

2024

ANNUAL REPORT



Resilient Coastal Georgia aims to build
resilience and a trauma-informed community
across coastal counties.




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RESILIENT
COASTAL GEORGIA

MISSION STATEMENT

**To transform our communities
from hurting to healing
by building a trauma-informed
and resilient region.**

Resilient GEORGIA

Resilient Georgia has been working with 16 regions across Georgia to provide an emphasis on trauma-informed awareness and care, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and child sexual abuse prevention training as a basis to transform systems and procedures crossing both public and private sectors.

Resilient Georgia serves as a supportive and guiding resource during each region's planning and implementation process.

These regional action plans each address the behavioral health needs of individuals birth through 26 years old and families in the community and surrounding counties using the Collective Impact framework (a diverse, robust and well-planned public-private partnership).



Trauma-Informed Care, ACEs and child sexual abuse prevention can be the basis for systemic changes in a community. Each region has identified how one or more of these content areas are delivered to diverse community members through formal training, education, marketing and communications



In November of 2019, Resilient Georgia began partnering with Round 1 regional coalitions based out of Athens, Augusta, Macon, Savannah and surrounding areas. Round 2 partnerships began in July 2020 with regional coalitions based out of Albany, Columbus, Rome, Thomasville and surrounding areas. Round 3 partnerships began in March 2021 with regional coalitions based out of Clayton, Cobb, Gwinnett, Valdosta and surrounding areas. Round 4 partnerships began in December 2021 with regional coalitions based out of Atlanta, Brunswick, Gainesville, Waycross and the surrounding areas.

In their third and fourth years of partnership with Resilient Georgia, coalitions bolstered their work to create bold, systemic, sustainable change in consistent ways across statewide issues, to affect policy, systems and environmental (PSE) change and incorporated a Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) lens in their action plans.

In their fifth and sixth years of partnership, coalitions were to deepen their efforts to effectively engage partners across all regional counties, ensuring comprehensive representation and participation, particularly in under-resourced and historically underserved areas.

Summary

Resilient Coastal Georgia coalition is a strong collaborative committed to fostering trauma-informed policy, systems and environmental change to cultivate resilience in the coastal regions of Georgia.

Our work centers around:

Community Partnerships

We collaborate with nonprofits, local governments, businesses, and community members to develop innovative solutions and strategies for realizing a trauma-informed and resilient region.

Target Populations

The coalition's efforts are primarily aimed at vulnerable and marginalized populations living in the coastal Georgia ensuring they have access to resources and opportunities for building resilience.

JEDI Commitment

Resilient Coastal Georgia is deeply committed to Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI). We strive to ensure our initiatives address the unique needs and challenges faced by all community members, regardless of their background.

Sustainable Change

Our long-standing goal is to create lasting, sustainable changes to improve the region's trauma-informed practice across systems and promote social justice, ensuring a better future for all residents of coastal Georgia.

Resilient Coastal Georgia developed a Collective Impact Framework to guide efforts in two (2) rural counties, one (1) urban city, and suburban areas in the region, with targeted groups including:

- Public school systems
- Out-of-School Networks including YMCA, faith communities, libraries, recreation centers and youth serving organizations
- Judicial and first responder organizations
- Behavioral health providers.

Leadership Team and Contributors

**Kim
Clifton**

Coastal Georgia Indicators
Coalition, Inc., Chatham Family
Connection Collaborative

**Lizann
Roberts**

Coastal Georgia Indicators
Coalition, Inc., Chatham Family
Connection Collaborative

**Molly
Lieberman**

Loop It Up Savannah

**Maureen
McFadden**

McFadden Therapy and
Consulting Services

**Vira
Salzburg**

Chatham County Safety
Net Planning Council

Steering Committee Leadership

**Holly
Whitefield**

Deep Center, Co-Chair
Steering Committee

**Kate
Blair**

Brightside Child and Family
Advocacy, Co-Chair
Judicial and First Responder
Work Group

**Lydia
McCrary**

Co-Chair Judicial and
First Responder
Work Group

**Tameka
Tribble**

SCCPSS, Co-Chair
In School Work Group

**Dr. Kim
Jackson-
Allen**

SCCPSS,
Co-Chair of In
School Work Group

**Lee
Robbins**

Mediation Center
Co-Chair of Out of
School Work Group

**Raquel
Tucker**

Family Promise,
Co-Chair of Out of
School Work Group

Coalition Partners

Public:

Chatham County

- Juvenile and Superior Courts
- District Attorney's Office
- Youth Intercept
- Fire Department
- Park and Recreation

City of Savannah

- Human Services
- Neighborhood Safety & Engagement
- Recreation Department
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
- Police Department

Private:

- Next Step Evaluation
- Front Porch Improv
- Heart Property Solutions

Regional Partners:

- Bryan Family Connections
- Bryan County Public Schools
- Effingham Family Connections
- Effingham Co. Public Schools

Academic:

- Georgia Southern University
- Savannah Technical College

Healthcare Providers:

- Gateway Community Service Board
- Georgia Department of Health Coastal Health District
- Memorial Health/HCA

Juvenile Justice:

Chatham County

- Juvenile Court
- District Attorney's Office

Community Organizations:

- First Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church
- Overcoming By Faith
- Live Oak Public Libraries (Chatham, Effingham, Bryan & Liberty Counties)
- St. Thomas Episcopal Church

First Responders:

Chatham County

- Emergency Services
- Savannah Fire
- Savannah Police
- Chatham County Police
- Port Wentworth Police
- Garden City Police

Early Childhood Education:

- Child Care Resource & Referral
- Greenbrier Children's Center
- YMCA of the Coastal Empire

Georgia Department for Early Care & Learning:

- Southeast Region

Georgia Department of Family & Child Services:

- Chatham

Non-Profits:

- YMCA of the Coastal Georgia,
- United Way of the Coastal Empire
- Parent University
- Family Promise
- Brightside Advocacy (CASA)
- Mediation Center
- Coastal Ga Indicators Coalition
- Chatham Co. Safety Net Planning Council
- Loop it Up Savannah
- Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless

Parents & Caregivers:

- Parent University
- Shelter from the Rain

Youth Serving Organizations:

- Deep Center
- Park Place Outreach
- Loop It Up Savannah
- Chatham County Youth Intercept
- The Front Porch
- Frank Callen's Boys & Girls Club

Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental

Disabilities:

- Region 5

Schools & Educational Centers:

- Savannah Chatham Co. Public School System
- Brantley Co. Public School System
- Bryan Co. Public School System
- Effingham Public School System

Coalition Partners



Work Groups

Work Group 1: In School Trauma Responsive Team

Co-Chair: Dr. Kim Jackson-Allen, SCCPSS

Co-Chair: Tameka Tribble, Parent University

Adrian Williams, Formey

Alicia Leckie, GA Southern

Beatriz Severson, Community Volunteer

Cheri Trice, Greenbriar

Dr. Vanessa Keener, District Staff

Evanita Wallace-Lewis, Shuman

Gloria Lloyd, Hubert

Jessica McBride, Mercer

Jill Cardenas, Mediation Center

John Parker, First Tee

Kim McGuire, District Staff

Latasha Quarterman, Gadsden

Maya Jinks, SCCPSS

Mel Kutner, Deep

Molly Lieberman, Loop It Up

Selina Gillans, Brock

Tameka Tribble, Professional Learning

Tammy Broadnax, Derenne

Tara Jones, Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council

Tiffany Gardner, Heard

Tony Foy, Williams

Work Group 2: Out-of-School Network

Co-Chair: Lee Robbins, Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire

Co-Chair: Raquel Tucker, Family of Promise

Christina Temple, Overcoming by Faith

Adrianna Tatum-Howard, Park Place

Maureen McFadden, McFadden Therapy and Consulting LLC

Work Group 3: Judicial and First Responders

Co-Chair: Kate Blair, Brightside Child and Family Advocacy

Co-Chair: Lydia McCrary, Chatham County Fire Department

Dale Simmons, Chaplain's 10-33

Michele Harris, District Attorney's Office

Quentina Miller Fields, SCCPSS

Work Group 4: Regional Partner

Elaine Spencer, Effingham Family Connection

Wendy Futch, Bryan Family Connection



RESILIENT COASTAL GEORGIA

Resilient Coastal Georgia plays a critical role in uniting the diverse voices and interests of our local communities. Through our shared commitment to trauma-informed practices, we are enhancing support for children and youth, fostering environments where awareness and collaboration flourish. Together, we are making significant strides in creating a community that is better equipped to face challenges, support healing, and ensure long-term well-being for all.

