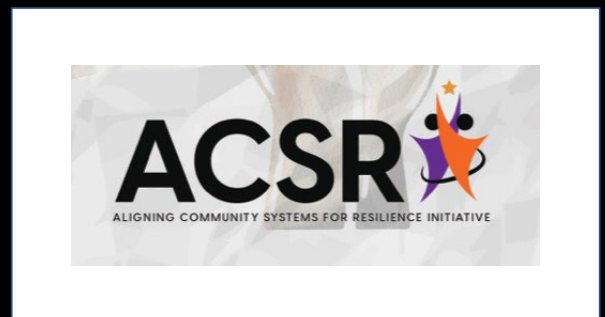


CLAYTONCOUNTY



**ALIGNING COMMUNITY SYSTEMS for
RESILIENCE INITIATIVE | ACSRI
Presented by GCAPP and CHS**

**Resilient Georgia Regional Coalition
Annual Report Outline 2024**



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About the Resilient Georgia Regional Coalitions

[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, and Waycross and the surrounding areas.
- In their third and fourth years of partnership with Resilient Georgia, coalitions have 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.

Coalition Mission

To catalyze and facilitate a multi-sector ACES prevention and response strategy in Clayton County that empowers and gives agency to children and families.

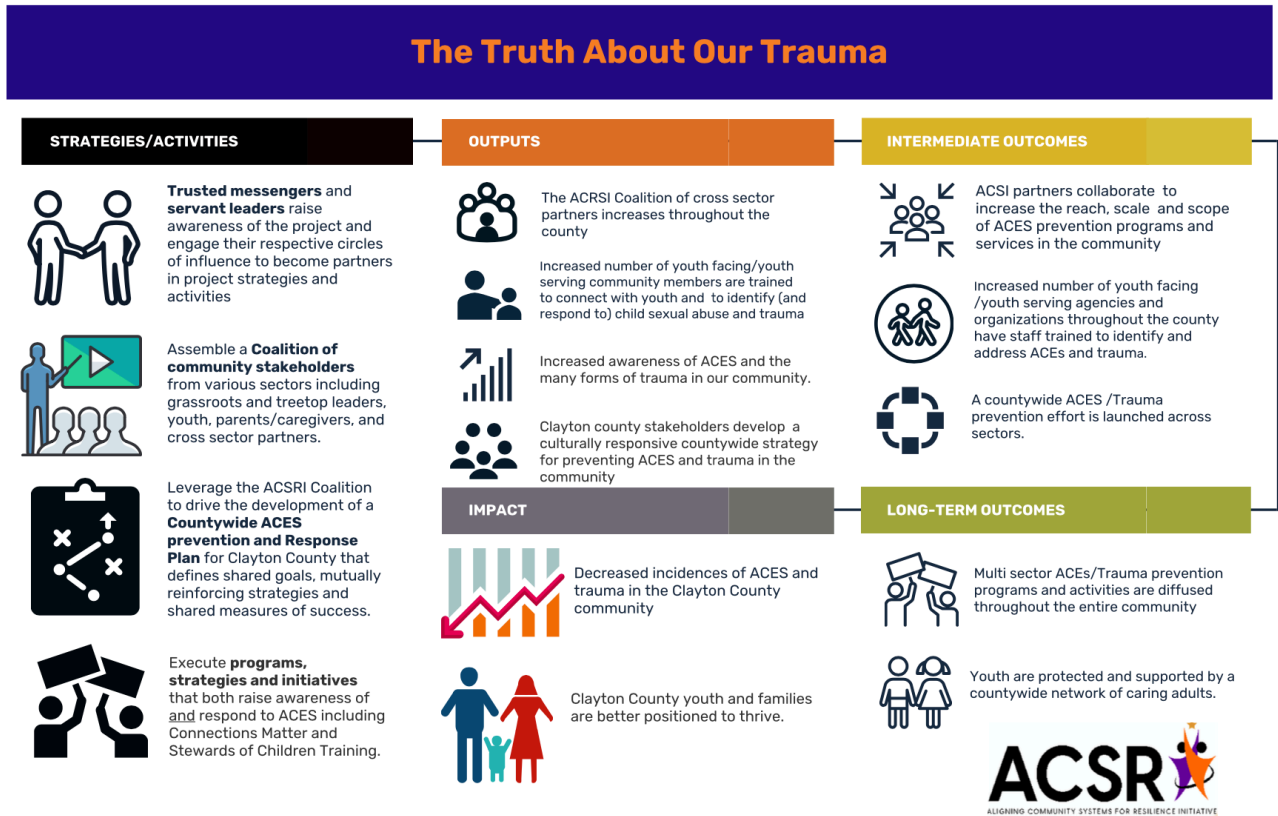
Summary

The evolution of ACSRI has been a process of exploration and discovery. Intentionality around curating safe spaces to have conversations that center around trauma and celebrate resilience has proven challenging at times. These same conversations have also been incredibly rewarding and often cathartic. In Clayton County, where ACES and trauma are so pervasive, we have found that opening the dialogue (even among leaders) has uncovered an intrinsic pain that has



