

# Multnomah Project LAUNCH Evaluation Chronicle

Center for Improvement of Child & Family Services

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## Trauma-Informed, Early Childhood Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports

The Multnomah Project LAUNCH workforce development team supported the adaptation of Early Childhood Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports (EC PBIS) Module 1 training for staff working in two local domestic violence (DV) shelters.

In collaboration with the local Defending Childhood Initiative (DCI) in Multnomah County, the trauma-informed module was adapted for and piloted with domestic violence shelter staff.

The module was later videorecorded, and made available online in three parts:

- Part 1:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=VDNqtmnepD8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VDNqtmnepD8)
- Part 2:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=vIbJ308e\\_Hc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIbJ308e_Hc)
- Part 3:  
[youtube.com/watch?v=xNO\\_Izt0ZM4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xNO_Izt0ZM4)

### *Developing a Trauma-Informed EC PBIS Module*

Over a 1-year period, advocates for survivors of domestic violence, mental health consultants, and EC

PBIS training and implementation experts held a series of working meetings to review EC PBIS Module 1 materials and adapted them for specific use in domestic violence shelter settings. This included incorporating additional information on children's exposure to violence and the impact of trauma on children's behavior and development.



### *Piloting the Module*

The adapted module was piloted in two sessions with a total of 44 domestic violence shelter staff, who participated in at least 1 of 2 sessions, with a majority (72%) attending both sessions. Post-training surveys were administered at the end of the second session, asking participants to rate their level of comfort and confidence in EC PBIS skills areas.

### *What Has the Evaluation Team Been Doing?*

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- Identifying ways to communicate final key findings and lessons learned
- Exploring Year 5 systems change areas of interest
- Collecting data from comparison group home visiting teams
- Reporting federal Transformation Accountability (TRAC) data



Figure 1 shows post-training survey results, indicating a high level of agreement that the training impacted staff knowledge and understanding in key areas.



Staff were slightly less likely to agree they were comfortable and confident working with children with challenging behaviors, suggesting the need for additional coaching and post-training follow-

up to support implementation, which was provided by two DCI-funded mental health consultants.

## Post-Training Outcomes

Approximately 6 months post-training, DCI evaluation staff conducted on-site observations of the DV shelters, facilitated focus groups with shelter staff, and administered a follow-up survey in order to describe implementation challenges and successes, as well as changes in the shelter environment and staff behavior.

Staff shared several examples of notable post-training practice changes:

- Utilizing specific strategies to build positive relationships with children, such as interacting with children at eye level
- Utilizing specific strategies to respond to children's challenging behaviors, such as providing clear expectations and examples of appropriate behavior
- Developing and using rules matrices throughout the program, e.g., the "3 Bs" (Be Safe, Be Friendly, Be a Hard Worker).

Staff also described benefits of using the EC PBIS framework in the shelter setting:

- Providing common language shared by all staff to describe child behavior
- Establishing consistent and predictable behavior expectations for children and staff
- Reinforcing EC PBIS expectations used in nearby schools

- Noticing parents using EC PBIS strategies with their children, modeled by shelter staff.

Post-training data were obtained from Konrad, E. (July 2014). *EC PBIS Training for Domestic Violence Shelters Evaluation: Qualitative Data Highlights*. Multnomah County Defending Childhood Initiative.

For more information about the full DCI evaluation, please contact Ellen Konrad at [Ellen.konrad@multco.us](mailto:Ellen.konrad@multco.us) or 503.988.6917.

For more information about the Multnomah County Defending Childhood Initiative, please contact Erin Fairchild at [erin.fairchild@multco.org](mailto:erin.fairchild@multco.org) or 503.988.4995.



## Coming Up...

The Multnomah LAUNCH evaluation team will be:

- Collecting final follow-up survey data from child care providers and home visitors
- Planning for final round of key stakeholder systems change surveys and/or interviews

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