

- 1) Resilient Coastal Georgia is based in Savannah, Georgia and encompasses 14 counties in the Coastal Region of Georgia.
- 2) The name of the coalition is Resilient Coastal Georgia.
- **3)** Lizann Roberts, Executive Director, Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition Maureen McFadden, Behavioral Health Clinician

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Maureen McFadden: mcfaddenmaureen2@gmail.com

5) Description of ACEs prevention and trauma-informed awareness and care related efforts:

Based on the interest and commitment of individual organizations in the Coastal Georgia region to becoming trauma-informed providers, and our mission to facilitate this work across a large spectrum of our community, we have developed and are implementing a Collective Impact model for this work. A diverse set of stakeholders are serving on the initiative's Steering Committee and work groups.

In addition to the Steering Committee and the work groups, Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition (CGIC) serves as the "backbone organization" to support, coordinate and facilitate the work. This group includes paid and volunteer members from partner organizations and the community at large. A core planning group of direct service providers and community leaders advises the backbone organization on a continuing basis, as well as serving on various work groups to lend their expertise and experience with this work.

As indicated in the application and reporting for Years 3 and 4, we have developed five priority areas and organized work groups to plan strategies and tactics to achieve our goals in each. Providing the foundation for these activities is a comprehensive and robust training initiative to ensure that our partner organizations have a common understanding of ACEs and what it means to be trauma informed, both within their own organizations/programs and also throughout the community. While continuing the broad menu of programs currently offered, we are emphasizing the Community Resilience Model (CRM) and Connections Matter training for our participants and their staffs, as well as expanding the number of trainers to include more people of color.

Highlights of the trainings that have occurred year-to-date appear below administered by our initial partner organizations - the Chatham County Safety Net Planning Council, Gateway Community Service Board and Greenbrier Children's Center - as well as adding those from our more than eighty partners serving on the initiative's Steering Committee and work groups.



Mindful Self-Compassion (Gateway and Planning Council)

249 individuals have attended MSC sessions, including 1) MSC retreats for staff from the Homeless Authority, Juvenile Court, and Parent University; 2) awareness sessions for SCCPSS educators and administration staff, Union Mission/Phoenix House residents, and St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital nurses.



In this picture, workshop participants are holding their "here-and-now" stone, a simple tool that reminds them to pause, stay present, and cultivate self-compassion in the moment. Sometimes it's the little things that make a big difference.

ASIST – Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (Planning Council)
Offered monthly at Gateway's Behavioral Health Crisis Center, 75 individuals have been trained, including behavioral health providers, staff of youth-serving organizations, law enforcement, SCCPSS employees.

• In March, 15 individuals completed the 5-day ASIST Training for Trainers, including 6 people form Mercer University School of Medicine, 7 people from Gateway Community Service Board, 1 person from the Mediation Center of Coastal Empire, and 1 person from Front Porch Improv (ACTS Leader). Since then, Mercer University has made plans to implement ASIST for school faculty/leadership and medical students.



ASST T4T participants ready and able to bring ASIST workshops to their organizations and communities!



A.C.T.S. – Adolescents and Children Transforming Savannah/Trauma Drama (Planning Council)

This is an evidence-based improv-based intervention program for children and youth affected by ACEs and trauma that engages participants in cooperative play activities, improv techniques, and theatrical skits to promote opportunities for self-expression, cognitive flexibility, creative problem solving, conflict resolution, and enhanced sense of personal agency. To date, 69 youth have attended the 8-10 week programs in 3 schools (Shuman Elementary, Chatham Academy, Savannah High School) and 2 community centers (Crusaders and Eastside community centers).

In addition, Front Porch ACTS instructors completed all the train-the-trainer requirements and implemented their first ACTS Facilitator Training in April developing 14 new facilitators (in photo)



CRM - Community Resilience Model (Planning Council, Gateway, YMCA of Coastal GA and CGIC) The CRM focuses on building trauma-informed and resilient individuals and communities. 353 individuals from various community organizations completed CRM 1-, 3-, and 6-hour workshops, including 6 CRM "guides" trained. We now have 8 new CRM trainers including a Hispanic community volunteer to deliver CRM trainings and resources for the Spanish speaking community.

REALM - Resilience Enhancement and Leadership Model

REALM training focuses on skills building in the 3 realms of resilience: personal, interpersonal, and organizational. REALM is offered to the Savannah Police Department officers as their a part of their <u>annual 40 hour mandatory training</u>. To date, 107 SPD officers were trained in REALM. Plus, 25 participants trained in a virtual REALM workshop hosted by the United Way of Valdosta. Training recording here: https://youtu.be/r-Pt6ebZIdU.



The SPD REALM training receives favorable feedback from the officers teaching them practical skills in self-regulation, communication, and trust-building.



TSY - Trauma-Sensitive Yoga (Planning Council)

A total of 20 providers, yoga teachers and therapists, have been trained, in a TSY Facilitator Training in March. TSY has been offered in 9 schools, 3 community centers, Park Place Outreach (a youth homeless shelter), Juvenile Court, maternity home, SAFE shelter for women, Hospice Savannah, Lakeside Youth Crisis Stabilization Center, and Gateway Behavioral Health Crisis Center with over 200 classes offered with over 1,300 participants involved.



TSY Facilitator Training in April, 2023.





TSY in School

Connections Matter (Greenbriar Children's Center)

Working through a Community Transformation Grant with the Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL) 40 individuals have received the Connections Matter Training through Parent University.

As indicated for Years 3 and 4, we developed five priority areas and organized work groups to plan strategies and tactics to achieve our goals in each. Following is an update on each of these areas. In addition to these activities, training across the area is occurring with regular frequency and includes Mindful Self-Compassion, Trauma Sensitive Yoga, Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training, Trauma Drama, Connections Matter and the Community Resilience Model.