We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to work alongside so many dedicated individuals and organizations through our coalition. We focus on our core mission of building a resilient region—one that prioritizes the well-being of children and families, and addresses the systemic challenges that impact our communities. Our commitment to preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and supporting individuals affected by trauma is stronger than ever.

The invaluable support and collaborative learning environment provided by Resilient Georgia are critical in strengthening our efforts and extending our reach. With this partnership, we are making a lasting difference by building a healthier, more resilient future for all.

On behalf of our coalition, thank you for your continued dedication to this important work.

Lizann Roberts
Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition



Collective Impact Framework

GOAL: Build trauma-resilient communities, working together to prevent and heal childhood adversity



Our Approach

The value of the Collective Impact Framework strengthens our ability to transform complex social problems by uniting diverse stakeholders around a shared vision, ensuring coordinated and mutually reinforcing activities, and tracking progress and adjusting strategies as needed. By fostering collaboration, aligning efforts, and focusing on long-term policy, systems and environmental change, Collective Impact enables us to address challenges in a more holistic and effective manner.

Snapshot of Key Impacts Years 1 - 5

YEAR 4

- 165 Handle with Care referrals in Chatham
- 82 Handle with Care referrals in Effingham
- 7,275 Mindfulness Zone Program student participants, ages 4-18
- RCG website over 2,800 site visits
- 55 Community Resilience Model (CRM) training sessions to 1,345 community members
- Resilience Enhancement and Leadership Model (REALM) developed - 170 participants

YEAR 3

- Resilient Coastal GA Website
- Collective Impact Framework developed and implemented
- Steering Committee and Work Groups established
- 20 Mindfulness Zones completed
- Resilient Toolkits for youth developed in English and Spanish

YEAR 1

- 8,000 participate in Suicide Prevention training
- 500 Mindfulness Zone @ Home Tool Boxes
- 1st Trauma Informed Schools Symposium (TIES)
- 575 community members attend virtual MH Symposium
- Suicide Root Cause Analysis
- Mindful Self Compassion implemented and scaled

YEAR 5

- Resilient Schools Resource Guide for SCCPSS
- Chatham Co. Juvenile Court trained 125 individuals in Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) including 13 agencies
- Inclusion DEI subject matter experts in Steering Committee
- Trauma Informed Assessment Tool and Training included in Blueprint Funding recommendations
- Suicide Prevention Task Force Formation
- Mindfulness Zones expansion in Bryan and Effingham Counties

YEAR 2

- Increased Capacity of Safety and Resilience Programs: Trauma Sensitive Interactions, Community Resilience Model, Mindful Self Compassion, Front Porch ACTS, and Trauma Sensitive Yoga
- Handle with Care launch with Savannah Police and Public School System
- 1st Edition Learning Mindfulness Zone Curriculum & Teacher guide finalized - 12 story book-based units
- Mindfulness Zone Space at Brock Elementary
- 3030 children received Mindfulness Resources

Key Impacts/ Accomplishments

In-School-Network

Resilient Schools Resource Guide for Savannah-Chatham County Public School System

The Resilient Schools Resource Guide aims to support Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) in building and maintaining resilient, inclusive, and trauma-informed educational environments. This guide is designed to offer tools, strategies, and resources that will assist in promoting student well-being, improving academic performance, and fostering emotional and social resilience. Click the QR Code to access the resources.



Judicial and First Responders

The Judicial and First Responders Work Group made significant strides to embed trauma-informed practices within Chatham County's emergency response and juvenile justice systems. By prioritizing partnerships, community education, and the integration of practical tools, we have achieved concrete results that raise awareness and create sustainable, trauma-informed support structures for vulnerable youth. This focus has resulted in policy momentum and collaborative efforts, including specialized training with fire and police departments, enhanced accessibility of trauma resources, and the further incorporation of the Handle with Care program into first responder protocols. These actions underscore our commitment to trauma-informed care and our ongoing efforts to foster resilience in our community's youth.

Between December 1, 2023, and October 31, 2024, the Chatham County Juvenile Court trained 125 individuals in Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI), an evidence-based approach to caregiving and intervention. TBRI is designed to meet the complex needs of vulnerable children who have experienced trauma, abuse, or neglect.

Developed at Texas Christian University, TBRI emphasizes connection, empowerment, and correction as key principles, equipping caregivers, case managers, teachers, and law enforcement personnel with practical strategies to build trust and establish secure, healing relationships with children. Moving forward, all agencies intersecting with the Juvenile Court must complete TBRI and Community Resilience Model (CRM) training, fostering a unified trauma-informed response across agencies.



Key Impacts/ Accomplishments

Judicial and First Responder cont.

The Juvenile Court system is currently creating a shared policy, with input from all involved agencies to ensure consistency in trauma-informed practices. Additionally, the agencies involved are developing a coordinated calendar of shared training to streamline sessions and ensure all staff and volunteers are trained in a timely manner. By embedding these practices and policies throughout organizations, these efforts aim to improve outcomes for children in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems in Chatham County, fostering resilience and positive behavioral changes in the children served.

In addition, the Juvenile Court System is developing an Agency Referral Handbook designed to assist organizations in making more effective and informed referrals. This comprehensive resource will provide clear guidelines, contact information, and criteria for referrals, helping agencies understand each other's services and processes. By improving referral accuracy and efficiency, the handbook will support a cohesive network of care, ensuring individuals and families in need receive timely access to the most appropriate resources and support across agencies.

Building momentum with DFCS has been challenging, as frequent leadership changes at all levels have affected continuity and engagement in collaborative efforts. Over the past year, our work group has established new relationships within DFCS, and we are hopeful that in 2025, DFCS will participate more fully in these initiatives. Brightside Advocacy remains dedicated to leading the integration of comprehensive wellness and retention programs within DFCS. This wellness initiative will include a dedicated wellness room, onsite therapy, yoga, mindfulness practices, and financial health resources to boost staff morale and stability. Through these efforts, we anticipate enhanced well-being for DFCS staff and an improvement in the quality of services provided to families and children in our community.

In Chatham County, the Handle with Care initiative is making a profound impact. It seamlessly embeds trauma-informed support into existing emergency response and educational systems, ensuring swift accessibility and response. Over the past year, three dedicated trainings were held with the Pooler Fire Department and one with Tybee Fire and Police, strengthening first responders' understanding of trauma's impact on youth. Handle with Care has also been integrated directly into the Mobile Data Terminals in Chatham Fire and Police departments, available through quick links that allow rapid reference to support tools. Chatham EMS now also has access to Handle with Care resources through additional QR codes and has incorporated information on trauma response into the Patient Care Reports to quickly identify youth triggers. The program is currently developing a recognition initiative for officers who actively utilize Handle with Care, highlighting their commitment to supporting children impacted by trauma. This significant impact of the Handle with Care initiative is a direct 14 testament to collective efforts and should make us all proud of the work we are doing.

Key Impacts/ Accomplishments

Out-of-School Network

The goal of the Out-of-School Network Workgroup is to create a path for agencies to be designated as “Trauma-Informed,” creating system-wide reform in how social service agencies engage and serve children and families. This has been achieved in other states, including North Carolina. Using North Carolina as a model, this workgroup also looked at the data regarding decreased turnover and improved outcomes for youth and families when the agency operates as a Trauma-Informed organization. The RCG Coalition decided to begin by using an existing tool to assess how staff at local organizations view their organization’s ability to be trauma-informed and trauma responsive. The RCG team met with the DEI (Diversity Equity and Inclusion) staff from Chatham County and the City of Savannah to obtain their feedback. Once their feedback was included the survey tool was provided to members of the Steering Committee who provided feedback. This was the response and next steps:

Agencies will know how many of their staff responded but the responses will be anonymous.

Data collected from these surveys will be aggregated.

Results of data collection will be presented at the next Steering Committee meeting and next steps will be developed.

Forty-two surveys were completed by staff at community agencies.

Reviewing survey results will allow our community to see how staff gauge where we are in creating this social movement.

