

Building a Common Language & Empowering Community Champions

Jill Vanderhoek

Executive Director

Community Partnership of Bibb County

Andrea S. Meyer Ph.D. LMFT

Associate Professor

Mercer University School of Medicine

Acknowledgments

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Pittulloch Foundation, Resilient Georgia, and Community Foundation of Central Georgia







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About the Resilient Georgia and Pittulloch Foundation Grants

In the fall of 2019, the Pittulloch Foundation and Resilient Georgia awarded two-year grants to four cities and the surrounding counties to provide a regional emphasis on trauma-informed awareness, 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 is a not-for-profit established to work with public and private partners to design a unified vision and to create an integrated statewide birth through a 26-year-old behavioral health system of care. Resilient Georgia serves as a supportive and guiding resource throughout each Regions' planning and implementation process.

Coalition Mission

The Resilient Middle Georgia (RMG) Project aims to build a common language and understanding of adversity, trauma, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) while also identifying and empowering community champions to join the trauma-informed care (TIC) movement. A key aspect of this project is empowering change from within the community while building a common language between stakeholders. Dr. Andrea Meyer, Ph.D. LMFT, and Mrs. Jill Vanderhoek, Executive Director for the Bibb Community Partnership, are the primary points of contact for the Resilient Middle Georgia Project.

Summary

The Resilient Middle Georgia Coalition is a trauma-informed, community-building organization, seeking to empower the cities and counties in the following counties: Macon-Bibb, Houston, Pulaski, Wilkinson, Putnam, Baldwin, Monroe, Jones, Crawford, Peach, Jasper, Washington, and Hancock. We partner with community organizations and agencies to help face our challenges with empathy and bravery, and in turn, to enact long-term change and build resilience in individuals, families, and our community. The Resilient Middle Georgia's One-Page Flyer details our six primary steps to build resilience.

To connect with our coalition's progress, please visit us on the following media pages:

www.resilientmiddlegaorgia.org www.facebook.com/resilientmiddlega Email us at resilientmiddlega@gmail.com

Resilient Middle Georgia-Page Flyer

Resilient Middle Georgia



Leadership Team and Contributors

Dr. Andrea Meyer Stinson, Ph.D. LMFTAssociate Professor Mercer University School of Medicine



Mrs. Jill Vanderhoek
Executive Director for Bibb Community Partnership



Ms. Darice CudjoeField Representative at the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center

Mr. Michael Kshatri MPH Summer Scholar at Mercer University School of Medicine

Mr. Zachary Mildren
Graduate Assistant at Mercer University School of Medicine

Coalition Partners

The Resilient Middle Georgia Coalition consists of 63 community members from diverse fields within the surrounding counties. The coalition has rural, urban, and suburban components through partnerships from the following sectors: private, public, academic, community organizations, non-profits, and hospitals. The emerging champions are community leaders that Resilient Middle Georgia has had extensive and specific conversations about moving this work forward in the community. Their level of commitment is emerging through helping to connect to organizational decision makers, becoming certified to train Connections Matter or working to create a specific programmatic focus within their organization. See <u>Appendix A</u> for the list of coalition members and emerging champions.

Message from the Principal Investigator(s)

As primary stewards of the Resilient Middle Georgia Project, Jill Vanderhoek and Dr. Andrea Meyer Stinson are proud of the accomplishments over the last year while also eager to continue this important work moving forward. In the middle Georgia community, we started with little awareness about adversity, trauma, and ACEs; however from the first coalition meeting last November it was clear that many community members and organizations were willing to engage in the conversation and committed to change. Our coalition meetings have helped us to connect and support one another in our passion towards building a more resilient community. We have encountered difficulties along the way, including reorganizing goals and objectives due to COVID19. Despite these challenges, we have harnessed the power of resilience and encouraged others to be aware of the importance of resilience, particularly during difficult times. We recognize the work of this project can be arduous, especially when different organizations and agencies struggle to come together and address how trauma is at the core of many adverse community environments. Moving forward we are empowered to advocate for a paradigm shift that must happen in order to improve the health and wellbeing of all individuals and families in our community.