Collective Impact Framework

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



Work Group #1: A school-based collaborative model of a trauma-informed team

Work group #1 has had a productive and exciting school year, as we have continued to collaborate across the school system to build trauma-informed and resilient schools. Currently, school-wide Mindfulness programs are operating in five elementary schools with over (2,500 students involved). We have set up ten physical Mindfulness Zone spaces, eight in elementary schools, one at a middle school and one at an early learning school. Small group Mindfulness programs for students in need of additional support have been implemented in a total of seven Elementary schools throughout this school year. Out of the ten locations from the Mindfulness Zones for Early Learners pilot program, we are still working actively with eight locations. Throughout the 2022-2023 school year, we piloted an Elementary Resilient School Program in five elementary schools in the Savannah Chatham County Public School System. Each school developed a resilient school map incorporate holistic elements of social emotional learning into their weekly and daily schedules, Mindfulness Zones, a small group structure for students who would benefit from additional support, Handle with Care follow up, and widespread training for faculty and staff (CRM, Mindfulness Zone, and/or Connections Matter). Schools also made mental health and wellbeing resources available to families and parents. We made progress in developing resilient school resources for Middle and High Schools, including trauma sensitive yoga programming offered at two high schools and one middle school, and began exploring how physical mindfulness zone spaces can be most effective at the middle and high school level.

We have identified both community and school district based networks where a comprehensive collection of resources can be shared and accessed by any district school that wishes to become a Resilient School. We are looking forward to doing workshops over the summer with school leadership to share these resources as well as training opportunities.



Advocacy/policy/activism activities—The entire thrust of this group's work is to create resilient schools, i.e., schools that use collaboration, programming, policies, and training to equip staff, nurture students, and identify and respond to early signs of troubled behaviors. While beginning in the schools themselves, this approach will involve families of students as well. Schools in our pilot program and beyond implemented school wide schedule changes to include set times of the day and week for mindfulness and other social emotional learning activities.

Prevention/intervention services—The foundation of the pilot program, and all efforts in the schools, is to provide prevention tools to students to self-regulate behaviors and to respond helpfully and positively to students exhibiting frustration, stress, and behavioral issues. The student and teacher data we collect each semester exhibits that students are increasingly capable of identifying the feelings they are experiencing as well as communicating about their experiences. Students are also increasingly able to communicate about the coping skills that help them self-regulate and process the challenges in their life. (See data!)

The *Handle with Care* program has also been implemented as a preventive measure. *Research activities*—Although not organized as a formal research study, the group's evaluation plan will assess to what degree behaviors and behavioral markers (such as suspensions) are influenced through the resilient school roadmap. Comparisons to prior years, as well as, other like schools will be used as a baseline.

Training— Teachers and school staff in the pilot schools participated in Mindfulness and CRM training throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Between all training sessions conducted at the five pilot schools we have had 470 teachers and school staff participate in Mindfulness training and 230 participate in CRM training.

Policy, systems, and environmental change— Environment changes include physical Mindfulness zones in 10 schools, with more on the way, as well as the addition of school garden spaces which are also used for outdoor Mindfulness Zones. Policy and system changes have begun in the pilot schools, as well as some additional schools who expressed interest and requested resources throughout the 2022-2023 school year. This will includes school personnel participating in trainings as well as school culture, expectations and practices which guide how teachers approach both learning and discipline from a trauma-informed stance. We have a long waiting list of additional schools who are interested in accessing the training opportunities, resources, setting up Mindfulness Zone Spaces and becoming resilient schools. We plan to continue to expand on all levels as funding and capacity permit.

The implementation of Handle with Care continues gain momentum with 6 first responding agencies Chatham EMS, Chatham Co. Police, Garden City Police, Port Wentworth Police, Savannah Fire and Savannah Police who have signed MOU's with the public-school system to make referrals. We will continue to work with the remaining 4 law enforcement agencies for on-boarding. For the past 6 months, the Savannah Chatham County Public School system has received 70 Handle with Care Referrals.



We developed a Handle with Care QR code to go in a first responder's vehicle or on their laptop. In March and April, we visited 8 Savannah Police Department roll call meetings for patrol officers along with the Front Porch (Youth Diversion) and Behavioral Health Unit to inform and encourage officers to make referrals. We will engage the additional 5 first responder agencies in the next 6 months. *Handle with Care* program has also been implemented as a preventive measure.

Research activities—Although not organized as a formal research study, the group's evaluation plan will assess to what degree behaviors and behavioral markers (such as suspensions) are influenced through the resilient school roadmap. Comparisons to prior years, as well as, other like schools will be used as a baseline. See Appendix A

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Work Group #2: Development of a trauma-informed out-of-school network

This work group is comprised of organizations and providers who serve school-age children outside the confines of their school, e.g., churches, libraries, the YMCA and other recreational providers, Mediation Center, and others. Its goal is to develop an "informed village" of youth-facing organizations that are equipped with knowledge, tools, and resources to assist children and families experiencing trauma. This group focused on how to create a true trauma responsive culture within their respective organizations. The highlights of this plan include increasing the number of CRM trainers; enhancing toolkits by creating kits targeted to local Churches; and creating the capacity within the libraries and YMCA and other agencies to have facilitators trained in Restorative Justice Conferences.

Advocacy/policy/activism activities — The following agencies are now using Community Resiliency Model (CRM) Training as part of their onboarding of new staff. These agencies include Live Oak Libraries, Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire, and the YMCA of Coastal Georgia, and Gateway Community Service Board.



Prevention/intervention services — Several of the agencies within this workgroup are struggling with being trauma responsive while also maintaining a safe and orderly environment. The Mediation Center has provided training to staff from the libraries, YMCA, and Greenbriar Children's Center. This training is how to facilitate restorative justice conferences. These agencies will utilize trained staff to facilitate these conferences when serious infractions of the rules are violated by youth, adults or staff. Doing so will ensure a trauma informed response to the problematic behavior. It will also decrease having to ban or eject youth from participating in activities.