Initial surveys titled “Trauma-Informed Organizational Assessment” were sent to Resilient Coastal Georgia partners for completion, and these are some of the results:

- 42 responses representing 14 organizations were received.
- 45% of respondents believe their agency leadership has removed cultural and policy barriers, both inside and outside their agency, that may prevent the agency's ability to be trauma-informed.
- 29% believe their organization's leadership has a "trauma-informed care initiative" (e.g. workgroup/taskforce, trauma specialist) plan implemented.
- 28% report that formal policies and procedures that reflect the language and practice of trauma-informed care have been implemented.

In our community the three major funders of nonprofit organizations include Chatham County, City of Savannah, and United Way. RCG held meetings with representatives from Chatham County to discuss how to leverage the funders to encourage agencies receiving funding to focus on becoming trauma-informed. As a first step in this process, Chatham County agreed to include new language in the addendum of their funding notifications that will “Highly Recommend” agencies who have obtained funding to encourage staff to attend a menu of trainings. The following is the language utilized in the Chatham County Blueprint Resolution:

Chatham County Blueprint Resolution

Attachment D: Training and Assessments Recommendation

About Resilient Coastal GA

Resilient Coastal Georgia is composed of individuals and organizations in Chatham County and the surrounding Coastal Region who are working together with Resilient Georgia, a statewide collaborative, to build trauma resilient communities that can prevent and heal childhood adversity. This work is coordinated by the Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition. The Resilient Georgia collaborative has supported the local effort by funding selected key strategies over the past two years to develop trauma-informed responses to children and young adults (ages 0-26) undergoing Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) or experiencing trauma from them. Using a collective impact methodology, participating organizations will learn more about the experiences of childhood trauma, identify and test strategies that will help children and young adults who experience trauma, and improve the systems that children rely on their well being.

Organizational Trauma-Informed Assessment

One of our projects is to create a resiliency designation for organizations which are focused on utilizing trauma-informed practices both with their staff and those they serve. The first step to accomplish this will be for organizations to complete an organizational self-assessment.

Chatham County HIGHLY recommends that a minimum of 1-3 staff members from the organization complete the trauma-informed assessment provided by Resilient Coastal GA by and no later than the QTR1 reporting period. Note that staff members who submit the assessment will stay anonymous.

(<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6RQB7WD>)

After staff members have completed the assessment, each agency will be provided with their specific results. Resilient Coastal Georgia will contact the organization to help determine next steps in policies and operations to become trauma-informed. In addition to the assessment, Chatham County also HIGHLY recommends the organization to engage in ONE of the trainings listed below during the awarded year.

Training Recommendations

Mandated Reporter (Child Abuse Prevention, Credible Messenger, Motivational Interviewing, Restorative Practices, Community Resiliency Model (CRM), Connections Matter, Positive Youth Development, Crisis Intervention Teams for Youth (CIT-Y), Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)



Key Impacts/ Accomplishments

Out-of-School Network (cont.)

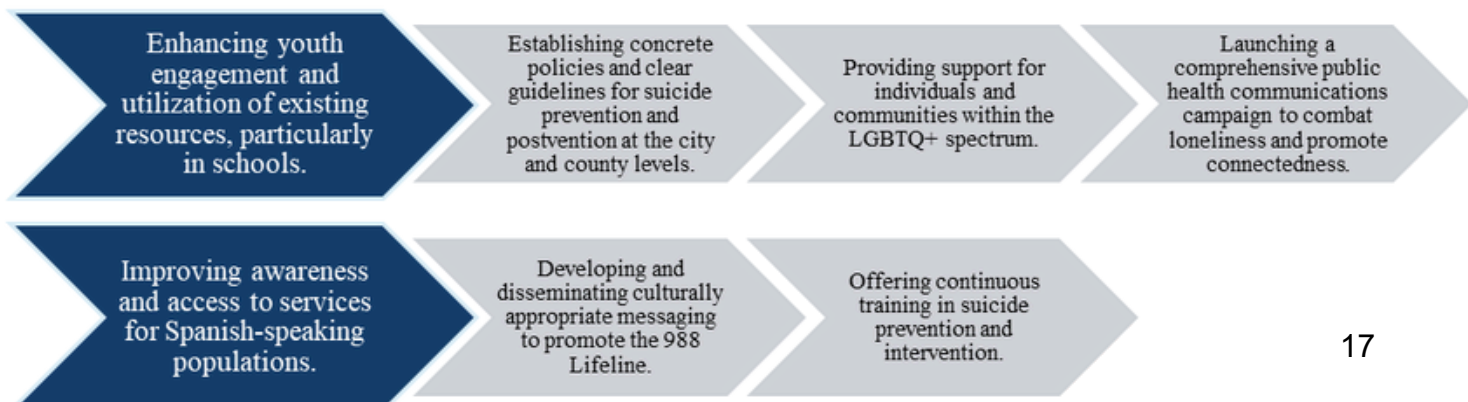
This language is a big first step in moving our community agencies toward operating as trauma-informed and trauma-responsive. Chatham County invited RCG to present at the Fall Blueprint Convening on November 7th. RCG presented to representatives from the nonprofit community on what makes attending these trainings and requiring staff to attend them important to their work.

A similar conversation was held with leadership of the City of Savannah. They will incorporate similar language in the funding contracts they award to community agencies. RCG's next steps include:

- Meet with leadership of the United Way to discuss how this can be incorporated into their funding requirements.
- Work with all three funding entities to move toward requirements of funded agencies to use trauma-informed language in their policies and procedures.
- Continue to strengthen the requirements of agencies to make the systemic changes within their organizations to be designated as trauma-informed and trauma-responsive.

Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Screening Task Force

Chatham County has a population of 306,536, in which 48% are White, 37% Black, 9% Hispanic, 4% Asian, and 2% identifying as Other. According to the Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS) by the Georgia Department of Public Health, from 2021 to 2023, 125 people died by suicide in Chatham County, of whom 96 were male and 29 female. Furthermore, with the three most recent suicide deaths by youth and increasing number of suicide-related referrals in the SCCPSS, we recognize the urgency of creating an effective and comprehensive suicide prevention solutions to help families and individuals access resources they need. In April of this year, the RCG partners formed a **Suicide Prevention Task Force**, a group of state and community stakeholders committed to addressing the issue of youth suicide in the region through strategy and policy development, resource sharing, and collaboration. Currently, the partners include the Chatham County Health Department, the City of Savannah, Chatham County, SCCPSS, the Gateway Community Service Board, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, the Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire, the Hinesville VA Outpatient Clinic, and community volunteers with lived experience. Based on discussions with Task Force members during the initial meeting on May 2, 2024, as well as insights from the Regional Community Collaborative committee and Resilient Coastal Georgia, we have identified several pressing needs:



Key Impacts/ Accomplishments

Out-of-School Network (cont.)

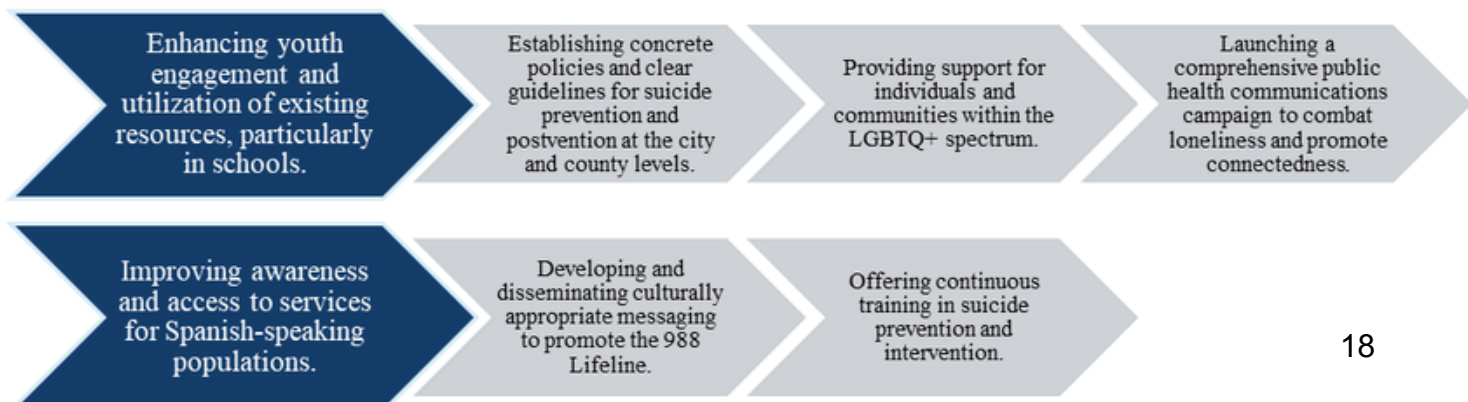
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Key Impacts/ Accomplishments

Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Screening Task Force (cont.)

