades of research shows us that ACEs like witnessing community violence or experiencing abuse affects a child’s brain development, and ultimately can lead to poor outcomes in school; incarceration; addiction; disease and even early death. Though the ACE score of Marylanders vary by county, no community is immune from trauma.

The Governor’s Office addresses ACEs and trauma. Addressing ACEs is one of the main programmatic goals of Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention – now named the Office of Crime Prevention, Youth and Victim Services. This agency has supported numerous programs such as accrediting children’s advocacy centers, human trafficking initiatives, and witness to violence initiatives.

A trauma-informed workplace benefits everyone, even staff. Being a trauma-informed organization is a cultural shift. It means ensuring that all staff members are sensitive to the different ways trauma can manifest in clients and co-workers; taking measures to prevent re-traumatizing victims; and providing a safe, stable environment for clients and staff alike, from the moment they enter the facility. This approach also promotes resiliency among staff members, especially in high burn-out jobs. At the Baltimore Child Abuse Center, the children and families often do not want to leave our engaging and supportive facility.

Instituting trauma-informed policies at the State level can help address and mitigate the long-lasting effects of ACEs, and the economic drain that untreated trauma creates on our public resources.

For all of the heretofore stated reasons, we request a **FAVORABLE** report for SB918.

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