Research activities — None planned.

Training — CRM training has been provided to current staff of the agencies represented in this workgroup. Also, as previously mentioned they have not only incorporated this into their respective onboarding processes but four of the new CRM trainers come from this workgroup. This includes a youth pastor, a Spanish speaking community volunteer, and staff from the YMCA and Live Oak Libraries.

Policy, systems, and environmental change — Now that these agencies are requiring CRM training for new staff, they are working with them to make this a policy change within their organizations.

Work Group #3: Trauma-informed capacity-building across judicial and first responder systems

This work group is broad swath of judicial system and first responder participants. In addition to individual actions being advanced by their own organizations. This group focused on how to create a sustainable change and wanted to engage with the younger children, due to having an impact with children at an earlier age. To accomplish this the group decided to use the National Standard requirements of First Responders presentations to school children. The workgroup met with the Principal of the SCCPSS Henderson E. Formey School for Pre-K and kindergartners. The team decided to present to kindergarteners. The First Responders utilized the Savannah Chatham County Public School System 6 Pillars of Character which include Responsibility, Caring, Citizenship, Trustworthiness, Fairness, and Respect. Each of these pillars was paired with a First Responder i.e., Fire Fighters were paired with Responsibility and the Police with Trustworthiness. Then each of the skills from the CRM training was assigned to one of the pillars. Emergency Management Services (EMS) used the skill of gesturing from CRM to demonstrate how to care for yourself if you get scared when you see an ambulance or a family member in an ambulance. Presenters include a Juvenile Court Judge, Police, Fire Department, EMS and the Juvenile Court District Attorney. Each presenter was required to attend CRM training and include the CRM skill matched with their Character Pillar in their presentations.

Advocacy/policy/activism activities — The workgroup hosted a, "Touch the Truck" event at the Formey School. Kindergartners were able to walk through ambulances, fire trucks, and the police bearcat vehicle. They also interacted with the First Responders, receiving



stickers, bracelets, and lots of high fives. The young scholars had a great day, and created a positive kickoff to the upcoming presentations.

Research activities—None planned.

Training— Chatham County EMS received approval to require all new staff and current staff to receive CRM training. Chatham County Juvenile Court has also agreed to a policy change which will require all attorneys, staff, and CASA's who come before the Court to attend CRM training.

Policy, systems, and environmental change— The staff at Chatham County Juvenile Court are experiencing high rates of burnout, vicarious traumatization, and turnover. In order to provide them with a trauma informed environment, the Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition obtained donations of labor and items to turn one of the Courts offices into a Resiliency Room. The room is completed and will be a place for staff to take a moment to reflect and rejuvenate. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be held June 2023. Savannah's Neighborhood Safety and Engagement Office is working with the Savannah police chief to develop a Clergy Response Team for addressing those involved in and witnessing traumatic events involving police. Stephen's Ministry is the training offered to members of various Churches. The training is to prepare these individuals to respond to those in crisis. Asbury Methodist Church is providing this training. The expected start date is August 2023.

Work Group #4: Regional trauma-informed capacity building

The focus of this work is catalyzing trauma-informed capacity building in the 13 outlying counties. Future funding will be allocated toward the development of a Safe Place Initiative. Advocacy/policy/activism activities— Handle with Care (HWC) implementation. Prevention/intervention services— Activity for the past 6 months and planned for Summer/Fall 2023

Research activities— None planned.

Training— Activity for the past 6 months and planned for Summer/Fall 2023. *Policy, systems, and environmental change*— Handle with Care (HWC) implementation. And Safe Place implementation.

Bacon County Family Connection After a difficult time getting buy-in from the school system, one of three meetings with different school personnel finally yielded results. The school social worker has been given a full briefing on the program and agreed to act as the liaison with the school board and law enforcement to move implementation forward. Meetings with the Chief of Police and Sheriff, individually, will be scheduled before the end of the fiscal year – June 30. A meeting with all three parties will be scheduled prior to the beginning of the school year. Funds are being held in reserve to potentially defray any implementation costs.

Brantley County Family Connection Handle with Care is still in the coordinating phase. Family Connection has buy in from the Sheriff Len Davis, Police Chief Jonathan McMillan with the City of Hoboken and Police Chief Darin Jennings with the City of Nahunta with a



signed MOU. However, the school system has not had one HWC notification. Brantley Family Connection with the Board of Education have spoken to officers to see what we can do to help get this program going. Family Connection created a business card size sticker to go on their laptops to remind them to send the email while they are doing their paperwork. In July, a few weeks prior to school starting kickoff event with local law enforcement to try to re-engage them, explain what HWC is and why it is so important to our community. Brantley County is committed to move from the coordinating phase to full implementation.

Bryan County Family Connection Handle with care has been implemented in Bryan County since October 2022. To date there have been 10 notifications - 8 from Richmond Hill Police Department and 2 from Bryan County Sheriff's office. There are three law enforcement agencies in Bryan County. For some time, only one agency – RHPD- was dedicated to sending HWC referrals, despite all three signing the MOU. Leadership and administration changes occurred and HWC got lost in the shuffle with the other two agencies. The Family Connection Director met again with all three agencies to assist them with referrals including the Chief Deputy from the Bryan County Sheriff's Office. HWC "business cards" were printed for the law enforcement officers to have in their cars as a reminder and quick reference for the HWC contact information with the school system. The cards have been distributed to two agencies -BCSO and RHPD and will be distributed to PPD in May. The goal with these cards was to help keep the program in the forefront of the officer's minds when answering a call that involves children. The last few weeks, Bryan Family Connection started discussions with the Bryan County Fire and Emergency Services introducing HWC to their emergency personnel. Having the Family Connection Coordinator has been essential in the implementation of the program. As an objective party, who can bring all parties to the table to discuss the program, was the best way to introduce HWC in the community – leveraging relationships with the school system and all three law enforcement agencies, made things smooth in Bryan County. While still concerned about the number of referrals, we believe we will see an increase with the inclusion of the EMS and Fire Department.