Key Impacts/Accomplishments

Resilient Middle Georgia has successfully held four coalition meetings within middle Georgia, provided multiple training opportunities for approximately 700 individuals (including evidenced based training), conducted and evaluated our community needs assessment, disbursed 5,000 resilience bags to community partners, completed six media deliverables, and participated in a several partnerships (Middle Georgia Regional Library System, DFCS, Bibb County School System) to build awareness of trauma-informed care among community organizations. See Appendix B for a timeline of Resilient Middle Georgia's events and meetings for 2019-2020.

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

As mentioned in the six-month report, Resilient Middle Georgia has no age restriction on our TIC/ACEs related efforts. We are targeting a wide audience for primary prevention and education events. Our primary population is parents/guardians in the community. The goal remains to increase awareness and provide evidence-based training. We have not yet targeted children or adolescents, however as we begin to build relationships in the school



system, we hope for this training to occur in year two. We continue to establish our community champions to target education, training, and community events towards the most receptive organizations and agencies.

TIC/ACES Services – General

We held two virtual coalition meetings, in June and October, to continue to build awareness about trauma-informed care and resilience. At the end of May, we sent a <u>post-COVID-19 survey</u> to the coalition to gather feedback on how to best engage the community during this global pandemic. Specifically, evaluating what other organizations can offer to support the mission of RMG, received feedback on marketing materials, and determined the most effective communication strategies for connecting with rural communities in middle Georgia. The responses were discussed during the June coalition meeting with 38 coalition members in attendance.

The coalition sought to increase community engagement through the use of Neighborhood Checkin Notes and Resilience Bags (see photo above). These materials would help to build relationships, inform the community about building resilience and dealing with adversity, and direct people to the website for more information about Resilient Middle Georgia. The coalition distributed over 15,000 Neighborhood Check-in Notes and 5000 Resilience Bags to community members through local food drives, Family Connections Collaboratives, Back to School Events and more! In addition, participants strongly advocated and volunteered to support efforts to increase engagement from elected officials and policymakers on the mission of Resilient Middle Georgia.

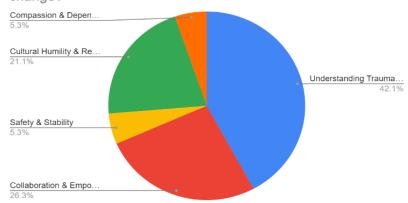
In October, 26 coalition members attended our virtual meeting to review the successes of the community engagement events and obtain information about upcoming training opportunities that will be mentioned later in this report. We shared Resilient Middle Georgia's media updates throughout the year. We also showcased our official website for coalition members to share with their networks to requesting training and for additional community members who would like to join the coalition.

Data-Driven Decisions at Coalition Meetings

The Resilient Middle Georgia leadership team also incorporated San Francisco's Department of Public Health (SFDPH) approach to building trauma-informed systems (TIS) in our methods for Middle Georgia. Participants present at the October 2020 coalition meeting also completed a <u>brief questionnaire</u> to identify which TIS principle to focus on and how to incorporate best practices in our daily lives. In the end, coalition members were encouraged to share their responses during the large group discussion and agreed to share their contact information with our graduate assistant, Zach Mildren, for follow-up on their progress.

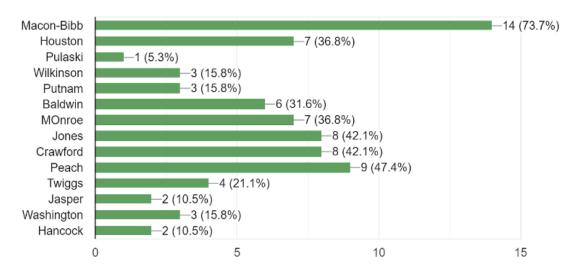
October 2020 Coalition Meeting Data

Which TIS principle will you be addressing with this one small change?



What counties do you serve? (check all that apply)

19 responses

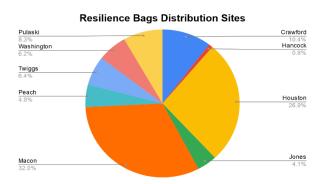


See below for examples of the next steps mentioned by coalition members during the October coalition meeting:

- "Identify new opportunities for community outreach to share trauma-informed resources with high need parts of the community"
- "Incorporate information about trauma and resilience into discussions with case managers and stakeholders (more specifically our Partnership meetings)."
- "Each attorney could delve deeper into the client's trauma and stresses that lead to their destructive behavior."
- "Listen more carefully to what is being said and what is not being said in order to better understand the needs of those we serve and those who we work with."