been repressed and/or lied dormant...festering. Our Coalition and small group meetings often include tears. Some tears of sadness, others of relief and joy. The heightened awareness of ACES has resulted in a county wide resolve to develop and execute strategies to prevent childhood trauma while being “honest” about the intergenerational impact.

ALIGNING COMMUNITIES FOR RESILIENCE INITIATIVE (ACSRI)



Leadership Team and Contributors

ACSRI LEADERSHIP TEAM

Angel Young, GCAPP

Director of Community Based Initiatives

Shay Peoples, CHS

ACSRI Project Coordinator

Jevon Gibson, CHS

Senior Advisor

Danielle Smith, Clayton County Government

County Tax Commissioner



Pastor Michelle Clinkscales, Rock Church
Forest Park Ministerial Alliance

Contributors

Liz Rey, Educator

Clayton County Public Schools

Dawn Griffin, Parent Liaison

Mundy's Mill High School

Wande Okunoren-Meadows, Director

Heart Hand and Soul Project

Tamika Summers, Director

Georgia Counseling Center

Pastor Eric Thomas, President

Metro Atlanta Ministerial Alliance (MAMA)

Nachae' Jones, President Founder

Jonesy's Place

Sean Sprinkle, CHS

Youth Services Coordinator

Coalition Partners

Academic |

Dr. April C. Crawford, Deputy Superintendent

Clayton County Public Schools

Dawn Griffen, Parent Liaison

Mundy's Mill High School

Dr. Alicia Dunn, Director of Counseling Services & Post Secondary Readiness

Clayton County Public Schools

Liza Rey, Educator

Morrow Middle School

Almetta Wilson, Parent Liaison

Forest Park Middle School

Georgina Wilson, Research Associate II

GSU Georgia Health Policy Center

Community Organizations/Non Profits |

Wande Okunoren-Meadows, Director

Heart Hand and Soul Project

Dr. Deetra Poindexter, Director

Change for Hope

Nachae' Jones, President Founder

Jonesy's Place

Mahogany Hall, Counselor



Southern Crescent Sexual Assault
Demond Timberlake, Assistant Director of Community Organizing
Heart, Hand, and Soul Project
Wanda Miller, Counselor/Health Care Coordinator
Safe Queen

Youth Serving Organizations |

Sparkle Adams, Executive Director
Walking in Authority Teen Council
Coty Martin, Founder
Adversity University
Nicole Horne, Director
Clayton County Youth Commission

Early Childhood Education |

Calese Baker, Director
Little Ones Early Learning Center
Olivia Varnson, Operations Manager
Early Learning Property Management

Faith Based Partners |

Daryle Smith, Area Director
Fellowship for Christian Athletes
Pastor Michael Clinkscales, Senior Pastor
The Rock Church
Pastor Michelle Clinkscales, Senior Pastor
The Rock Church
Pastor Eric Thomas, Founder and President
Metro Atlanta Ministerial Alliance
Pastor Kenneth Paden, President
Forest Park Ministerial Alliance
Pastor Shequita Love-Pimptor
Forest Park Ministerial Alliance
Pastor Felecia Littlejohn, Founder
Ministry in Motion
Sequetta Ray Blackmon, Secretary
Metro Atlanta Ministerial Alliance