Camden County Family Connection is still in the planning phase of implementing the HWC in Camden county.

Charlton County Family Connection have met with the Superintendent, as well as the Sheriff to discuss the program. Partners include Sherriff's Office, School System and Department of Family and Children Services. All parties are receptive.

Glynn County Family Connection have been working collectively with United Way/Glynn County to present Handle with Care to our school system who has expressed such an interest in the program. They have participated in training opportunities, and conferences to prepare for the roll out of the program during the 2022-2023 school term.



Effingham County Family Connection 50 Handle with Care notifications, 40 from the Sheriff's Office and 10 from the City of Rincon. Everything seems to be working very well with the current process. The main challenge in Effingham County is getting all municipalities on board. This is being addressed. Because of the success we have had in Effingham, Screven County Family Connection reached out and want to establish a HWC system.

McIntosh County Family Connection Handle with Care is still in a coordinating phase

Pierce County Family Connection met with school partners, and are still in the discussion phase.

Ware Children's Initiative (Family Connection Partnership) Handle with Care between October 1 and April 30, Ware County Schools reported 213 Handle with Care events. There are no problems with implementation. The next step is to work with the private schools and Head Start in Ware County.

Work Group #5: Development of a robust and consistent model of response across behavioral health providers

The goal of this group is to define, identify and help organizations measure what it means to be a trauma-informed organization, i.e., what are the explicit and implicit signals communicated to clients that let them know that it is a trauma-sensitive environment, and how all local providers can achieve this. Additionally, how can all providers participate in "warm hand-offs" across the network of providers, so that referrals are not dropped nor lost. Resilient Coastal Georgia (RCG) will focus on this more in the next 6 months.

Advocacy/policy/activism activities— N/A Prevention/intervention services— N/A Research activities— None at this time.

Training— Agencies participating in this work group will have attended either CRM or Connections Matter training.

Policy, systems, and environmental change— The successful outcomes of the work done in this group will be to create a level of accountability in provider agencies to engage youth and their families from a place of being trauma-informed and trauma-responsive. It will create criteria set of behaviors staff at these agencies will consistently demonstrate with those they serve. These behaviors will create systemic and environmental changes that will promote knowledge and trust of community resources and their abilities to successfully engage those most in need.

The following is an integrated timeline of the various activities already underway and planned for the remainder of the year.



Activity/Initiative	July	August	September	October	November	December
Building trauma-informed schools						
(WG #1)						
- Focused training- teachers/staff						
- Ongoing training						
- Implement the Elementary						
Resilient School Program						
- Expand Mindfulness Zones						
Developing out-of- school trauma- informed network (WG #2)						
- Test, and launch tool kits- with						
faith-based organization						
- Launch virtual tool kit(s)						
- "Cross-fertilize" trauma related						
programming across orgs. - Create facilitators within partner					-	-
agencies for Restorative Justice						
Conferences						
Build capacity across judicial						
and first responder systems (WG #3)						
- Develop key components of						
community awareness campaign						
- Implement these to coincide with						
the Mental Health Conference						
- Evaluate, and implement						
follow-up strategies						
- Develop and pilot QR code with trauma information with a single						
first responder system						
- Evaluate/improve/expand						
Build trauma-informed capacity across						
our region (WG #4)						
- Training of key leaders and						
stakeholders in outlying counties						
- Facilitate implementation of Handle						
with Care	-					
- Provide support to leaders in developing county-specific plans						
Consistent model of						
response among behavioral health						
providers (WG #5)						
Develop criteria						
Set training goals for participating						
organizations						
Develop accountability model and test						
- Launch (in fall 2023)						
Other activities						
- Continue training of partners						
-Develop messaging						
-Develop messaging -Launch Speakers' Bureau						



6) Are you engaged in any other efforts that do not fall into the categories listed above? If so, please describe these efforts, including key accomplishments to date, any concrete results (e.g., population reached, number of workshops, etc.), partnerships/collaborations involved and planned next steps, if any.

All activities have been described in the response to Question 5.

Familiar Faces: Chatham County was invited to be in a cohort of cities in the State of Georgia that are a part of the States Supporting Familiar Faces. Familiar Faces will involve a collaborative process between state and local actors and 18 months of intensive support from The Council of State Governments (CSG) Justice Center. Through this process, CSG is supporting selected communities in the state of Georgia to adopt policy changes that build local capacity to better serve this population by (1) using data to identify and better serve people with frequent system contact; (2) promoting the use of pre-arrest diversion for this population, and (3) building and scaling community-based behavioral health services, comprehensive crisis systems, and housing. This initiative, made possible through support from Arnold Ventures, is meant to cultivate and scale models of care that are person centered, culturally responsive, and center the perspectives of people with lived experience. Our local team includes: Chatham County administration, Chatham Public Defender, Chatham EMS, Savannah Police, Homeless Authority and Gateway Community Service Board.

TIGER - Trauma Informed Group Engaging Resources: During a Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition meeting a community partner with Memorial Hospital expressed feeling overwhelmed by the number of patients entering the hospital due to stabbings and gun violence. She went on to state a lack of resources for these patients was a major obstacle. RCG immediately scheduled a meeting with community partners to identify solutions. The following agencies attend these meetings which occur monthly:

- City of Savannah Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement
- Mediation Center of the Coastal Empire
- Memorial Hospital
- Asbury Methodist Church
- Staffing Agency
- Soldiers Against Violence
- Work Readiness Education Program

TIGER has already identified solutions to issues these patients face. One example is connecting staff from Memorial with LIFE which provides medical equipment such as wheelchairs, canes and other equipment. This is needed as many of these patients do not have insurance including Medicaid. Another solution came by identifying a staffing agency who can find jobs for individuals who have criminal backgrounds and lack transportation. Several of the patients have been able to obtain employment through this connection. This group is currently working on identifying how to obtain birth certificates, Social Security Numbers, and photos identifications for homeless young adults. Additionally, TIGER members want to focus on how to use abandoned properties that are owned by local Churches. To accomplish this goal each member of the TIGER team is slated to bring a Church leader to the May meeting to begin this conversation.