RCG researched best practices for suicide in schools and consulted with experts from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. As a result, RCG identified universal mental health screening for youth as a crucial component in supporting suicide prevention efforts. Key points highlighting its importance include:

- Normalization of Discussions - Routine screenings normalize mental health conversations, reducing stigma and encouraging young people to seek help, fostering a supportive environment.
- Comprehensive Data Collection - Universal screening gathers valuable data on youth mental health, helping identify trends and inform public health initiatives.
- Tailored Interventions - Screening results allow for tailored mental health services, enhancing the effectiveness of prevention strategies based on specific youth needs.
- Accessibility of Resources - Routine screenings connect youth to necessary mental health resources, bridging gaps in knowledge about where to seek help.
- Empowerment and Education - Screenings educate youth about mental health issues and coping strategies, empowering them to take charge of their well-being.
- Community Engagement - Universal screening promotes collaboration among schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations, fostering shared responsibility for youth mental health.
- Crisis Prevention - Early identification through screenings leads to preventive measures, reducing the risk of crises and suicide among vulnerable populations.

A potential provider has been identified, the Rural Behavioral Health Institute (RBHI), which brings extensive experience and expertise in implementing school screenings. In August, RCG convened an in-person meeting of the Suicide Prevention Task Force, where we collaborated with the RBHI team and various community partners, including representatives from private and public schools, non-profits, and youth-serving organizations. Currently, we are working with the school district and RBHI to define the following:

- The structure of the pilot screening project
- Available funding options

The Suicide Prevention Task Force is dedicated to equipping community organizations with valuable resources, 988 tools, and connections to essential services. Our collaboration with International Paper provided their HR department with resources designed to support employees grieving after suicide.

Our next steps include:

- Mid-October/Early November: Facilitating 1-2 meetings with SCCPSS leadership and RBHI team to identify the scope of work and costs associated with implementing school screening
- Identifying funding opportunities to support the implementation of the pilot program.

Grant application
submitted for Chatham
County Housing Authority
\$125,000

Resilient Georgia
philanthropic partners

Arthur M. Blank Family
Foundation

Key Impacts/ Accomplishments

Deep Center

- Deep Center provided training or support to over 123 individual educators across 16 unique workshops, on topics related to educator well-being, trauma-informed communication and restorative practices.
- 94% of all participants agreed or strongly agreed that the trainings were a good use of their time, and that they would recommend them to others.
- > 91% of all participants agreed or strongly agreed that they learned a new, actionable way to have more healing, restorative or trauma-informed relationships with colleagues or students
- Created a “Fierce Self Compassion for Educators Workshop Series”, based on evidence-based Mindful Self Compassion curriculum, adapted to our unique context and with more intentional considerations of issues related to Justice, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- All of the organization's members received training on the neurobiology of trauma-responses and how trauma intersects with structural and cultural issues.
- A staff member, in collaboration with Gateway, was trained and certified in Mindful Self Compassion for Young People
- Added capacity to the organization's leadership team to include staff members with graduate level degrees and professional experience in Social Work, Counseling, and Conflict Resolution.
- Shared insights and information about conducting trauma-informed, equity-centered youth programming with groups across the region including: Partnership for Southern Equity (Atlanta, GA), Jacksonville Center for Children’s Rights (Jacksonville, FL), Student Action Network for Equity (national coalition), the Georgia Council Teachers of English (GCTE) and Georgia Coalition for Equity Justice
- 97% of all participants - young people and adults - have indicated that being part of Deep Center programming has increased their sense of belonging, sense of community or wellbeing.

Loop It Up

Middle and High School Pilot Program

Loop It Up received a grant from the VyStar Foundation to design and pilot a layer of Mindfulness Zone resources and programming specifically for middle and high school students. Loop It Up staff worked throughout the spring and summer to design the program which will visit participating classrooms for a four week program.

Each session will give students and teachers an opportunity to learn and practice wellness, self regulation, and positive communication skills through a variety of modes and mediums including visual art, improv, creative writing, movement and more. The pilot begins this fall in both middle and high schools. The goal of this program is to expand work this age group, and to train classroom teachers to use the materials and skills in ongoing ways in their classrooms.



Regional Partners - Bryan and Effingham Counties

Mindfulness Zones

Loop It Up

Based on prior successes, Loop It Up is expanding to serve the Bryan and Effingham County School Systems. Through CGIC's existing relationships and the regional Family Connection Partnership, we began meeting with Elaine Spencer of the Effingham County FCP and Wendy Futch of the Bryan County FCP in July of 2024. We are currently building relationships with both district and school level leadership in both counties. We will begin by working with five (5) schools in Effingham and three (3) schools in Bryan to set up or increase the resources available in Mindfulness Zones, classroom calm corners and wellness kits. Timeline of the project:



Visit to Effingham Co. School System



Left to Right:

*Kate Keith, Coordinator of Social Emotional Learning ECSS, Piper, School Therapy Dog ECSS,
Molly Lieberman, Executive Director, Loop It Up Savannah,
Elaine Spencer, Executive Director Effingham Family Connection*

Description of Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES)- Related Efforts

Prevention/Intervention: In-School-Network

Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council (CCSNPC)

- CCSNPC participated in SCCPSS's spring 2024 THRIVE Conference and Teacher Toolkit sessions where 1st and 3rd year teachers received School Support System resilience training and Trauma Sensitive Mindfulness trainings. These programs assist teachers by giving them tools needed around self-awareness and awareness of others who may be undergoing responses to stress and/or current or past trauma (ACEs).
- CCSNPC continues to work with Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) around the recent change in school leadership and our ongoing commitment to align efforts with the SCCPSS strategic plan, actively addressing the needs and priorities identified by SCCPSS as areas requiring support. This work included meeting with school system administrators to discuss current needs, gaps, and coordination of efforts. One of these efforts included development of Suicide Prevention training material for new employees with SCCPSS.
- CCSNPC continues to provide Trauma Sensitive Yoga in partnership with Loop It Up in the school system and school related events.
- The Front Porch A.C.T.S. program is implemented in Savannah through a collaborative effort between Front Porch Improv, CCSNPP, SCCPSS, Gateway Community Service Board, and other community partners and volunteers.



Deep Center

In general, Deep Center youth-serving programs are imbricated with trauma-informed practices. In all of our programs, young people are:

1. Connected with caring adults, who have trauma-informed training and who invite young people to share the full and messy reality of their experiences and needs.
2. Engaged in conversations about healthy social relationships and what it means to be part of a caring community and to care for oneself.
3. Practice somatic regulation, prosocial communication, and self-care.

Deep Center curriculum and instructions - for young people and adult learners - utilize evidence-based practices in literacy instruction, culturally-sustaining pedagogies, and project-based learning.

Loop It Up

Mindfulness Zone

- Mindfulness Zones are set up in five (5) Effingham Co. Schools, three (3) Bryan Co. Schools
- Continued support/ increased resources in 17 Mindfulness Zones in Chatham Co. Schools
- 1st and 2nd Grade Classroom Calm Corner pilot program at Williams Elementary School, Chatham Co. (8 classrooms)
- Creation and distribution of Mindfulness Zone posters. These posters are beginning to be displayed around schools and in district offices in Chatham Co.

Panhandle Slim

Loop It Up partnered with Savannah Artist Panhandle Slim to install large scale artworks throughout the Summer of 2024 in five schools as part of our efforts to support each school with culture, climate and environment.



Mindful Monday is running in 16 SCCPSS schools, serving approximately 7,000 students ranging from ages from four- to 18-years old. By January 2025, we are scheduled to launch 4 additional schools for a total of 20 SCCPSS schools reaching approximately 10,000 students. Throughout 2024, 16 schools/500+ teachers were trained in our Mindful Monday Program. By January 2025 we will have trained and additional 3 schools/150+ teachers and administrators.

