



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

BILL: Senate Bill 299 – Human Services – Trauma-Informed Care – Commission and Training

SPONSOR: Senator Carter

HEARING DATE: February 11, 2021

COMMITTEE: Finance

CONTACT: Intergovernmental Affairs Office, 301-780-8411

POSITION: SUPPORT

The Office of the Prince George's County Executive strongly **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 299 – Human Services – Trauma-Informed Care – Commission and Training**, which establishes the Commission on Trauma-Informed Care to coordinate training on trauma-informed care and develop state-wide metrics and trauma-responsive strategies. The Commission would submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly by June 30th each year.

A trauma-informed organization ensures physical and emotional safety for the community we serve by creating an environment that maximizes safety and minimizes triggering experiences. A trauma-informed organization realizes the prevalence of trauma; and recognizes how trauma affects all individuals involved with the program, organization, or system, including its own workforce; and responds by initiating trauma-informed practices.

When a community feels unsafe, it impacts service utilization and follow-up with referrals. Trauma-Informed Care delivers services with the goal of reducing a survivor's shame, increasing their self-esteem, and developing new skills and resources that allow them to better adapt to the current situation. **Senate Bill 299** supports increased sensitivity and efficiency in delivering services. Trauma-informed care provides safety and builds trust with the community as well as service providers; emphasizes community empowerment and choice; avoids judgment; advocates for transforming the root causes of systemic harm. Trauma-informed care also encompasses an understanding of the effects of working with trauma survivors on service providers.

A Commission on Trauma-Informed Care would support positive outcomes for the citizens receiving services and the providers. For the reasons stated above, the Office of the Prince George's County Executive strongly **SUPPORTS Senate Bill 299** and asks for a **FAVORABLE** report.