Love On The High: On the last day of November 2022, a caller reported an active shooter was in Savannah High School. Law Enforcement agencies responded immediately, and it was not until a hour had passed it was learned the report was a hoax. The students, staff, and parents of the youth as well as the First Responders thought this was real until word finally made it to them it was not. The trauma they experienced because of having to hide in their classrooms, barricade the doors, and come out when the police arrived was very real. When this occurred, RCG immediately scheduled a meeting with the Principal of Savannah High School and community partners to see what the school needed and how the community could help. A plan was quickly developed which included providing Social Emotional Learning Activities (SEL) to the scholars. Additional activities began in January 2023. The activities included weekly voga classes, weekly ACTS meetings which stands for Adolescents and Children Transforming Savannah, and bimonthly Real Talk sessions which utilized the Consequences of Actions Curriculum. Coping skills discussions were provided monthly to scholars and staff. The culmination of these SEL activities was a scholar planned event they called Love on the High. The purpose of this event was to celebrate the scholars and staff of Savannah High School and Early College High School which is a much smaller school located in the same building. Scholars from both schools worked with RCG and the school administrators to plan an afternoon of fun, food, and enjoyment. Community agencies and local Churches came together to provide the food, activities and to purchase T-Shirts for each scholar and staff member. The scholars designed the logo, printed the T-Shirts, and planned the activities. It was a great day for all who attended and included performances from the Marching Band, Drill Team, and JROTC. This event demonstrated to the scholars and staff they are important, they matter, and the community cares about them.

- 7) Are your coalition's efforts evidence-based? If so, please describe what evidence-based approaches/trauma-informed care models you are using? This social movement we are creating starts with offering the Community Resiliency Model training, an evidence-based method that focuses on teaching community members to help one another as a collective in their community. Connections Matter is another training being offered which is evidence informed. Building on the skills discussed in these trainings, we will move our community to becoming trauma informed and trauma responsive. Using a Collective Impact approach, we are building on what our partners already have and how we can use each entity's resources to create this change in thinking and behavior.
- 8) Please describe how you have used innovative technologies like telehealth, virtual trainings, or the ECHO model in your grant deliverables. How have these methods impacted engagement, accessibility, and/or utilization? Virtual Training has been a component in the rural coastal counties for CRM and for CRM teacher training.
- 9) Does your coalition have any county/city/state leadership buy-in? If so, please describe with whom (county/city/state leaders) and how you have engaged with them.

Yes, the development of REALM training was developed through relationship building with Savannah City Manager, Human Resources Director and Police Leadership. In addition, Chatham County Commissioner Helen Stone and State Senator Derek Mallow



have been briefed on Resilient Coastal Georgia and we have had in depth discussion regarding the ongoing need for prevention, intervention and treatment resources for mental health in our county and region. On Thursday, May 4, 2023, 1st District Chatham County Commissioner Helen Stone attended a Mental Health Summit hosted by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). During the summit, Commissioner Stone participated in a fireside chat on intergovernmental partnerships and strategies for addressing mental health. During the discussion Commissioner Stone provided an overview of the National Association of Counties (NACo) Commission on Mental Health and Wellbeing, which she was appointed to earlier this year, as well as the impact of recent Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) regulatory flexibility for the provision of healthcare services for incarcerated individuals. She also detailed innovation in behavioral health service delivery in Chatham County. May 9 - 11, 2023. Commissioner Stone will join the other 13 members of the NACo Commission on Mental Health and Wellbeing for a summit in Washington D.C. Mental and behavioral health are having greater impacts on our communities, workforce, and healthcare and judicial systems, and in turn, often drain a county's financial resources. Behavioral health is increasingly becoming a focus of city and county operations and community conversations.

10) Does your coalition have rural, urban and/or suburban components? Please describe which parts of your coalition are rural, urban, and/or suburban and how you engage with these different communities.

As stated in Question #5 – Work Group 4 we have engaged with 13 Family Connection Collaboratives in Region 12 in the implementation of Handle with Care and/or Community Resilience Model or Connections Matter Training.

11) Please list all partners, including organizations, individuals, their titles, and their email and/or phone numbers, that are actively engaged in your coalition. Please list according to the following categories:

All participants in the Steering Committee and work groups #1-4 are listed below. The Regional Community Collaborative members, who will be working on work group #5, are too numerous to list here.

Public:

Tahisha Wright, Principal, Juliette Gordon Lowe Elementary School, SCCPSS (tahisha.wright@sccpss.com)

Rita Harris, Director of Community Engagement, Live Oak Public Libraries (harrisr@liveoakpl.org)

John Bush, Director, Neighborhood Safety and Engagement, City of Savannah (john.bush@savannahga.gov)

Alisha Markle, Deputy Court Administrator, Chatham County,

(amarkle@chathamcounty.org)

Nick Roberts, Director, Recreation and Leisure Services, City of Savannah

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Maya Jinks, Educational Advocate, Chatham County Juvenile Court

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Lydia McCrary, Deputy Chief of EMS, Chatham County



(lmccrary@chathames.org)

Vira Salzburn, Program Director, Safety and Resiliency Programs, Chatham County Safety Net Planning

Council (virasalzburn@chlink.org)

Kimberly McQuire, School Counseling Coordinator, SCCPSS

(Kimberly.mcguire@sccps.com)

Tara Jennings, Strategic Planning Administrator, Chatham County Judge

(tgjennings@chathamcounty.org)

Lisa Goldwire Colbert, Superior Court Judge, Chatham County

(lgcolbert@chathamcounty.org)

Cpl. Julie Cavanuagh, Behavioral Health Unit Officer, Savannah Police Department

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Christina Gibson, Chronic Health Prevention Director, Coastal Health District

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Quentina Miller Fields, Director of Student Affairs, SCCPSS

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12) What is the total number of partners in your coalition?

