



# HANDLE WITH CARE: OKLAHOMA

PROTECT • HEAL • THRIVE

## HWC OK Legislation

### Creating Connections to Support Oklahoma's Youth

"Handle With Care Oklahoma" is designed to advance partnerships between law enforcement and schools to help provide a safe and supportive academic environment for children recently exposed to traumatic events known as "adverse childhood experiences" (ACEs). ACEs are broad and sweeping events that may include experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect, or witnessing violence in the home. Without buffering supports, unaddressed ACEs can lead to a negative life trajectory.

#### The Goal:

To provide schools with notice of children experiencing ACEs so the school may handle them with care and mitigate the negative impact of trauma on them. This simple notice can help ensure a child's well-being and academic success.

#### The Process:

When a first responder responds to, or encounters, an incident involving a traumatic event where a child is present, the officer will complete a simple Handle With Care Notice (HWC Notice) and provide it to the child's school, advising educators in general terms that the child has experienced an ACE event.

#### The Protections:

The HWC Notice reports a child's name, age, grade, school of enrollment, and the date and time of the incident, but shares no details of the incident. While teachers are not to discuss the traumatic event with the child, they are encouraged to take steps to provide additional support to the child, such as re-teaching lessons, providing extra help, or sending the student to the school nurse or counselor.

Traumatic  
Event  
(ACE)

First  
Responder  
Responds

First  
Responder  
Notice to  
Child's School

School  
Handles  
the Child  
with Care

[www.handlewithcareok.org](http://www.handlewithcareok.org)



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## Discussion Items

### Projected Appropriations Request for OSDH

- 2% OSDH oversight & grant monitoring
- 5% data collection
- Competitive bid for Grant Serving Entity
- Based on OSDH Health Disparities Planning Grant; \$15,000 per community
- Statewide Planning & Coordination, fidelity to the model
- Regional Coordinators/Trainers (7 regions: OKC, Tulsa, Panhandle, NW, SW, NE, and SE);
- Website, Communication & Printing
- Community Trainings, Travel & Lodging
- The initial deliverable for each community is a Directive from first responder agency; and MOU between law enforcement and school district
- For sustainability, local Multi-Disciplinary team (MDT) for data collection, quarterly meetings, and monitoring # of HWC notices; # referrals to services; improved mental health; increased attendance, reduced suspensions/expulsions

### Opportunities for Interagency Collaboration

- OCCY/SAT/CSAW continue to promote HWC
- each CSAW agency could designate key staff that already work with school-based initiatives to be on HWC Advisory Committee
- OSA, OACP, OBN, OSDE, ODMHSAS, OKDHS, OSDH, OHCA, OJA, OAG, DAC
- MOUs to work with existing organizations to reduce cost and increase coordination
- include HWC into future federal and state grants; each agency train staff
- OSHD: Community Engagement staff could incorporate HWC into local Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPs)
- ODMHSAS: Behavioral Health Aide on MDT; BISS Schools; E-team data; Opioid efforts
- DHS: School-based Social Workers
- OSDE: Project AWARE sites
- OAG: SAFE Oklahoma Grant
- OK Turning Point Council committed to advocate for HWC OK expansion
- Public Health Institute of OK committed as managing partner; connect with Community Health Improvement Organizations (CHIOs)
- Evolution Foundation: promote with SOCs

### Interested in joining HWC Oklahoma Monthly Planning Meetings?

The first Wednesday of every month from 10-11 am CST.

Just click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84481751587>

For more information, visit  
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## State Planning Teams: Progress Update

### Accomplishments

- Recognized nationally as a top five state for statewide implementation
- Celebrated 4 years of grassroot efforts
- Partnered with national leaders and co-founders for best practices
- Facilitate monthly statewide community calls to address barriers and share lessons learned
- Partnered with RAVE mobile safety software to reach 87% of all OK schools
- Partnered with ODMHSAS to promote Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training with law enforcement
- Promoted OSDE trauma conferences
- Promoted ODMHSAS' Behavioral Integration of Support Services (BISS) in schools
- Received planning grant from OSDH for addressing health disparities with HWC
- Partnered with Public Health Institute of Oklahoma (PHIO) to meet growing needs
- Asked to speak at national HWC conf
- 6 minute HWC video with OCPD

### 2023 Priorities

- Draft bipartisan legislation to advance statewide effort and sustainability
- Partner with state agencies & communities to increase interagency collaboration
- Increase Directives and MOUs
- Include HWC in all Community Health Improvement Organizations (CHIO) application; partner with SOC Coalitions
- Share implementation tools (ex. school attendance directors can show positive outcomes like increased attendance, improved mental health and behavior, decrease suspension/expulsions)
- Spotlight communities with successful implementation
- Encourage schools to partner with local family resource centers to offer peer support groups with trained facilitators for students and/or families with tier 2 needs
- address social determinants of health
- support community voice and remove barriers for participation

## Interested in joining HWC Oklahoma?

Join our monthly statewide virtual meetings. Open to all.  
The first Wednesday of every month from 10-11 am CST.

Just click here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84481751587>

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## HWC OK Planning Committees



Chief Gourley/Captain Michelle Henderson  
OK City Police Department



Gena Koster & Tracy Alvarez, OK City Public Schools



Adrienne Elder, Leigh Woody  
Jill Hazeldine, Laura Ross, Amber Costilla (Guymon)  
Public Health Institute of Oklahoma



Chief Todd Gibson & LT. Kyle Hill  
Moore Police Department/OK Assoc. of Chiefs of Police

Chief/Dr. Wicks, Tulsa Schools Police Department



Ray McNair, OK Sheriffs Association

Elizabeth Suddath, Michelle Strain  
Jon Parker, RB Hauf (RAVE)  
OK State Department of Education



Sheamekah Williams, Brittany Couch,  
Stacy Williams (CREOKS)  
OK Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse



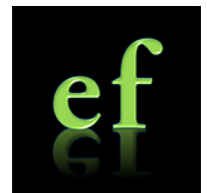
Brett Hayes, OK Department of Human Services



Lorri Essray, Autumn Cooper  
OK State Department of Health



Annette Jacobi, Amber Adams (OCCY PPB)  
OK Commission on Children & Youth



Kim Whaley, Sandy Foster, OK Turning Point Council



Jeff Tallent, Robert Lee, Doug Ishmael  
Evolution Foundation

Joe Dorman, Peyton Stacy  
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