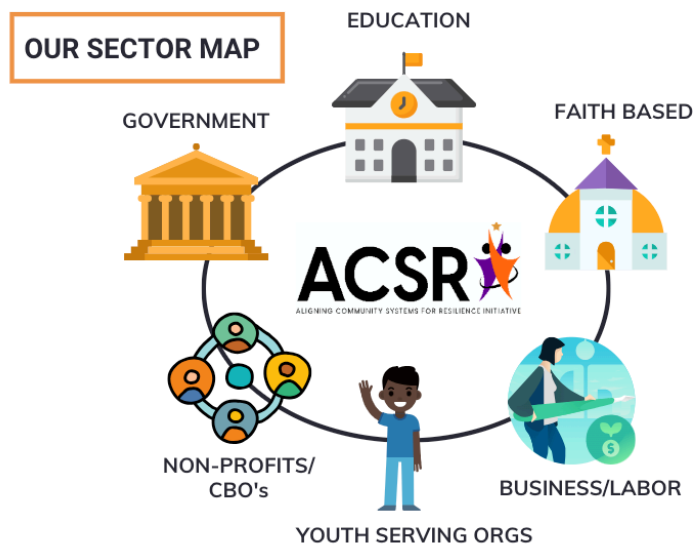
Juvenile Courts |



Judge Salvia Fox, Judge
Clayton County Juvenile Courts

Public Sector |

Deandre Crain, Grant Manager
Georgia Department of Health
Kevin Roberts, Chief of Police
Clayton County Police



Message from the Principal Investigator(s), and/or Coalition Leaders/Members

“With each conversation, each convening, each training, the impact of ACES and intergenerational trauma can be felt. What can also be felt, is the sense of relief that comes with understanding and the empathy that is birthed through shared experiences. These experiences lay the foundation for collective work and responsibility.”

-Jevon C. Gibson
ACSRI Senior Advisor



Key Impacts/Accomplishments

- The ACSRI project team secured the commitment of Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) as a partner in this work.
- Focus on educators and youth serving professionals has resulted in a ground swell of interest in training opportunities as well as a renewed interest in ACES and ACES prevention.
- 145 Teachers and youth development staff received ACES training and education
- Over 1700 parents and caregivers in Clayton County Public Schools received access awareness tools and information through the parent liaison network
- The ACSRI project team provided ACES and trauma awareness information to over 452 community members in various community settings
- The ACSRI Coalition has grown from 12 members to over 40 (including three project team members)
- 58 Community members participated in Healing Circles
- 31 educators and early childhood providers participated in Healing Circles



COALITION BUILDING

Our Coalition has grown from **12 members** to **over 40 members** representing **6 different sectors**



HEALING INITIATIVES

- 58 individuals participated in therapeutic Healing Circles
- 31 educators and early childhood providers participated in Healing Circles
- Over 500 community members participated in Art Therapy Sessions



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- ACSR project team members engaged over **452 community members** through community based events
- Sectors engaged include Education, Faith based Orgs, Local Government, Juvenile Courts, Law Enforcement, and Community Based orgs.



TRAINING & EDUCATION

- 145 Teachers and youth development staff received ACES training and education
- Over 1700 parents in Clayton County Public Schools received ACES awareness information through parent liaisons.
- 110 community members received Connections Matter Training





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

Over the course of this project year, the ACSRI project team focused our efforts on engaging the Clayton County Public School System (CCPS). More specifically, we saw the value in raising awareness of ACEs among educators and childcare providers as a vehicle for catalyzing a renewed interest in a countywide plan to prevent ACEs and childhood trauma. Our strategy had two distinct elements; 1) ACEs education for teachers and childcare providers; 2) Healing circles for the same population and the vulnerable youth they serve. Our work in this space indicated that individuals tasked with working with youth daily had either never known or, had forgotten the impact that childhood trauma has on the children they serve. In addition, there was a need to create safe spaces for educators and providers to explore their own lived experiences and how their own experiences affected how they protect and support children.

Prevention/Intervention

This project the ACSRI project team launched two prevention/intervention strategies. Although Coalition members had not clearly defined all the intervention strategies, there were two that we all agreed would have value in the community; 1) Healing Circles/Restorative Spaces for educators and early childcare providers and 2) Art Therapy for youth and community members. Project team members researched various types of Healing Circles and developed talking points and prompts for each group of participants. i.e. talking points and prompts for educators and childcare providers were different from the talking points for youth or the restorative justice talking points for healing circles with all Black males.

64 individuals participated in small group Healing Circles. We would later call the healing circles “restorative spaces” recognizing that the dialogue would often bring back feelings and emotions that went largely unaddressed while facilitating a “release and renewal.” The beauty in this experience was in the simplicity of it all. We created safe spaces for honest, non-judgmental dialogue and vulnerability. Our theory regarding Healing Spaces proved true in that all the educators/childcare providers made the connection between their personal lived experiences and (in some instances) personal trauma, and the importance of protecting and supporting children.