As of May 5, 2023, we have the following numbers of individuals serving (there is some crossover among people who serve on both a work group and the Steering Committee): **Steering Committee** - 41 members

School-based collaborative model of a trauma-responsive team (work group #1) - 38 members

Out-of-school network that is trauma-informed (work group #2) - 28 members Trauma-informed implementation and capacity-building across judicial and first responder systems (work group #3) - 18 members

Regional trauma-informed capacity building (work group #4) - 13 counties in the region plus 1 regional manager

Robust and consistent model of response across providers (work group #5) - This work will be organized and implemented through the Regional Community Collaborative (RCC), comprised of approximately 100 individuals.

Total Approximate Unduplicated Individuals: 100, plus RCC members

13) How have your partnerships continued to grow and on which projects/initiatives?

Recently, RCG along with several community partners met with INKY Brittany a graphic recording artist who captures important work through her illustrations. In bringing this work to life RCG discovered out of the 55 Savannah Chatham County Public Schools, 53 of the schools had one of more of our RCG community partners working with the scholars and staff in a variety of ways. The illustration of this work was presented to Dr. Ann Levett, School Superintendent and Ms. Ball Oliver by RCG to highlight the work and discuss what we should focus on moving forward. Some of the next steps identified included providing CRM training at Coaches Clinics for all school coaches, partnering with the school systems Wellness Center and working to bring Restorative Justice Practices to teachers and counselors. The presentation helped to solidify and demonstrate the significant and critical role RCG and our community partners are representing in the school system.

14) How have you expanded your coalition's footprint to engage with partners meaningfully in adjacent counties, surrounding communities, and in rural components of your region?

We have engaged with Family Connection Collaborative in 13 rural counties in Region 12. The engagement has been four-fold: monthly Peer to Peer meetings, through the Regional Manager, Lisa Brewer, CGIC has participated in three Family Connection meetings to present Handle with Care and one to one meetings with Family Connection Directors. We



held a joint meeting on January 2, 2023 with Resilient Georgia partners – United Way in Glynn County and the Family Justice Center in Ware County regarding grant coordination and implementation.

15) How have you diversified your coalition?

a) How has your coalition included the following twelve sectors from Resilient Georgia's Trauma-Informed Training Roadmap: First Responders, Healthcare Providers, Faith-based, Juvenile Justice, Community Early Childhood and Education, Schools and Colleges, Youth-Serving Organizations, Public Health/Social Services/State Agencies, Parent and Caregivers, Youth and Business? Representatives from the twelve sectors in the Trauma-Informed Training Roadmap are included either in the initiative's Steering Committee, the work groups, or both. We are working to expand representatives from the formal area healthcare systems, business and youth.

b) How have you connected and partnered with the following organizations and agencies:

- i) Georgia Department of Family and Child Services Yes, the new Chatham County Director is engaged with us on two projects and has keen interest in CRM training for staff.
- ii) Georgia Department of Education No
- iii) Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning We are engaging with DECAL through the Community Transformation Grant with Greenbriar Children's Center. Greenbriar has received additional funding through DECAL to expand their trauma informed and resiliency building work with early care and learning providers.
- iv) Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities We are working with DBHDD through: The Regional Community Collaborative which meets monthly, as well as, the local implementation of HB 1013.
- v) Farm Bureau No
- vi) Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education No
- vii) Georgia Family Connection Partnerships Resilient Coastal Georgia is partnering with other Family Connections organizations outside Chatham County as the primary stakeholder to advise, collaborate, and implement strategies around resiliency in their own geographic areas. Thus far, this has involved working to implement the Handle with Care program across those counties and to identify training opportunities in organizations and the community-at-large. We are also encouraging our stakeholders whose organizations span multiple counties to implement programmatic offerings and training throughout these counties.
- viii) Chambers of Commerce Currently, we have engaged the President of the Black Chamber of Commerce for Savannah in our Steering Committee. We are working with a PR firm to develop a speakers' bureau that can visit with various civic groups to share the urgency around building resiliency and providing trauma-informed care across systems.
- ix) Community Service Boards At this time, Gateway Community Service Board is a key partner in the work, with several representatives serving in various leadership and staffing roles. As work spreads to counties outside Gateway's service area, Gateway will reach out



to the involved CSBs to facilitate that work.

16) What is the minimum age served by your ACEs/TIC related efforts? What is the maximum age served? Are parents/caregivers being served by your efforts?

The minimum age is 0, and the maximum age is twenty-six. Through our partnership with Parent University and the Mediation Center we are serving parents/caregivers. Additionally, we through the TIGER team we are also targeting young adults ages 18 to 26 who are homeless. We are involving parents and caregivers both directly and indirectly, directly through focus groups that probed what types of resources would be useful to them, and indirectly through organizations represented on our Steering Committee who serve parents, such as Parent University, Family Promise, and the like.

17) Please describe what populations specifically are served by this coalition's efforts and how you recruit/engage with each. Include numbers served if possible.

Work completed by partner agencies and the workgroups has served children and adults. It has targeted kindergartners, high school scholars, and scholars in 53 of the 55 Chatham County Public Schools. This includes SEL activities for Savannah High School, toolkits for adults and children (offered in Spanish and English) and presentations by First Responders. Other teams such as the TIGER team focused on homeless young adults. The details of the work with these populations is detailed in sections 5 and 6.