Loop It Up Savannah's Mindful Monday program provides a wellness resource to school communities which can easily be plugged into their daily and weekly schedule. Each participating staff member receives a deck of Loop It Up's original Mindful Monday Cards, which include enough weekly wellness practices to use one each week of a traditional school semester. The practices include breathing, meditation, visualization and other simple calming/ self regulating practices that you can do with minimal or no materials.

Our original Mindful Monday deck was created and piloted in 2023, since then we have made several revisions based on teacher feedback, and massively expanded our use of the deck to serve more students and school communities.

We run annual training sessions with the faculty and staff at each school that participates in Mindful Monday. Training sessions include an overview of the deck, suggested uses of the cards throughout the school day as well as background on mindfulness and how the practice can contribute positively to the school culture and climate.

Savannah Chatham County Public School System's Superintendent Dr. Denise Watts has named three north star focus areas: Literacy, Attendance, School Culture & Climate. We are very pleased to continue use of Mindful Monday in so many Chatham County schools, as it gives both students and teachers concrete and accessible skills for self regulation, communication and positivity.

School Garden Program

Throughout 2023-2024 Loop It Up developed a partnership with Big Green, an organization that provides modular gardens for schools, and CSPSS, to increase the number of school gardens. RCG accessed resources and training for 40 of Chatham County's 54 schools, 30 schools received full learning gardens as well as grant funding, and 10 additional schools received grant funding to support an existing garden.

The goal is for the garden spaces to be used as an outdoor classrooms that create a productive space for project-based learning, in addition to promoting physical and social/ emotional wellness. The 2024-2025 school year has been and will continue to be spent working with each school to continue to integrate their garden into ongoing life and learning at school. This includes many wellness initiatives in addition to academic and family engagement initiatives. This year, we had conversations with district level staff about:

- Increasing consistency in the use of the resources each program provides throughout the district.
- Further alignment of our programming with the SCCPSS strategic goals and plan.
- Working with the Operations Division to ideate both Mindfulness Zones and Outdoor Learning spaces on the front end of design/ build/ construction projects at our schools. We are particularly excited about this because it's indicative of a district wide prioritization of student and teacher wellness.

Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire

The Mediation Center contributes to improving community well-being and increasing the mental well-being of children and young people by leading policy, system, and environmental change.

Prevention/Intervention activities in 2024 include:

- Positive peace events: identification of "peacebuilder" role models, third annual Peace in the Park, and community-facilitated conversations on divisive topics to build relationships and strengthen bonds.
- Restorative justice sessions: opportunities for governmental, nonprofits, and other child-serving agencies to enhance communication skills, unlearn traditional responses and learn restorative responses, be more comfortable with conflict situations, and address conflicts between youth or youth and staff with a trauma-informed approach.
- Trauma awareness sessions: Provide Children 1st and other parenting classes to court-involved families to understand the harmful effects of ongoing conflict for their children.
- Youth-led education: Peer Mediation to support youth in conflict, and Positive Peer Influencers to educate on the dangers of fentanyl, making positive decisions, and refusal strategies.
- Workplace Health: provide mediation, conflict resolution, and de-escalation sessions to businesses and service providers managing stressful situations. Includes self-awareness, personal conflict style, coping strategies, reflection practice, self-care, de-escalation techniques, key communication skills, and understanding needs. Entities include Coastal Health District, Goodwill, Union Mission, City of Savannah, Chatham County, SCCPSS, and others. The City of Savannah is considering training an employee from each department to learn to mediate.
- System change: Savannah-Chatham County Public School System Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Process now lists Restorative Practices, Restorative Conferencing, and Peer Mediation as methods to resolve conflict and other disciplinary issues.
- Collaboration: Partnering with Superior Court and Parent Accountability Court on policy enhancement for fathers seeking legal rights to their children with access to the legal system process to do so.

Advocacy and Policy, Systems and Environmental (PSE) Changes

Deep Center

Over the past year:

- 142 youth ages 7-18 engaged in Deep Center Drop-In programs regularly across four sites around Savannah, where they had exposure to caring adults and access to arts and enrichment activities that promote somatic regulation and create greater senses of belonging.
- In collaboration with the Department of Juvenile Justice and the Work Readiness Enrichment Program (WREP), Deep Center engaged 11 young men with a trauma-informed approach and sought to reimagine narratives about their potential and build opportunity by promoting social norms that help address the causes of ACEs.



- Deep Center's Youth Participatory Action Research Team research report on Burnout and Well-Being was shared with local and state-wide educational leaders.
- Deep Center brought program staff and community members to Justice Day in Atlanta, to talk about issues related to Criminal Justice Reform that can address underlying factors that contribute to prevalence of ACEs in our communities.
- Deep Center's Healing Schools Initiative continues to provide resources and thought-partnership to school-based staff to implement restorative and trauma-informed practices in their environments, including:
 - Verbal and non-verbal communication skills
 - Somatic regulation spaces (e.g. cool down corners or mindfulness rooms)
- Restorative and trauma-informed responses to student behavior, including strength-based, intentional processes for reintegrates a student into a classroom or school

The Community Organizing team ran a series of Barbershop Conversations on issues related to experiences of trauma and resilience in the community.



Advocacy and Policy, Systems and Environmental (PSE) Changes

Gateway Community Service Board

Gateway continues to have conversations with school staff, court staff, medical professionals, DBHDD, and internally to implement trauma responsive policies and environments for their consumers and staff. This includes:

- Providing alternative waiting areas
- Intentionally creating a welcoming space from the moment they enter the building
- Providing options and choices to empower
- Removing zero tolerance language from policies and handbooks
- Establish requirements for trainings on ACES/PCES and resiliency building activities for staff and community partners

Continued education is offered for free to our partners on a variety of topics including:

- Mindful Self-Compassion
- Community Resiliency Model
- Resiliency Building Practices
- ACES/PACES and epigenetics
- Trauma responsive schools
- Mental Health 101

Gateway awaiting grant decisions for:

- Substance Abuse Youth Group training through the University of Cincinnati
- Staff who complete the training and conduct two six-week groups will be a trainer and will be able to offer additional trainings for other professionals in our community
- Grant decision pending for Continued support for our professionals to increase their own resiliency and decrease the rates of burnout and fatigue.
- Youth and parent engagement in Chatham County's Juvenile Mental Health Court (SPARC) through monthly groups using TBRI principles in order to increase trust and communication, implement productive consequences, and develop tools to raise a child with a mental health diagnosis effectively.

Gateway's 2024 Community Events Highlights:

- Gateway hosted the Mental Health Symposium in May 2024, featuring keynote speaker Lorenzo Lewis, breakout sessions on resiliency and mental health subjects, and conversation on mental health parity. This event was free to the public and attended by professionals, community supporters, and the general public.
- Gateway continues to host the Brake the Stigma: Mental Health Awareness Car Show to raise awareness of mental health topics and encourage courageous conversation amongst the community. The 2024 show is scheduled for November 16th and we are thrilled to be partnering with several agencies to highlight mental health resources and awareness for first responders, veterans, and their support systems.
- Both of these events are scheduled to continue in 2025.

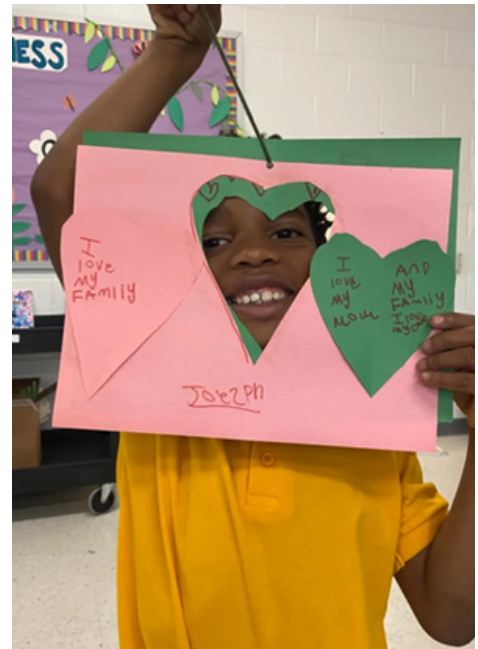


Loop It Up

Whole School Mindfulness

The Whole School Mindfulness program is running in 3 SCCPSS schools in 77 classrooms serving approximately 1,300 PreK through 6th grade students.

- 78 teachers surveyed
 - 11 teachers reported that a minimum of 3% of their students demonstrated one or more of the following skills: self-regulation, self-awareness, positive interactions leadership skills.



