


MEMORANDUM

DATE	May 4, 2017
TO	Policy and Advocacy Committee
FROM	 Konnor Leitzell Central Services Student Assistant
SUBJECT	Agenda Item #6(c)(49) – ACR 8 (Jones-Sawyer) Adverse Childhood Experiences: Post-Traumatic “Street” Disorder

Background:

This measure would recognize adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), also known as post-traumatic "street" disorder in communities of color, as a mental health condition with growing implications for our State.

Location: Assembly Committee on Health

Status: Re-referred to Assembly Committee on Health

Action Requested:

No action is required at this time. Staff will continue to watch ARC 8 (Jones-Sawyer) to review any potential impact the legislature’s recognition of the new definition may have on the practice of psychology.

Attachment A: ARC 8 (Jones-Sawyer) Text

WHEREAS, There are real neurologic reasons why children who are exposed to high doses of adversity are more likely to engage in high-risk behavior. Children are especially sensitive to repeated stress activation because their brains and bodies are just developing. High doses of adversity not only affect brain structure and function, they affect the developing immune system, developing hormonal systems, and even the way our DNA is read and transcribed; and

WHEREAS, Studies show that a child's exposure to multiple or prolonged traumatic events during his or her early childhood, and occurring within the primary caregiving system, that involve the simultaneous or sequential occurrence of child maltreatment, including psychological maltreatment, neglect, physical and sexual abuse, and domestic violence, result in emotional dysregulation and the loss of safety, direction, and the ability to detect or respond to danger cues. Exposure to these traumatic events often sets off a chain of events leading to subsequent or repeated trauma exposure in adolescence and adulthood; and

WHEREAS, ACEs, including post-traumatic "street" disorder, have gone undiagnosed until recently. It disproportionately impacts minority children living in highly segregated and impoverished communities and has become an unaddressed public health threat facing our state today; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), also known as post-traumatic "street" disorder in communities of color, as a mental health condition with growing implications for our state.

~~WHEREAS, Post-traumatic "street" disorder is a form of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Post-traumatic "street" disorder is a mental health condition that is triggered by terrifying or traumatic events associated with living in highly segregated and deeply impoverished neighborhoods, where paralyzing violence or extreme poverty is either experienced or witnessed by residents; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Symptoms of post-traumatic "street" disorder may include flashbacks, nightmares, and severe anxiety, as well as uncontrollable thoughts about the event itself, which can take years to manifest; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Post-traumatic "street" disorder symptoms tend to go undetected and undiagnosed in children and adults, resulting in generational and cyclical forms of the disorder permeating inner cities. Symptoms may start within three months of the traumatic event, but sometimes symptoms may not appear until years after the event. These symptoms may cause significant problems in social or work situations and in relationships; and~~

~~WHEREAS, Post-traumatic "street" disorder symptoms are similar to those of PTSD and are generally grouped into four types: intrusive memories, avoidance, negative changes in thinking and mood, or changes in emotional reactions. However, with a lack of diagnosis in the early stages of street trauma, symptoms become masked by other disorders, such as willful defiance, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and violence, and these other disorders become the focus of diagnosis; and~~

~~WHEREAS, There is an epidemic of post-traumatic "street" disorder in American cities, and it has nothing to do with the wars being fought abroad. Homegrown violence and a sense of hopelessness in America's urban war zones are leaving thousands of children and adults with severe psychological trauma that stunts their emotional and cognitive development; now, therefore, be it~~

~~Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes post-traumatic "street" disorder as a mental health condition with growing implications for our state.~~