

Capital Area Trauma Summit

Building a Collaborative Community Response to Trauma

The Capital Area Trauma Collaborative (CATC) will host a **full-day Trauma Summit in Baton Rouge on November 14, 2025**. The summit, with the support of Whole Health Louisiana (WHL), will bring together regional providers to introduce trauma-informed care principles, showcase existing resources and programs, and launch a sustained commitment to ongoing collaboration. The trauma summit will launch a continued effort, led by Capital Area Trauma Collaborative, to support ongoing provider and community member collaboration through specialized workgroups addressing community-specific challenges. **This summit is the first of a larger statewide effort to establish similar trauma summits and regional collectives across Louisiana, in order to remove barriers to resources, build relationships, and address local needs.**

Why a Summit?

Research consistently demonstrates that preventing and addressing trauma leads to dramatically improved health, education, and life outcomes for individuals and families. Creating transformative and lasting impacts focused on primary prevention requires deep coordination across systems. Healthcare providers, educators, law enforcement, juvenile justice professionals, foster care workers, and community organizations must align their efforts and communicate effectively. Equally important is that families and community members are engaged as partners in identifying community needs, understanding available services, and building community-level resilience.

Through this summit, **Baton Rouge has a unique opportunity to become a statewide leader in trauma-informed care** by bringing together groups that may not be immersed in trauma-informed care, but provide services to trauma-impacted populations to build and learn together and **modeling an effective collaborative approach for other communities across Louisiana.**



The **Capital Area Trauma Collaborative (CATC)** is a multidisciplinary group of local and state constituents focused on disrupting the harmful effects of trauma on a child's life. Established in fall of 2024, Judge Matlock convened a group of therapists from the Baton Rouge area to address the critical need for increased trauma therapy availability for those involved in the foster care system. This effort has evolved into a robust collaborative network spanning multiple disciplines, all united in working to reduce childhood trauma throughout the capital area.



Whole Health Louisiana (WHL) is a statewide initiative supported by the Louisiana Department of Health and led by the Kathleen Blanco Center for Public Policy. The initiative seeks to systematically address the widespread issue of childhood trauma through the integration of trauma-informed and healing-centered approaches in our state's systems of care and support for children, families and the workforces that serve them. WHL envisions regional and community-level work, like that of the CATC, as vital to the statewide adoption and integration of trauma-informed approaches.