

Date of Hearing: August 3, 2022

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Chris Holden, Chair

SB 1003 (Eggman) – As Amended May 19, 2022

Policy Committee: Health

Vote: 15 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to establish a program for the purpose of certifying trauma-informed care (TIC) training programs for employees of victim-witness programs, sexual assault victim programs, and other community-based programs that offer services to victims of crime.

Specifically, this bill:

- 1) Requires CDPH to establish a program to certify TIC training programs for employees of victim-witness programs, sexual assault victim programs, and other community-based programs that offer services to victims of crime.
- 2) Requires a state or local agency, nonprofit organization, or educational institution that chooses to offer TIC training to certify its TIC training program with CDPH.
- 3) Requires DPH to certify a TIC training program that provides a minimum of 40 hours of training, conducted in-person or using remote technology; teaches the major tenets of TIC, including understanding the prevalence and impact of trauma, integrating knowledge about trauma and violence into policies, procedures, practices, and services, and avoiding retraumatization by engaging victims and survivors of crime and violence with nonjudgmental, responsive, and effective practices grounded in research; teaches the guiding principles of TIC, as specified; and ensures participants can demonstrate specified training objectives.

FISCAL EFFECT:

CDPH estimates costs as follows:

- \$1.1 million in fiscal year (FY) 2023-24;
- \$905,000 in FY 2024-25;
- \$7.5 million in FY 2025-26;
- \$770,000 in FY 2026-27 and ongoing (General Fund).

These costs include funding for four full-time employees to support the TIC Training Certification Program and the planning, development, implementation, and ongoing monitoring of an online application system for the purpose of approving TIC training providers and

certifying training programs; an Information Technology (IT) contract to support planning, development, and ongoing maintenance of an online application portal to allow external applicants to complete a certification process and upload necessary verification documents on a public-facing CDPH website; issue certificates of certification to eligible applicants; ensure CDPH can run queries on applicants and certified trainers and training programs; and send reminders and communications to certified entities. This system would not be in place until FY 2026-27.

CDPH states a more appropriate and cost-efficient approach would be to designate the Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) as the implementing agency.

COMMENTS:

1) **Purpose.** According to the author:

Victim advocates play a crucial role in supporting survivors of violence as they navigate various systems of health care, courts, and more. They help with emotional support, crisis management, funeral planning, and so many other practical realities survivors face in their life after their trauma. To help build on this important work, SB 1003 would establish a certification process for voluntary trauma-informed care training programs to provide specific education on types of trauma, the effects on the brain and body, the impacts of childhood trauma, the cycles of violence, and other key topics to improve the services offered to survivors.

- 2) **TIC.** According to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, experiencing trauma, especially during childhood, significantly increases the risk of serious health problems, including chronic lung, heart, and liver disease, as well as depression, sexually transmitted diseases, and substance abuse. Childhood trauma is also linked to increases in social service costs. Implementing trauma-informed approaches to care may help health care providers engage patients more effectively, thereby offering the potential to improve outcomes and reduce avoidable costs for both health care and social services.
- 3) **CalOES.** Under existing law, CalOES is required to establish a statewide victim-assistance training program for the purpose of developing training and selection standards, certifying training courses, and providing funding to enable local victim service providers to acquire the required training. CalOES is also required to establish an advisory committee to consult on the research and development of the training, selection, and equivalency standards. This advisory committee is also required to develop a course of training for district attorneys in the investigation and prosecution of sexual assault cases, child sexual exploitation cases, child sexual abuse cases, and sexual abuse cases involving victims with developmental disabilities. Courses include training in the unique emotional trauma experienced by victims of these crimes. CalOES also approves grants for child sexual exploitation and child sexual abuse victim counseling centers and prevention programs, including programs for minor victims of human trafficking. Grant awardees are required to provide services that include: crisis intervention 24 hours per day, seven days per week; follow-up counseling services; in-person counseling, including group counseling; accompaniment services; advocacy services; information and referrals to victims and the general public; community education

presentations; and, to the extent federal funding is made available, rape prevention presentations and self-defense programs.

- 4) **Trauma Screenings and TIC Provider Trainings.** According to its website, the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS), in partnership with the Office of the Surgeon General (OSG), created a first-in-the-nation statewide effort to screen patients for adverse childhood events (ACEs) that lead to trauma and the increased likelihood of ACEs-associated health conditions due to toxic stress. All providers are encouraged to receive training to screen patients for ACEs. To be eligible to receive Medi-Cal payment for conducting ACEs screenings, providers are required to self-attest they have completed the training. The ACEs Aware initiative offers Medi-Cal providers training, clinical protocols, and payment for screening children and adults for ACEs.

Analysis Prepared by: Allegra Kim / APPR. / (916) 319-2081