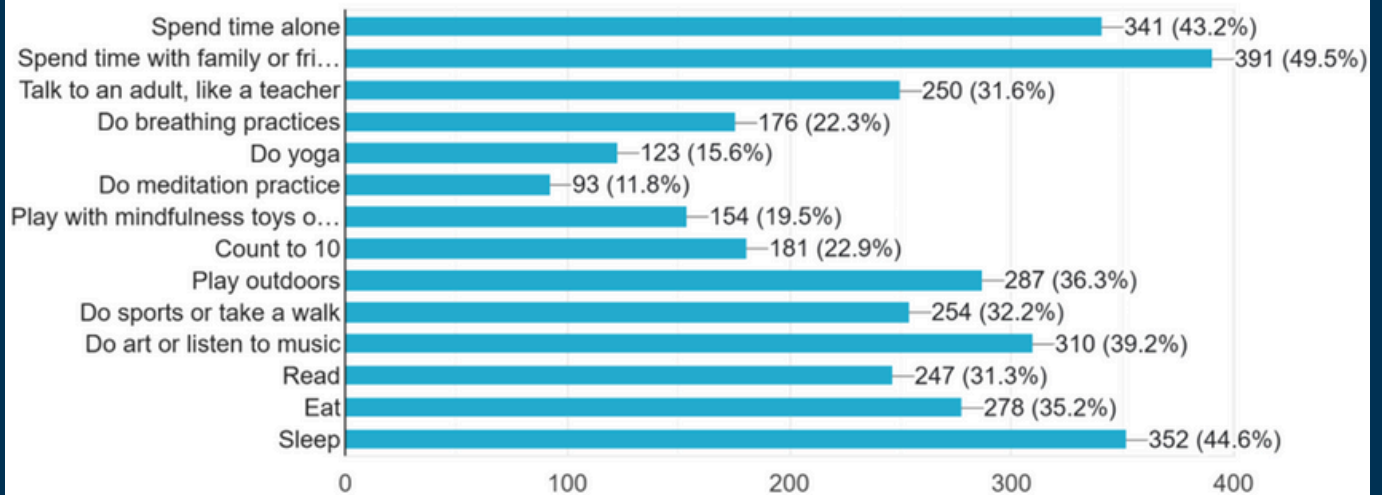
Whole School Mindfulness cont.

691 students in grades 2-6 surveyed

- 40% selected breathing practices, yoga, and meditation as tools or resources they would use to help them feel better when experiencing a problem.
- 47% stated similar practices listed in Chart 2 below helped them get to know people better.
- 54% stated similar practices listed in Chart 3 below helped them do what is expected of them.

Are you able to do any of the following things to help you solve the problem and feel better? Choose all that apply!

790 responses



Do any of the things you chose help you get along better with other people?

790 responses

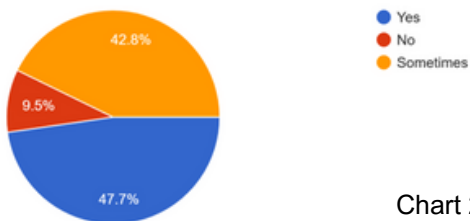


Chart 2

Do any of the things you chose help you do what is expected of you?

790 responses

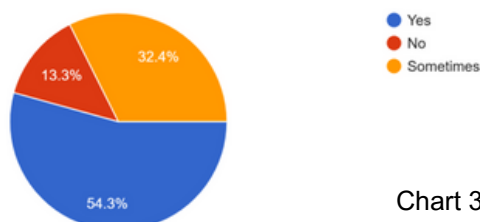


Chart 3



Loop It Up cont.

- Continued relationship with the GA Southern College of Education. Professor Taylor Norman has worked with our team to develop teacher and student surveys which are now being implemented consistently throughout the school year to gauge program effectiveness, impact that skills have on student wellbeing, classroom culture, behavior and academic success.
- The long-term goal is for our Mindfulness Zone Program to become evidence based, so we are beginning to collect the data over time that will assist in that process, as well as help us continue to improve our offerings to be as helpful and impactful as possible.

Deep Center

- Deep Center's Youth Participatory Action Research Team conducted a project on Student Burnout and Well-Being, that gathered data on local student experiences of burnout and identified what environmental and relationship factors throughout a school day impacted burnout.
- We have continued to develop our programming and evaluation items with a focus on self-efficacy, hopefulness, critical thinking, communication, and pro-social leadership skills of programming participants.
- Deep Center staff have strong organizational capacity for conducting research using validated instruments and methodologies, as well as a long-standing partnership with faculty at Georgia Southern University. We have been pioneering measures that illustrate and capture how Critical Hope is fostered through restorative, trauma-informed and equity-centered programming.

Gateway Community Service Board

- Evaluations for resiliency groups are conducted at all Gateway PORT Trainings to include information gained, feedback on the presenter, etc. Juvenile Court groups are assessed by post-surveys after each group to determine topic applicability and impact.
- As the Family Navigator role is implemented, youth and families engaged will complete bi-annual surveys utilizing the Hope Scale to measure for changes in hope for the youth and their guardian.

Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire

- Evaluation Collaboration: partner with Georgia Southern University and the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System to define ways of performing longitudinal evaluation of conflict resiliency initiatives.

Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council

- CCSNPC conducted surveys with college freshman at Savannah State University regarding Community Resiliency Model (CRM) training to determine the understanding and usefulness of resiliency skills. ACEs can have lasting effects on health, well-being and life opportunities well into adulthood. Building resiliency skills can help counteract these effects. 513 freshmen were surveyed.

Focus Group – Juvenile Court and TBRI Integration

Date: October 30, 2024

Participants: 3 primary court representatives

Duration: 1 hour (via Zoom)

Background and Initiation of TBRI Integration

The Chatham County Juvenile Court system's interest in implementing TBRI (Trust-Based Relational Intervention) was spurred by a collaboration with the University of Georgia's Law Clinic, which provided legal representation to human trafficking victims. Colleagues from the University, who had participated in TBRI training, recommended it as a beneficial framework for improving the juvenile justice system. Judge Forney, along with two colleagues, became certified TBRI practitioners, and after exploring other pilot sites, decided to adopt TBRI as a pilot program in Georgia. The full implementation is expected to take 3 to 5 years, and they are currently in the early stages of this process.

Current Practices and Implementation

- **Training and Onboarding:** As of now, 95% of court staff have been trained in TBRI. New hires receive TBRI materials as part of their onboarding process until the next large-scale training session. The training is being integrated as a tool, rather than a complete solution, and is already having a noticeable impact on staff dynamics.
- **Ongoing Integration:** TBRI principles are reinforced during monthly staff meetings through "TBRI moments," where staff members reflect on how to implement the training further. The court system is also reconfiguring its physical spaces to prioritize relationship-building and create a more welcoming environment for families and youth. Staff are increasingly adopting playful engagement before addressing corrective measures.
- **Physical Environment Changes:** Changes to the court environment include providing snacks, water, and calming items like fidgets to youth and families. These small adjustments have positively shifted the energy within the courtrooms and fostered better connections.

Impacts of TBRI Training and Integration

- **Staff Development:** Staff have reported growth in their roles, noting that TBRI training has helped them approach their work with more empathy, self-awareness, and a deeper understanding of the underlying causes of behaviors. The integration of TBRI has led to a more collaborative, vulnerable, and de-escalating approach when working with youth and families. Staff now prioritize understanding the 'why' behind behavior and meeting the deeper needs of youth and families.
- **Cultural Shift:** The implementation of TBRI is creating a cultural shift in the court system, where staff are becoming more reflective and mindful in their interactions. TBRI provided staff with a common language and framework to help navigate difficult dynamics and build relationships before addressing behavior. This shift made it possible to view families and youth more holistically.

Focus Group – Juvenile Court and TBRI Integration cont.

- **Changes in Approach:** The TBRI approach encouraged a slower, more intentional pace, allowing staff to be more patient and thoughtful in decision-making. The incorporation of TBRI principles led to greater understanding of youth and families and expanded how staff approach their work, giving them permission to innovate and approach situations with flexibility.

