

Building Strong Brains: Tennessee's ACEs Initiative

Building Blocks for Infant Mental Health September 23 2016



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Building Strong Brains: Why Now?



- The future prosperity of Tennessee depends on building strong brain architecture in early years
- Investments in childhood can produce long-term improvements in the cognitive and social development of children
- ROI has crystalized—in a way and at a time—that makes it imperative to act.



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ACEs Initiative Mission



Building Strong Brains: Tennessee's ACEs Initiative works to change the culture of Tennessee so the state's overarching early childhood philosophy, policies, programs and practices utilize the latest brain science to prevent and mitigate the impact of adverse childhood experiences.



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Concurrent Developments on ACES



Three Branches Institute

- Initiated in August, 2012, to form common agenda to advance child welfare and juvenile justice
- Growing awareness of ACEs activities across Tennessee 2013/2014
- Call for Summit, July 2015
- Established ACEs as lead agenda, November, 2015

ACE Awareness Center

- Shelby County, 2014
- ACEs in Shelby County Survey, January 2015: *Getting To Our Roots: Transforming Our Community Through Families*
- Universal Parenting Places begun



- ACE Awareness Foundation established, 2015



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November 2016 Front Page News



Changing the culture on childhood trauma

Childhood trauma in Tennessee

More than half of Tennessee residents experienced childhood adversity; one in five experienced three or more adverse childhood moments.

Separation from a loved one	31%	Sexual abuse	12%
Violence between adults	19%	Neglect	33%
Exposure to marital issues	18%	Physical abuse	14%

Tennessee to ... efforts

ANITA WADHWA

More than half of Tennessee residents experienced childhood adversity, according to a new report from the Tennessee Department of Health. The report, released last week, found that one in five Tennessee residents experienced three or more adverse childhood moments.

First lady Crissy Haslam worked with Tennessee Department of Health Chief Anita Wadhwa, left, at a news conference. Tennessee Governor Haslam and Department of Health Secretary Commissioner Robert Hines are also present. (Photo by AP/Wide World)

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The Inception of Building Strong Brains— Key Factors



- Consensus that ACEs prevention and mitigation must be community-based and community-developed
- Proposal from FrameWorks Institute for Knowledge Mobilization advances this work
- Strong support from the Haslam Administration



Infrastructure Already in Place



- Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
- Department of Health focus on ACEs
- The Children's Cabinet co-chaired by the Governor and First Lady
- Increasingly Trauma-informed Service Systems



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Building Strong Brains Public Private Partnerships



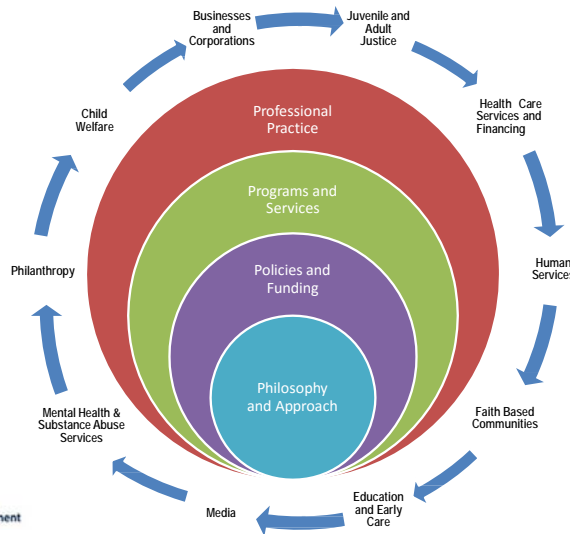
- Public Sector Steering Group
Balanced by
- Private Sector Steering Group
Supported by
- Foundations and In-kind Resources of Tennessee State Government



BSB Intentions: Transform the “4 Ps”

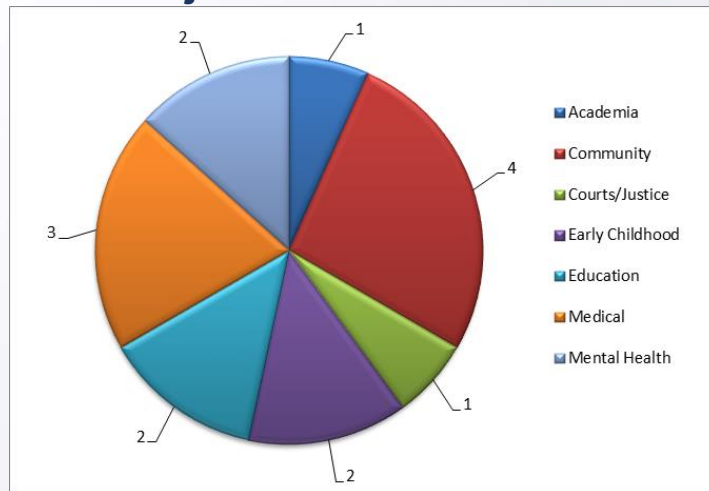
Adverse Childhood Experiences: Prevention, Mitigation, and Recovery
Anticipated Multi-Sector, Multi-Level, Public and Private Impacts

2-29-16



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Sectors Represented in FY17 ACEs Initiative Projects



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What Comes Next?



- Complete “Master Deck” for Brain Science, Communication Science and Trauma
- Administer 13 community-based proposals selected in response to the \$1.25M Announcement of Funds
- Implement statewide Train The Trainer model
- Implement strategies to engage affinity groups that are often difficult to reach
- Synchronize w/ “2G for Tennessee!”



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Effecting Policy— Influencing the Future



- Learn from newly funded ACE-related activities. Apply learnings to grow effective prevention and mitigation strategies
- Include provisions for ACEs prevention and trauma-informed services in health-related contracts
- Develop and promote finance models that demonstrate ROI for early childhood development
- Research policies, regulations and laws to find approaches to overcome obstacles to support, children, families and communities holistically



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Policy Areas to Watch



- Supportive of ACEs Prevention
 - Title IV-E
 - Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Services [Note: Reauthorization expires March 2017.]
 - TennCare policies permit maternal screening for depression and counseling for mothers in treatment
 - Two generation strategies to improve families' economic security—Housing, Nutrition, Mental Health, Substance Abuse



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Conclusion



With this Initiative, there is Confidence in Ability to Change
the Culture

from

What is wrong with you?

to

What happened to you?



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