

## Trauma and the CANS:

Obtaining the potential trauma background of client's and their families is important for the following reasons:

- To identify high risk children and families
- To identify salient symptoms and needs for the child and family
- To help support connecting the child and family to appropriate referrals for treatment
- To help in guiding treatment goals
- To help in determining the appropriate evidence based interventions
- To gather information not disclosed during an interview
- Helps with awareness to assess changes in symptoms over time
- Can support the legal system in assessing children's safety and best interests
- Can help with identifying systemic needs and strengths

The development and applied usage of trauma information that is collected:

- Serves in the development of a common language to understand and communicate about the effects of trauma between families and providers
- Information is gathered on multiple dimensions, including contextual factors and systems to support a child's adaptation from trauma
- Information is gathered on strengths for the child, caregiver, other family subsystems and family to utilize in the context of treatment/service planning
- The information helps in providing a structured framework for understanding complex needs and strengths associated with child trauma
- The assessment data can be utilized in clinical decision-making, treatment planning, quality improvement and systems planning
- Information is used to match appropriate type and level of services to child and/or needs/strengths
- Information collected can be used to create reports that show change (if any) in trauma symptoms over time

**Source: The National Child Traumatic Stress Network**