Variation from Expectations

- **Positive Surprises:** The results of the TBRI integration exceeded initial expectations, especially in terms of staff behavior. They are increasingly focusing on connection before correction, which allowed for more effective engagement with families. There is also growing staff buy-in and commitment to the TBRI approach, with leadership being actively involved in normalizing TBRI through regular discussions and continued consultation with experts.
- **Long-Term Vision:** The team recognizes that full integration will take time, and they expect significant changes to be evident around the 2-3 year mark. They aim for TBRI to become second nature in the courthouse, so it no longer requires constant training or reminders. The goal is for the principles to be naturally embedded in daily practices, decision-making, and case reviews.

Future Plans and Expansion

- **Expanding TBRI Across the System:** The court is exploring how to incorporate TBRI principles into case plans and extend them to external partners. They are interested in creating a community-wide approach, where TBRI principles influence broader aspects of juvenile justice, education, and social services. Additionally, they hope to expand the training to more community stakeholders to reinforce a shared understanding and approach.
- **Challenges:** One of the challenges they face is pushback from the Sheriff's Office, which has been difficult to engage in TBRI training. Overcoming these barriers is a key focus for the future.

Desired Long-Term Outcomes

- **Cultural and Community Transformation:** A key goal is for Resilient Coastal Georgia, which touches many different groups in the region, to embrace TBRI principles, creating a unified community culture. The court team envisions a holistic, community-wide approach where TBRI principles are embedded in all systems that interact with youth and families.
- **Focus Group and Evaluation:** To ensure they are moving in the right direction, they are considering organizing focus groups with trained staff and stakeholders to gather insights on what further support is needed.
- **Broadening Impact:** They aspire to see TBRI principles spread beyond the juvenile court system, including in the Sheriff's Office and other community sectors. The idea is to create a consistent, supportive environment across all agencies and settings involved with youth and families.

Conclusion

The integration of TBRI into the Juvenile Court system in Chatham County is still in its early stages, but the ongoing efforts to train staff, shift the court culture, and prioritize relationship-building are already producing positive results. With continued support, feedback, and expansion of the TBRI framework, the court system aims to create lasting change not only within the court but also throughout the broader community, ultimately improving outcomes for youth and families involved in the juvenile justice system.

In-School-Network:

Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council (CCSNPC) continues to assess program and training needs for Savannah Chatham County Public School System teachers, students, and staff. These programs include the School Support System taught to 203 1st and 3rd year teachers and Trauma Sensitive Mindfulness taught to 171 1st and 3rd year teachers in 2 conferences and 2 classes.

Trauma Drama program was provided to 518 children/youth at 5 schools and 4 summer camps.

CCSNPC continues to be a provider for Georgia Board of Education's Mental Health Awareness Training menu for the state, providing multiple programs for schools and school systems throughout the state.

Judicial and First Responders Work Group:

Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council

CCSNPC continues to coordinate with and support the work of the first responders (in coordination with Chaplain's 10-33) through programs like REALM, suicide prevention, and tactical yoga for organizations including:

- Chatham County PD summer 2024
- Savannah PD admin and upper level
- Savannah PD patrol school.
- Chatham ES fire recruits

A total of 308 first responders received REALM training over 19 sessions.

"If work gets too stressful, I have plenty of tools to sit back and really bring myself back to reality and get back on track."

"I can look at work situations in a different light and approach them differently."

"This helps me know how to properly communicate with other people when they are going through something and need more help."

Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire

Restorative Education: training resources at each Savannah-Chatham County Public School System to perform Restorative Practices. This work also includes identifying 2 to 3 resources to engage in a cohort process as future Restorative Practice trainers.

Other efforts that do not fall into the categories listed above

Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council

CCSNPC continues to assess program and training needs for community organizations. To date programs have been planned and/or provided for:

- Tharros Place staff and volunteers
- Shelter From the Rain staff and volunteers
- St. Joseph's/Candler nurses and Good Samaritan Clinic staff
- Gateway Community Service Board Psychiatry Residents
- Community members

These training programs include:

- Community Resiliency Model (CRM) – 580 participants in 30 classes
- SuicideTALK – 437 participants in 17 classes
- Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training – 94 participants in 9 classes
- Trauma Sensitive Yoga – 516 participants in 162 classes

CCSNPC is working with the City of Savannah on training for employees and staff. Savannah Support System will be a comprehensive training program including:

- REALM resilience training for managers/directors/admin level employees and staff
- Savannah Support System (S3) base resilience training for all levels (onboarding/continuing ed)
- Video and audio resources and additional training and programming

Over the last year the S3 resilience training was developed as well as the manager/director level REALM 1 training which includes awareness around Adverse Childhood Experiences and other sources of trauma, common reactions to trauma and stress and how individual intersectionality can impact daily interactions. A total of 80 manager/director level participants received REALM 1 training over 3 Manager Meetup sessions.

Tara Jones, REAL Program Manager, completed the certification process April 2024 to become a provider in the Positivity and Relaxation Training (PART) program offered through the Benson-Henry Institute for Mind Body Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital. In May 2024, Tara led a pilot program in coordination with Gateway Community Service Board's Magnolia Clinic for Addictive Disease Recovery outpatient participants. This pilot program was presented at the Harvard CME Conference in Boston, MA held Oct 31-Nov 2 by invitation from Benson-Henry Institute after the success of the pilot. The pilot program included 20 participants received a portion of the PART program with 14 of those participants completing the entire 9-week program.

- Participants reported improvement in knowledge on recognizing personal response to stress, improved techniques to elicit the relaxation response, improved adaptive thinking and positive perspectives, and high likelihood of employing the information learned.
- Some of the feedback includes: "helps me stay calm while I think and then react", "self-motivation is important", "I can use the coping log for situations I am in." (*participants signed photo release*)



Innovative Partnerships

The Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire

Safety Collaboration: partnering with numerous agencies to close the gaps for youth and families, including school resource officers, police departments, the school system, the court system, and others. TMC is convening groups for gun safety, school violence, hate crimes, domestic violence, and more.

Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council

- CCSNPC participated in webinars, podcasts, and in person training for Gulfstream Aerospace with their employees around resilience and mental health which were broadcast and recorded for use in Savannah as well as other company locations in other states.
- CCSNPC completed 4 suicide prevention workshops for International Paper staff and employees and a Mindful Self Compassion workshop for International Paper Savannah Mill's SWIM (Supporting Women in the Mill) group.



- CCSNPC provided mentorship for the certification of 2 Community Resiliency Model trainers and ongoing support of a current CRM trainer. Dale Simmons, President of Chaplain's 10-33, is a first responder completing CRM training which will allow him to provide CRM to the first responder population. Rosie Harrison, Executive Director of GROW Initiative is completing her CRM training which will allow her to provide CRM to the Spanish speaking population. Donna Williams continues to work with CCSNPC to provide CRM training in a variety of settings including Savannah State University, Shelter from the Rain, and community classes. These partnerships will allow for more capacity with different populations within the region.

Savannah Solutions

Members of the RCG Out-of-School Network Workgroup are leaders and staff from a variety of social service nonprofit organizations. Through the workgroup meetings, members realized that they shared a common issue in providing services - how to help clients/families in which multiple interventions were needed to help stabilize the situation. Staff at these organizations were often unsure where to refer families, how to make warm handoffs so that accessing services is easier for the family, and how to advocate on behalf of their clients within different systems and bureaucracies. Through collaborative problem solving, the Work Group decided to create a monthly staffing meeting, so that providers could come together to collectively find solutions to complex issues to ensure that children and families have access to all available community resources. A local nonprofit organization, The Front Porch, agreed to host the meetings with RCG providing the facilitator. In September, 2024, the first “Savannah Solutions” was held with leadership and case managers of The Front Porch, Deep Center, Park Place Outreach for Youth, YMCA, and Chatham County Public Schools. By the second meeting in October, new agencies joined including the Homeless Authority, Shelter from the Rain, and GROW.

Savannah Solutions Success Story

“A case manager from a participating organization asked the group for help with a refugee family who had multiple issues needing quick resolution. The family includes the father/husband, the mother/wife, who was 8 months pregnant, and their 7 year-old daughter. The father, fearing that he may be deported in Georgia despite having refugee status, had gone to North Carolina to find day labor work. The wife and daughter were temporarily living in a shelter and the mother was due to give birth soon, and the mother’s Medicaid had not been approved. A member of the Savannah Solutions immediately contacted someone at DFCS and the mother’s Medicaid application was approved immediately, ensuring she could get the healthcare she needed. Another member contacted a local Spanish-speaking building contractor who agreed to hire the husband, making it possible for him to return to Savannah, and ensured the family would have an income. “

Creating Savannah Solutions is leading to a systems change in our community. This change has already connected staff from a variety of agencies, created warm handoffs for youth and families, and led to a sense of shared responsibility for identifying solutions. During the second of the monthly Savannah Solutions meetings, additional agencies attended including the Homeless Authority, Shelter from the Rain, and GROW. At the end of this meeting those around the table provided feedback of feeling supported and energized by finding resources to help their youth and families.



