



Establishment of Trauma Training at CBP

November 22, 2021

Fiscal Year 2021 Report to Congress



**Homeland
Security**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Message from the Acting Deputy Commissioner of CBP

November 22, 2021

I am pleased to submit the following report, “Establishment of Trauma Training at CBP,” which was prepared by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

The report was compiled pursuant to direction set forth in House Report 116-458, which accompanies the Fiscal Year 2021 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-260). It provides a detailed overview of training on trauma-informed care for all personnel who interact with migrants.

Pursuant to congressional requirements, this report is provided to the following Members of Congress:

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

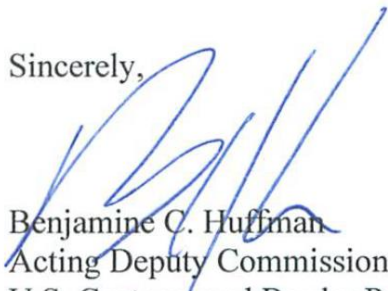
The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Chris Murphy
Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security

I am pleased to respond to any questions that you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at (202) 344-2001.

Sincerely,


Benjamine C. Huffman
Acting Deputy Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection





Establishment of Trauma Training at CBP

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I. Legislative Language

This document was compiled pursuant to direction set forth in House Report 116-458, which accompanies the Fiscal Year 2021 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act (P.L. 116-260).

House Report 116-458 states:

Migrants—Personnel Training.—Because of the high incidence of physical and mental trauma experienced by many migrants, particularly women and children, during their journey to the United States, the Committee directs CBP to provide training on trauma informed care for all personnel who interact with migrants. This training should include field personnel as well as mission support personnel. Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, CBP shall provide an execution plan for such training, to include a timetable for full implementation.

II. Background

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) places the highest priority on the health and safety of persons in CBP custody. CBP recognizes the potential for migrants to have experienced some form of physical or mental trauma enroute to the United States. CBP continues to integrate trauma-informed considerations into its care and medical support efforts—emphasizing awareness, training, trauma-informed medical support, and trauma-informed holding practices. To that end, CBP has enhanced significantly, in scope and scale, its trauma-informed care and medical support efforts for persons in custody.

CBP provides training regarding appropriate standards and care for persons encountered in the field and in custody and provides basic medical training to all frontline law enforcement personnel during their initial academy instruction, and throughout their career via recurring training requirements. CBP also has an extensive Emergency Medical Services program, providing care and support in the field, with more than 1,800 emergency medical technicians/paramedics, who participate in recurring annual training and periodic recertifications.

Since 2018, CBP has worked to expand trauma-informed medical support for persons in custody to its current level of more than 800 contract medical personnel at more than 70 facilities along the Southwest Border (SWB), providing 24/7 trauma-informed medical support. The contract medical personnel provide trauma-informed care, which includes initial health intake interviews (including emergency behavioral health considerations); medical assessments (including more detailed behavioral health considerations); medical encounters (including trauma-informed behavioral health support focused on psychological triage, psychological first aid, and targeted referrals); medical referrals; follow-up care; medication management; public health/infectious disease support; and medical summaries.

III. Ongoing Development

Regarding trauma-informed care training, CBP worked with behavioral health experts to develop trauma-informed behavioral healthcare training for CBP contract medical personnel. This training directly informs CBP's day-to-day care and medical support efforts along the SWB for persons in custody.

Building on this training effort, CBP's Office of the Chief Medical Officer has worked with internal and external subject matter experts and CBP's Office of Training and Development to develop a Performance and Learning Management System (PALMS)-based training course for CBP personnel who encounter migrants. The course will cover trauma-informed care and recognition of medical distress. This training will be provided to CBP personnel who interact with migrants, and will include trauma-informed care principles, awareness of potential trauma in persons encountered, CBP trauma-informed care practices, and trauma-informed recognition and response to distress.

CBP has coordinated course content with subject matter experts and operational representatives and is converting course content to video and electronic delivery via PALMS. CBP expects final/formal PALMS course delivery and tracking availability by January 30, 2022.

IV. Appendix - List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
CBP	U.S. Customs and Border Protection
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
PALMS	Performance and Learning Management System
SWB	Southwest Border