18) How have you ensured that your coalition's efforts are equitable, inclusive, and affirming to all?

Resilient Coastal Georgia is working to ensure that a racial equity lens is ever-present in our deliberations, action planning and in our media. To that end, the Steering Committee and all the work groups (except for #4, and two of the work groups have added individuals with lived experience as members, so that they can help formulate and critique strategies that will have resonance with their intended audiences.

Our current CRM trainers have been diversified in terms of race, ethnicity, and role within the community. We have 11 new CRM trainers – 1 Hispanic, 4 Black or African American, and 6 Caucasian. As stated we will expand our CRM training to include materials for Spanish speaking residents.

- 19) Please share how your coalition's JEDI strategy has informed your Year 3 strategy and activities.
- a) What is your coalition's JEDI commitment? How have your core values aligned with your JEDI commitment? Ten (10) members of our Steering Committee and Work Groups also serve on the Health, Criminal Justice and Education Committees of REAL Racial Equity And Leadership Task force seated by Mayor Van Johnson. The work of the Task force is informing the work of Resilient Coastal Georgia.

Members of our team joined City of Savannah staff as part of a National League of Cities (NLC) –The <u>Southern Cities Economic Inclusion (SCEI) initiative</u> is a partnership between National League of Cities (NLC), the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. NLC has launched the Southern Cities Economic Inclusion initiative to support cities in building their capacity to implement



economic inclusion strategies that close racial economic equity gaps through city-led strategies that expand economic opportunities for residents and businesses of color. As part of the SCEI initiative, 14 cities examine their JEDI policies and participate in two peer learning cohorts that deepen capacity and build leadership skills.

- **b)** How has your commitment been formalized into your strategic plan? Through the work of our diverse coalition JEDI is an integral part of our plans.
- c) How have you created an infrastructure that will sustain your commitment to JEDI? We have been purposeful with engagement of Steering Committee and Work Group selection. Our coalition demographics are: 60.3% Black/African American, 34.9% White, 2.4% Asian, 2.4% Hispanic.

What training have you provided to your coalition leadership and staff to prepare them for JEDI work? 100% of our leadership team have engaged in DEI training. We are working with the City of Savannah's DEI Officer, Takesha Brown (also a new CRM instructor) to co-design DEI training to be offered to partners and community in Fall 2023. Our Juvenile Court System offers implicit bias training. Please describe any data collection and reporting that has helped identify disparities. We use disaggregated data by race to inform our efforts (REAL Racial Equity Index and Disparities Index available on coastalgaindicators.org).

d) How have you responded to resistance, if any, to your coalition's JEDI commitment? At this time, we do not have any examples of resistance, likely because those serving on the Steering Committee and work groups either are representative of our diverse community and/or are keenly aware of the importance of equity, inclusion and diversity in their own organizations' work. However, if resistance is demonstrated by members of the coalition, we will identify solutions to working through or around the resistance, as the JEDI approach is what will keep this social movement credible.

A more likely point of potential resistance might be neighborhoods in our community that do not experience poverty and violence and may be unaware of the toll that ACEs takes on our children, youth, and young adults. Avenues for addressing this potential resistance in a pro-active fashion will include a speakers' bureau to address community and business organizations, as well as our community-focused outreach September with the annual mental health conference, and the Brake the Stigma car show.

- 20) How has your coalition positioned your work for long term sustainability? The coalition has been designed to rely on collaboration among existing organization and partners across the community. While grant funds are being used to jump-start several initiatives, there is a continuing emphasis on policy, program and operational strategies that are low cost or no cost. To date, in-kind contributions, of both time and material, have been substantial and are expected to continue. Beyond year 4 of the grant, a modicum of support for a limited backbone organization will be required, however, to continue the energy and focus we will need funding to supporting programming to bolster advocacy, policy, system and environmental changes.
- 21) How has your coalition affected change at the program, policy, systems, and



environmental levels? Please provide examples at each level. See response to Question 5.

- Please provide an updated evaluation plan and describe what performance measures are being assessed, what evaluation activities have been conducted, a timeline for these activities, any results already collected and how these results will be used to inform the coalition's ongoing efforts. How have you expanded and improved your evaluation metrics to assess the impact of your planned projects/initiatives? How have your evaluation metrics assessed the impact of your coalition's PSE and JEDI strategies? Please also include any lessons learned and **barriers experienced.** The evaluation plan developed to span years 3 and 4 of the grant is attached – Appendix A. This plan includes measures for the overall initiative; in addition, each of the work groups is developing its own set of metrics, such as the reach and impact of training of organizational staff, the reach and impact of training/education/outreach to individual children/young adults/families (through measures of self-sufficiency and agency), identification of particular "hot spots" in Handle with Care data, various data regarding diversions from the juvenile justice system, etc. The evaluation plan includes the impact of the effort on policies, systems, and the environment and also includes data collection (where feasible) that will include attributes of race, ethnicity and socio-economic status, to assess the coalition's reach related to JEDI.
- 23) Please provide an updated financial report that includes a description of: (1) how the grant funds have been used YTD vs projected amounts; (2) how the remaining funds will be used; and (3) an outline of matched funds (cash or in-kind) and their utilization YTD. Receipts are not needed. See Appendix D
- 24) Please identify the amount of funding you have received from alternate sources: Federal, State, Corporate, Alternate Private Foundation or Other? Please describe.
 - Federal
 - State \$50k
 - Corporate 10k
 - Government \$52k
 - Private Foundation \$28k
 - Local United Way \$8k
 - Donor Designated Fund \$50k
- 25) Does your coalition have any communications aimed at the public? (E.g., website, blog, newsletter, social media, public events, etc.) If so, please list all and describe. Website: www.resilientcoastalga.org, Touch the Truck event was picked up nationally in 42 markets from Savannah to Hawaii https://www.wtoc.com/2023/03/28/touch-truck-initiative-stops-savannah-school-get-kids-comfortable-with-first-responders/, Love on the High see Appendix E and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Z5i-PR68yY, RCG worked with a local PR firm to provide the public and media with information regarding our initiative.