Prevention/Intervention

The Resilient Middle Georgia Coalition members advocated for building awareness within various community sectors. In response to the changing times due to COVID-19, we were able to respond to the need by offering resilience bags and bookmarks to community members and organizations across the region. Each bag contained Neighborhood Check-In Notes, art supplies for children, and



mindfulness articles for adults. Within the 5,000 bags distributed in each county, 400 bags distributed by Middle Georgia Community Action Agency which serves HeadStarts in Baldwin, Crawford, Peach, Monroe, Jones, Houston, Putnam, Twiggs, and Wilkinson Counties. The remaining bags were distributed through multiple organizations across several counties in sites such as school districts, child advocacy centers, social service agencies, and community non-profits. Nine hundred pads of 25 sticky notes called Neighborhood Check-In Notes were also distributed throughout the region. This campaign was to encourage people to maintain connections with their friends and neighbors during times of stress. See pie chart for a full distribution breakdown by county.



In collaboration with the Mercer University's Master of Family Therapy (MFT) Program, Resilient Middle Georgia participated in the Open Streets Macon events held on Sunday, October 18th, and Sunday, November 15th. Organized by Bike Walk Macon, Open Streets Macon is a car-free celebration of public space; bringing people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds together to walk, skate, bike, play, and re-imagine how we use our public streets. Events such as Open Streets Macon that focus on increasing access to public spaces is key to building connections in our community.

Students from the MFT Program, including our graduate assistant Zachary Mildren, hosted a booth that included resources on resilience, coping with stress, building family connections, and information for the Mercer Family Therapy Center in Macon. Families took part in the creation of a stress ball made from flour and balloons!



Middle Georgia Regional Library Halloween Event

In collaboration with the Mercer Master of Family Therapy Program, Resilient Middle Georgia participated in the drive-in Halloween event hosted by Middle Georgia Regional Library at Washington Library. Approximately 150 cars were given materials that included information about resilience, how to cope with stress, and how to build connections with children and family members during times of adversity. The participants also received information about the Mercer Family Therapy Center.

On the Table - Community Foundation of Central Georgia

Supported by the Community Foundation of Central Georgia and Knight Foundation, On the Table is a community-wide event that encourages people of diverse experiences to come together and have conversations about important topics in the community. The idea behind On the Table is to promote productive conversation that can lead to action in the community. This is the third year that On the Table has been organized in Macon-Bibb and the first year the event was offered in surrounding Central Georgia counties. Like all other events, On the Table had a much different

experience than its typical in-person table discussions as it transitions to a virtual platform. There were two tables specifically focused on trauma-informed/ resilience conversations:

- 1. Houston County Family Connection hosted "Resiliency- How do we move forward when we are being pushed back" on Wednesday, November 18.
- 2. Community Partnership-Bibb County Family Connection hosted "*Building Resilience in Macon*" on Tuesday, November 17.

Both tables were opportunities to discuss the Resilient Middle Georgia work addressing trauma, adversity, and resilience while working towards



building a common language of understanding. At the *Building Resilience in Macon* table, two participants were unfamiliar with the work of Resilient Middle Georgia but left the conversation with a better understanding and a commitment to learn more and engage in the coalition's work.

Media Deliverables

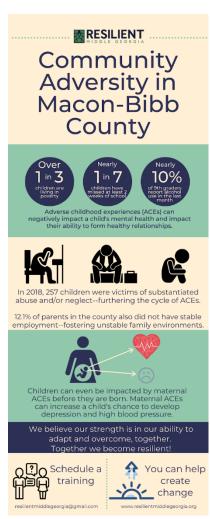
The mission and goals of Resilient Middle Georgia have been featured in the following articles:

