

Our History

The idea for Merrimack Valley Trauma Services (MVTS) grew out of the need for specialized trauma services for young children in Massachusetts. As a Certified Early Intervention Specialist, Dianne Corbin was working as an early intervention director and noticed that more and more children (birth to three years old) being referred for early intervention services had experienced multiple forms of trauma. They had witnessed domestic violence, experienced physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse and/or neglect at the hands of caregivers, along with multiple disruptions in their attachment relationships due to being removed from their homes. These children and their families, who suffered from the emotional, developmental, relational, and physical scars of trauma, required specialized trauma-sensitive treatment in order to heal, but no such services existed.



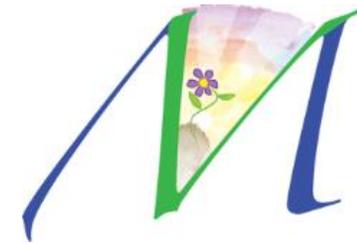
In 2007, Ms. Corbin obtained her Post-Master's Certification in the Treatment of Psychological Trauma and began providing trauma-informed treatment for children and families in the early intervention system. Soon services expanded to include children over three years, adolescents, and adults. In 2010, Ms. Corbin opened MVTS, with the mission of providing exceptional mental health services, consultation, evaluation, and training services for and on behalf of children, adolescents, adults, and families who have been impacted by psychological trauma. In 2019, Ms. Corbin began offering MVTS services in South Carolina.

Our Expertise

Dianne Corbin oversees the Parenting Support Services Program at MVTS of South Carolina. She and her staff of licensed clinicians have a passion for working with parents and caregivers. Through therapy, consultation, coaching, and training services, our staff help to empower caregivers and provide them with the tools they need to nurture and teach their children. We also provide consultation and training for other community-based therapists, teachers, counselors, and human service professionals who work with parents.

MVTS staff have expertise in the following areas of parenting support and training:

- Assessment and Treatment of Psychological Trauma;
- Early Intervention;
- Adoption and blended families;
- DSS-involved families and children being reunified with their caregivers after being removed from the home;
- Protection Clarification;
- Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT);
- Alternatives for Families, a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Approach (AF-CBT);
- Child and Family Forensics;
- Substance abuse and treatment;
- Prevention of child sexual abuse;
- Clinical treatment for child sexual abuse survivors;
- "Strengthening Multi-Ethnic Families and Communities: A Violence Prevention Parent Training Program";
- "Nurturing Families Affected by Substance Abuse, Mental Illness and Trauma" Parenting Program; and
- Mindfulness, the "Relaxation Response," and Stress Management.



*Merrimack Valley
Trauma Services*

**Parenting Support
Services**

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mvtraumaservices.com

Parents are Key



We believe parents and caregivers are their children's greatest teachers and our most important partner on the child's treatment team. At Merrimack Valley Trauma Services, we directly involve caregivers (biological parents, kinship parents, foster parents, and relatives) in every aspect of their child's treatment, as we know that healing from trauma occurs through the safe and loving relationships between caregivers and their children.

Many caregivers have their own trauma histories and struggle with mental health issues, substance abuse, and problems in relationships. Sometimes these struggles impact the way they parent their children. Our unique parent-focused services are customized to each caregiver's strengths and needs. Through education, skills building, coaching, and support, we believe parents can experience personal healing, as well as promote healing within their family for generations to come.

Parenting Support Services

Therapeutic Parent Coaching

One-on-one sessions customized to meet the needs of each parent or caregiver using evidence-based curricula and materials. Goals may include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ Strengthening the child/parent attachment relationship;
- ❖ Understanding trauma and its impact on children;
- ❖ Understanding how a caregiver's trauma history can impact their parenting;
- ❖ Learning about child development and the reasons why children misbehave;
- ❖ Obtaining tools needed to effectively and safely respond to misbehavior and prevent it from reoccurring;
- ❖ Successfully reunifying children with their caregivers after a separation has occurred;
- ❖ Increasing a child's self-esteem;
- ❖ Increasing a parent's confidence level in managing their child;
- ❖ Coping with stress and improving family communication; and
- ❖ Building trust, consistency, and safety in the family.



Safe Kids-Healthy Families Program

For parents whose child or adolescent has been sexually abused or is at risk for sexual abuse. Goals of this program are:

1. To provide age-appropriate sexual abuse prevention information and training;
2. To help caregivers develop the skills needed to safely and effectively respond to their children's behaviors (including sexualized behaviors) using trauma-sensitive discipline strategies; and
3. To create a safety and supervision plan to prevent future abuse.

Parent Support Groups

Contact us to learn more about how we can provide a parent support group at your agency or program.

For more information or to make a referral please visit our website at mvtraumaservices.com or contact Dianne Corbin at 843-400-3040.