Resilient Coastal GA announces 2024 Steering Committee

<https://www.connectsavannah.com/community/connect-savannah-news-and-notes-21788372>
<https://savannahceo.com/news/2024/02/resilient-coastal-georgia-announces-2024-steering-committee/>

Resilient Coastal Georgia to Offer Free Community Resiliency Model Training March 11

<http://savannahceo.com/news/2024/03/resilient-coastal-georgia-offer-free-community-resiliency-model-training-march-11/>

DHS and HOPE for Georgia Moms Will Sponsor “Bump & Beyond Maternal Health Fair” on March 9 at Eckberg Auditorium with Co-Host Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition

<https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/local/2024/03/08/bump-and-beyond-maternal-health-fair-offers-services-for-savannah-moms/72866549007/>

<https://fox28savannah.com/news/local/maternal-health-fair-bump-and-beyond-offers-resources-for-new-and-expectant-parents-mothers-pregnant-medicare-peachcare-kids-baby#>

Mediation Center Presents Community Partnership Award to Resilient Coastal Georgia

<https://savannahceo.com/news/2024/03/mediation-center-presents-community-partnership-award-resilient-coastal-georgia/>

10th Annual Chatham County Mental Health Symposium “Connection to Community and Care”

<https://www.wtoc.com/2024/05/07/interview-phylicia-anderson-discusses-chatham-county-mental-health-symposium/>

<https://www.wsav.com/community/community-corner/community-corner-mental-health-symposium-2024/>

<https://www.savannahtribune.com/articles/10th-annual-chatham-county-mental-health-symposium-connection-to-community-care/>

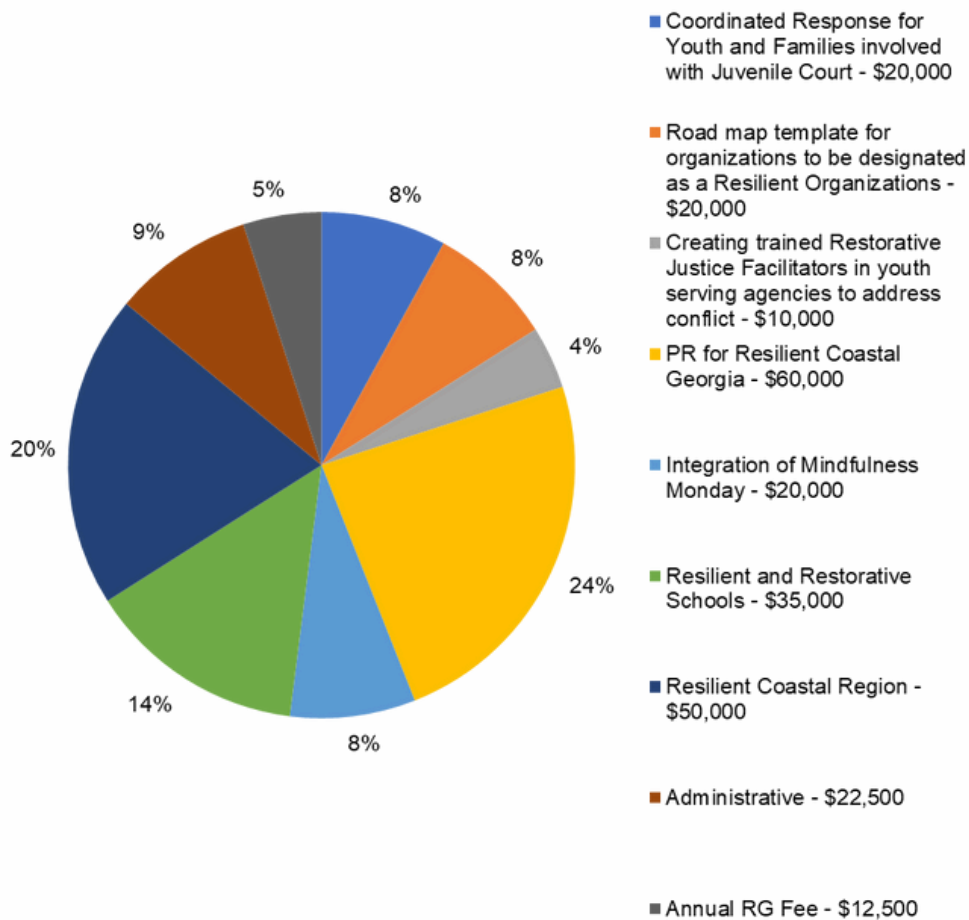
<https://fox28savannah.com/news/local/chatham-county-symposium-highlights-barbershops-as-mental-health-resource-hubs-awareness-green-chatham-county-symposium-georgia-southern-university-armstrong-campus-community-suicide-physical-african-american-community-may#>

Community Invited to Fall Open House at The Front Porch, a Community-based Risk Reduction Program

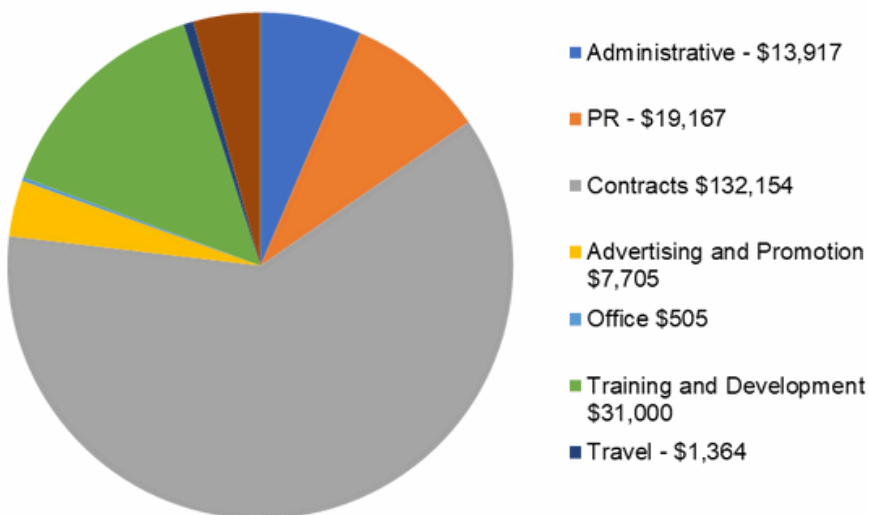
<https://www.instagram.com/p/DCCvOhoSb69/>

Income and Expenses/Financial

Year 5 Budget



Expenses to Date



Remaining Funds = \$35,011

\$617,025 - Funding Match

CCSNPC Safety & Resilience

- \$35,000 - City of Savannah
- \$30,000 Fundraisers
- \$100,00 - Chatham County Blueprint
- \$10,000 - Barclay-Giel Grant
- \$50,000 - State of Hope
- \$4,000 - State Contracts

Coastal GA Indicators Coalition

- \$50,000 - City of Savannah
- \$50,000 - Arthur Blank Foundation
- \$45,000 - CDC/YMCA - Healthy Sav
- \$7,500 - Gulfstream
- \$7,000 - St. Thomas Thrift Store
- \$24,000 - Deal Center

Loop it Up Savannah

- \$5,000 - Bank of America
- \$15,000 - City of Savannah
- \$10,000 - Chatham County Blueprint
- \$10,000 - Galvan Foundation
- \$5,000 - Gulfstream
- \$15,000 - Hodge Foundation
- \$2,500 - Reddick Foundation
- \$4,188 - Savannah High School
- \$6,000 - SCCPSS
- \$15,000 - United Way
- \$20,000 - VyStar
- \$9,835 - In-Kind

The Mediation Center

- \$20,000 - City of Savannah
- \$40,000 - Private Funding
- \$7,000 - Chatham County Blueprint
- \$20,000 - SCCPSS