Art Therapy was a more of a non-traditional approach in a largely minority community. Coalition members felt that the use of art and crafts as a tool for creating a dialogue and facilitating healing was novel (for Clayton County). Our ACSRI project partners at Jonesy’s Place provided art therapy sessions to over 500 youth and community members. Participants used arts and crafts as vehicles of expression and were encouraged to use all mediums to express their feelings, both good and bad. Feedback from session facilitators and participants was extremely positive. Most participants had never had an experience like this and welcomed the opportunity to do it again.



Where Healing Begins:

HEALING CIRCLES



ART THERAPY





Advocacy and Policy, Systems and Environmental (PSE) Changes

The ACSRI Project Team began the work of advocating for an “ACES Training and Education Refresher” for all educators in the Clayton County Public School System. We use the term “refresher” primarily because many educators felt they knew about ACES prior to the training. Directly following the training, almost all spoke to value of being reminded of “the challenges that [our] students experience daily.” The ACSRI Project Team is advocating for the adoption of ACES refreshers for all educators as a policy agenda in the prevention plan and the move toward a trauma responsive community.

Research

ACSRI did not conduct research this project year.

Training

The ACSRI Project Team provided the ACES Refresher training and education to **145 teachers and youth development staff**. Trainings were provided in after school forums, during teacher professional development sessions throughout the school day, and after childcare facilities closed. The ACES refresher proved extremely impactful. A number of participants thanked team members for “reminding [me] of what my students are experiencing daily.” At one high school location, three teachers (on three separate occasions) reported that the conversation “triggered” or “moved” them to remember the need to address their own unresolved childhood trauma.

Our Team in action:





Innovative Partnerships

The ACSRI Project Team added a new member to the Coalition. Atlanta Tech Clayton Campus recently became an ACSRI partner. The Atlanta Tech Clayton Campus will begin serving as a site for ACES Training and Healing Circles for youth in the Dual Achievement Program (high school seniors taking college level courses). Dr. Keenard Weever, the Executive Director, acknowledges the intersection between trauma and youth achievement and is excited about the prospect of conducting Healing Circles with enrolled youth.



Inspired Action/Spotlight



In a Healing Circle for men and boys, this young man participated in a role play we call: "The long walk home." The role play relives (then reimagines) the Trayvon Martin story and discusses the pressures and challenges that black men and boys face daily. We explored feelings of fear, anxiety, frustration, and concern for ourselves and our loved ones. The majority of our participants were from single parent female headed households, so the presence of adult males was both needed and necessary.



**GCAPP and Community Health Systems
Aligning Community Systems for Resiliency Initiative
Actuals versus Budget: 4.1.23 to 3.31.24**

Expense Detail	Budget	Actuals	Surplus/Deficit
Salaries - staff time spent on project	30,000	18,162	11,838
Fringe @ 20%	7,500	8,931	(1,431)
Total Personnel	37,500	27,093	10,407
Project Consultant	105,000	140,000	(35,000)
5% Admin Fee	10,000	10,000	-
Marketing consultant	4,000	6,000	(2,000)
Total Contractual Services	119,000	156,000	(37,000)
Trainings and Facilitations	4,000	3,312	688
Program Supplies	4,000	273	3,727
Travel	-	792	(792)
Total Trainings and Meetings	8,000	4,378	3,622
Marketing - comprehensive awareness campaigns	10,000	700	9,300
Marketing collateral and distributions	2,500	0	2,500
Total Advertising and Marketing	12,500	700	11,800
Research and Technology Software	3,000	1,828	1,172
Total Technology	3,000	1,828	1,172
Fixed indirect cost allocation of 10%	20,000	20,000	-
Total Indirect Costs (fixed indirect cost allocation of 10%)	20,000	20,000	-
TOTAL	\$200,000	\$210,000	(10,000)

Budget Comments: GCAPP used \$10,000 carryover funds from Year 2. Staff completed Connected Matters, Healing Circles, and ACES trainings. CHS spent more than budget (\$140,000) in Year 3 due to more direct service and in-person meetings and staff capacity (Kick-off Coalition meetings, Healing Circles, etc.); however, they will spend less in Year 4 (\$70,000) to stay within the total budget of \$210,000. GCAPP expects to spend more on Marketing and Promotion and participant incentives in Year 4.



GCAPP Year 3 Match Funding Sources	
<u>Source</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Office of Population Affairs	\$105,000
GCAPP Staff Hours	\$30,000
Jesse Parker Williams Foundation	\$25,000
Zeist Foundation	\$25,000
James M. Cox Foundation	\$10,000
Imlay Foundation	\$5,000
Total	\$200,000