- **26)** Have you identified successful elements to building a shared language in your region? Please explain. We have solid partnerships in place through RCG. We have print and television reports from media outlets. We have participation from a diverse coalition who continually identify how to address trauma from a place of building resilience including prevention, intervention and treatment.
- **27)** Please attach <u>all marketing materials</u> you are using for webinars, classes, movie screenings, trainings, etc., along with <u>participation at each event.</u>
 - Did you do anything in particular with marketing for events that were especially well attended? If so, please share so other regions can learn from your success. We work with a local PR firm and we work collectively to support partner events.

Forward Looking Questions

For Resilient Georgia's next grant cycle, one of the criteria will be that the regional coalitions continue to work towards sustainability and to bolster their work to create systemic change in similar and consistent ways for statewide issues. Answers to the following questions will help inform future grant applications.

- 1. Is your coalition interested in continuing formally with Resilient Georgia beyond Year 4? If so, what are your capacity building needs to manage current and future grant deliverables? Resilient Coastal Georgia is interested in continuing our work with Resilient Georgia. We are now seeing the momentum from our work groups and Steering Committee. The workgroups are more focused on sustainable change and thinking through ideas and solutions from this lens. The capacity building needs will be to address areas we have not been able to get to with all our other projects. This includes the ideas listed in the questions below.
- 2. Please describe what you would like your coalition's future strategic goals, priorities and focus areas to include? Workgroup 3 Judicial and First Responder would like to focus on the issue of bullying specifically the bullying of boys in grades 8th to 10th. This group would also like to focus on the issue of unresolved trauma in young adults which impacts them negatively in their ability to be successful as adults. This workgroup wants to start by focusing on EMS staff and then move to other First Responder groups. The Deputy Chief of Chatham County EMS has shared their concern about this population's ability to maintain employment. This is due to young adults experiencing trauma as children having parents with alcohol and substance use issues as well as domestic violence experiences. Having these ACES and then coupling it with seeing dead bodies, horrible tragedies, and other traumas they have to respond to leads to these



individuals developing poor coping skills. Our workgroup wants to develop systemic solutions to address these challenges.

- 3. What future partnerships would your coalition want to create or nourish, and on what projects/ initiatives? We would like to spend time working with our Coastal Child Advocacy Center and DFCS. After a brief meeting with the Executive Director, it is clear there is still a lack of education among parents/caregivers and teachers when it comes to managing trauma in our youth. Being able to spend more time creating a strategic and sustainable plan to address this gap is a great need in our community. Partner with Beauty Salons, Barber Shops, Hispanic community churches and other places that adults or groups frequent and have a heightened level of comfort. Improving the resiliency of the caregivers or therapeutic providers so they can continue this work. While successes are rewarding, at times they can take a long time to achieve and compassion fatigue is real. We lose a good deal of powerful providers this way.
- **4.** How will you expand and improve your evaluation metrics to assess the impact of your planned projects/initiatives? Have each sub-group meeting bi-monthly with the lead evaluator to refine the metrics.
- 5. How do you want to further diversify your coalition and ensure that your coalition's efforts are equitable, inclusive, and affirming to all? One way we want to start is through the Out of School Networks idea to focus on our Hispanic population as well as other minority groups. This workgroup wants to use models that work in other cities such as the English Center in Florida. Often people from other cultures in which English is a second language come to this country and due to language barriers feel isolated. The Out of School Network wants to identify ways to ensure these groups feel a sense of belonging. This work recently began when Parent University met with parents from a local Catholic School. The parents shared feeling like they are not a part of the community due to not being able to adequately speak English. The parents also felt disconnected in their ability to reach out to their children's teachers.
- 6. Have your coalition's ACEs Prevention and Trauma-Informed awareness and care related efforts produced any unintended consequences during the past 3.5 years? (Unintended consequences can be described as side-effects of a program or unforeseen damage/benefit done to intended beneficiaries, another relevant population segment, or the ecosystem¹) An unforeseen side effect is the partnerships of agencies who normally do not work together utilizing their collective impact to solve their respective problems and overcome barriers.
- 7. Of all the ACEs Prevention and Trauma-Informed awareness and care related efforts that your coalition has delivered since the beginning of this grant, which of these have proven to be effective programs that optimize for (some combination of) the following criteria¹? Please describe.
 - a. Sustainability (longevity)

¹ 'Strategic Approaches for Global Social Impact' impact framework developed by Shashi Buluswar



- b. Scalability (ability to increase number of individuals directly impacted by program)
- c. Replicability (for another relevant population segment or the same population segment in another geographic location)
- d. Catalytic Effect (inspiring additional investments in your coalition's efforts or new, parallel efforts in your communities)

Resilient Coastal Georgia has seen sustainability, replicability and catalytic effect as the most effective.

- Regarding sustainability, having so many organizations including the Savannah
 Police Department, Chatham County EMS, Chatham County Juvenile Court and many
 other community agencies make CRM training part of their onboarding process has
 been a great achievement, as well as, a requirement for panel attorneys. Having
 First Responders focus on the sustainable change of how they present themselves to
 scholars in the classroom is another example of sustainable work.
- CRM training is scaling across public and private systems.
- The Replicability of RCG's work is evidenced in the various coastal counties who are implementing Handle with Care in their communities. Juvenile Court is part of the Juvenile Detention Alternative (JDA) pilot program. This national initiative supports juvenile justice reform and practices trauma responsive care to addressing core behaviors through a healing lens. Mindfulness Zones can be scaled across the system.
- Finally, the catalytic effect has been evidenced by our ability to garner support from such a diverse group of partners and having them begin to work with each other organically to create solutions and utilize a trauma informed lens.