Addressing childhood trauma in schools: Expert views

An understanding of the biology of trauma is important. So is a different set of classroom strategies.

by Paul Jablow

Superintendent William Hite: “Sometimes that angry look, that stare, that inappropriate response, is a cry for help more so than anything else.”
At a principals’ summit that month, Hite said, “We can’t arrest our way to higher student achievement. … We can’t suspend our way to higher student achievement. We can’t arrest or suspend our way to safer schools.

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Bolstered by more than a decade of research, Hite and other educators in Philadelphia and across the country have said that schools must recognize how many of their students have been traumatized by events in their lives and teach them accordingly.

The Notebook conducted interviews with two local experts: Sandra Bloom, a board-certified psychiatrist and associate professor of health management and policy at the School of Public Health at Drexel University, and Roy Wade, a pediatrician and researcher at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, about the concept of “trauma-informed care.” They explained how the trauma-informed care movement got started, some of the science behind it, and what it means when that science is applied to a school setting.

**Historically, what are the origins of trauma-informed care?**

Bloom said that a good place to start might be 1980. That’s when the American Psychiatric Association put a definition of post-traumatic stress disorder back in its diagnostic manual after removing it in 1968, just as wounded soldiers were coming back from Vietnam in large numbers.

“I’m not sure why it was removed. It may have been political — but it meant there was no way to give them a diagnosis entitling them to treatment,” Bloom said.

“Meanwhile, there was all sorts of research coming in about Holocaust survivors, victims of violence and sexual assault, battered-wife syndrome, disasters, different people from very different groups. But it really took a social movement of Vietnam vets, their families, ministers, psychotherapists and psychiatrists to say, ‘This has to change.’”

**Part of that change came with the creation of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study in 1998; researchers asked subjects whether they had experienced one or more traumatic experiences as children. But were there other key events?**

“In 1985, the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies had its first meeting,” Bloom said. “This provided an organizational home. And it led to looking at the biology and the sociology of exposure to trauma.”

From the ACE study, Bloom said, “researchers drew a real focus on what’s
School counselors take on at-home trauma in the classroom

Pam is one of our graduates from Institute for Family Professionals (a division of Lakeside Educational Network) and also has

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They probably don’t want to be completely honest about why the tax is so high -- part of the aim has to be to discourage the sale

I don't want your school to fail. I want both yours and mine to succeed.

thanks your share in here thank you guys best for you

Surprises, twists in SRC meeting dominated by charter votes

Besides ALL of the financial shenanigans by Aspira Inc. - in other words, stealing taxpayers money - the School