



Technology Supports Practice Improvements

Collins-Camargo, C., Strolin, J., & Akin, B. (2019). Use of Technology to Facilitate Practice Improvement in Trauma-Informed Child Welfare Systems. *Child Welfare, 97*(3), 85-108.

WHAT IS THIS RESOURCE?

The article describes how technology supported the uptake of practice improvements related to trauma-informed care in child welfare in three states. More effective trauma-informed care promotes child safety, permanency, and well-being.

WHAT ARE THE CRITICAL FINDINGS?

3 Projects:

Project 1: SAFESPACE

The innovation in a south central state provided an automatic, technology-enhanced exchange between child welfare and behavioral health workers resulting in:

- Automated and streamlined information-sharing
- Elimination of paper-based referrals and reporting
- Regular management reports to track compliance across systems



Project 2: Placement Stability Project

A smartphone app in a northeastern state supplemented in-person training and provided reinforcement between training sessions and after course completion. The app offered:

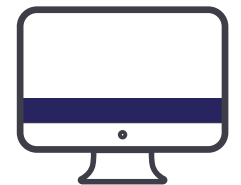
- Training videos
- Gamification (participants could earn "stars")
- Flashcards
- Quick tips to reinforce learning
- Self-care module with breathing activity and guided visualization



Project 3: Assessment Permanency Project

A web-based reporting system in a midwestern state was developed to help promote the use of behavioral health data. The project offered:

- Automated practice tips for workers based upon screening and assessment scores
- Web-based supervision log to store and organize information
- Data collection from behavioral health and functional assessments for decision-making
- Monitoring at both case and systems level for public and private agencies to compare outcomes



WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR WORK?

Technology:

- ✓ Helps organizations improve practice by increasing their ability to effectively implement innovative projects
- ✓ Offers potential to both professionals and families
- ✓ Improves collaboration between child welfare and behavioral health
- ✓ Facilitates children's access to treatment
- ✓ Assists data collection across the system which provides information for better decision-making

When undertaking practice improvements with technology, be prepared to make a significant, ongoing investment in time and resources.