



## August 5<sup>th</sup>, Steering Committee Meeting Summary

### **Meeting Attendees:**

Emily Finch, Choice; Michelle Varagas and Pavie Jaisankar, Power Inside; Brooke Hisle, Krieger Fund; Megan Cohen, Ingoma; Ron Smith, Baltimore County Community College; Jan Desper Peters, Black Mental Health Alliance; Phil Leaf, Johns Hopkins University; Cheryl Hinton, The Living Well; Ros Williams, Steering Committee; Patricia Cobb Richardson, Steering Committee; Ross Pologe, Steering Committee

**Mission/Goals/Survey** – To set the framework for potential topics for future meetings the group reviewed and commented on the TCC mission and goals as well as highlights from the survey. Some recommendations were made to revise goals to make them more explicit in terms of targets, including systemic change, policy and funding advocacy, as well as disseminating information re: area trainings and events.

**September TCC Meeting Planning:** Patricia will reach out to Jan Desper Peters, Black Mental Health Alliance, and Lynn Mumma, Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore, and others to organize meeting focus on local efforts at community based healing utilizing 'healing circles' and 'emotional emancipation circles'. Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, after Labor Day, 9:30-11:30 at Center for Urban Families.

**Ensuring Funding Initiatives Take a Trauma Informed Approach** - There was a discussion of a variety of youth development efforts underway in Baltimore, each with overlapping and intersecting populations and interests but lacking community inputs from a Trauma Informed perspective. One of the specific follow-ups for the Steering Committee was to work to identify sources of funding & organizations issuing RFP's to provide Outreach and Advocacy to these groups to provide inputs from our unique perspective. Further, there was concern expressed regarding publicizing of funding & grant information, or lack thereof, in that many community based organizations were simply not aware of where or how to access information re: programs and funding. The TCC will be looking to advocate for improving this as well.

1. The City's One Baltimore Campaign has collected funds from all over the world for pending distribution.
2. The federal Department of Labor has provided monies for youth employment in Baltimore. MOED developed the RFP that has identified barriers and challenges to employment and requiring applicants to address barriers. However, the barriers didn't include mental health or trauma needs.
3. City Health Department Violence Prevention Initiative is undergoing rewrite.

Thriving Communities Collaborative could reach out and connect with Black Mental Health Alliance, Behavioral Health Systems Baltimore, Baltimore Youth Opportunity Collaborative (Ingoma and Hopkins Center for Adolescent Health) and Baltimore Breakthrough Collaborative (Kennedy Krieger and University of Maryland Baltimore).

**Baltimore Breakthrough Collaborative Series** - Brooke Hisle of Kreiger Fund announced the Baltimore Breakthrough Collaborative Series, an opportunity for agencies/organizations and community partnerships to engage in an intensive, 9 month learning and action process designed to implement trauma informed practices and policies within entities. Information, an application and upcoming phone conferences to describe the process will be distributed.

**The Body Keeps Score** - Bessel van der Kolk, renowned Dutch psychiatrist, known for his understanding and treatments of traumatic stress will be presenting in Pikesville, for two days, October 8 – 9. Phil Leaf is willing to purchase a ticket to provide streaming of the conference at Hopkins for the two days and opening up access to people.

**Upcoming Event Communication** - Megan Cohen suggested developing a Google calendar to track meetings and training opportunities. Ros Williams suggested leveraging events on the Maryland Group of ACES Connection at [acesconnection.org](http://acesconnection.org). We can look into both options.