



Federal Partners Committee on Women and Trauma

Background: Trauma is a widespread, harmful, and costly public health problem that impacts individuals, families, communities, workplaces, and organizations. The Federal Partners Committee on Women and Trauma, established in 2009, recognizes that the impact of violence and trauma on women is a public health problem with profound consequences for the American people.

Membership: The initial workgroup involved more than 25 representatives from six Federal Departments and several divisions within those Departments. Membership has grown to more than 100 representatives from 40 different divisions of 13 Federal Departments. Membership is open to any Federal entity concerned with issues related to women and trauma. Current co-chairs are Carol Boyer from DOL/ODEP and Mary Blake from HHS/SAMHSA. A complete list of current members is available [here](#).

Activities: Initial activities focused on identifying the impact of trauma on the work of participating Federal Departments, identifying and meeting technical assistance needs, and promoting evidence-based public health practices. The initial workgroup rapidly expanded in membership, coordinated three successful national events, hosted four webinars and three trainings, and released three reports highlighting lessons learned. National roundtables held in 2010 and 2011 helped to create a common language, highlighted recent developments in the field, and fostered cross-agency collaboration. The national event held in 2015, *Building a Trauma-Informed Nation: Moving from Conversation to Action*, drew 2,000 participants each day and stimulated conversations in 83 “amplifier sites” in 30 states. Through these activities, the Committee has helped to promote a better understanding of trauma across the Federal Government and across the country.

Interagency collaborations with member Departments are developed on an evolving, as-needed basis. Collaborations have resulted in joint training and curriculum development; new policies on workplace violence, bullying and health education; joint participation in international forums; changes in grant programs; joint research initiatives; the development of state coalitions; and technical guidance memoranda.

Publications: The 2011 report on the first roundtable, the 2013 report on agency activities, and the 2016 report on the *Building a Trauma-Informed Nation* event are downloadable at: <https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/women.htm>

Note: The Federal Partners Committee on Women and Trauma was initiated in April 2009 by SAMHSA’s Center for Mental Health Services as a work group within the Federal Partnership on Mental Health Transformation, which was established in response to the President’s Executive Order 13263 and the President’s New Freedom Initiative Commission on Mental Health. In 2011, the Federal Partners Workgroup on Women and Trauma became an ongoing committee

For further information or to become a member, contact Carol Boyer at boyer.carol@dol.gov