- Family Partnership Story: https://gafcp.org/2020/08/20/resilient-middle-georgia/
- Family Partnership Blog: https://gafcp.org/2020/09/09/adverse-community-environments/
- Mercer Den Story: https://den.mercer.edu/how-understanding-trauma-can-help-communities-build-resilience/
- NBC41: https://41nbc.com/2020/09/08/organization-shares-tools-children-trauma/
- May 20th Mental Fitness for Resilience Campaign: https://www.pbs.org/video/resilient-georgia-mental-fitness-for-resilience-initiative-2cozlg/
- GPB Roundtable Discussion https://news.mercer.edu/musm-faculty-member-dr-andrea-meyer-stinson-participates-in-gpb-roundtable-discussion-supporting-mental-fitness-for-resilience-initiative/

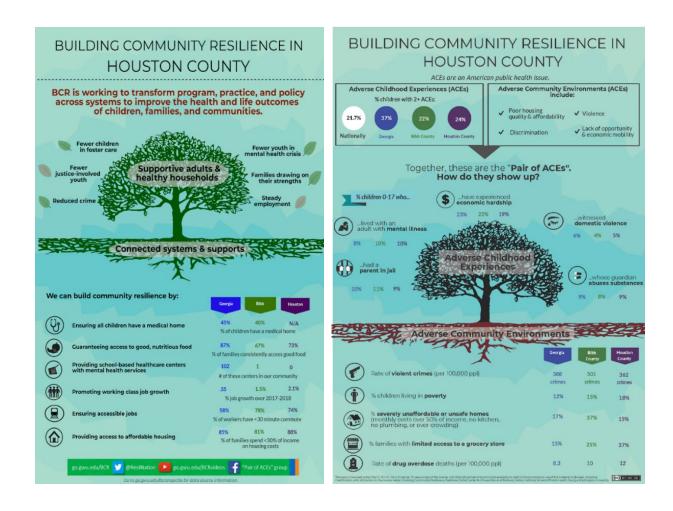
County Infographics

In an effort to adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic, we determined that a new method of reaching out and building awareness through prevention efforts could include individualized infographics for each of the 14 counties in our project. Michael Kshatri, the Mercer Summer Scholar, worked diligently to use primarily Kids Count Data to create these infographics (see picture). This information has been shared with coalition members for each county and is available for download through our website.

RMG continued to reflect upon our work as increased racial and ethnic injustices became an important part of the trauma conversation in middle Georgia. We reached out to the Building Community Resilience Collaborative, and specifically Dr. Wendy Ellis, to ask for guidance. This process is highlighted below in the *Spotlight* section of the report. Based on information from BCR, we decided to focus our outreach to include information about the "Pair of ACEs": Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and Adverse Community Environments (ACES). We developed an infographics specific to each county to represent local data and compare it with the state (see picture below). The templates for these infographics were gathered from the website for the BCR. The website additionally offered sources in which to find the county data to fill out the templates, including databases from the US Census Bureau, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, and the US Department of Agriculture's Food Environment Atlas. Some of the listed statistics could not be found at the county level, and therefore a formula and process for deriving synthetic estimates was also provided.



This process accounts for the demographic make-ups of both the state and counties in question, as well as how the rates at which the various ACE's afflict said demographics differ. The resulting infographics provide a comprehensive presentation of how each individual county's statistics compare to both the state and its neighboring counties.



Advocacy and Policy

We recognize the value of community leaders within the organization and have taken steps to

inform them about the concept of trauma-informed care. This top-down approach is meant to increase awareness about the aim of Resilient Middle Georgia. See below for the following meeting held with various community partners:

Meeting with Marc Whitfield & Andrea Cooke

On October 30th, Dr. Meyer Stinson



and Jill Vanderhoek met with Marc Whitfield and Andrea Cook; both individuals are respected community members who are part of the newly elected Mayor's transition team. We provided a 30-minute presentation about ACEs, adversity, trauma, and resilience. We followed with a discussion about Resilient Middle Georgia, identifying our goals and objectives and how they align with the transition team. Mr. Whitfield and Ms. Cooke both had a positive response to the meeting and offered to facilitate the next step towards meeting with the Mayor-elect and the whole transition team together. Building upon this relationship will help RMG to work towards larger systems and policy changes in the community and between stakeholders.

Meeting with Jamie Cassidy - Assistant Superintendent of Student Affair for Bibb County School District



On October 7th, Dr. Meyer Stinson, Jill Vanderhoek, and Zachary Mildren met with Mr. Jamie Cassidy with the Bibb County School System. We spoke in detail about the needs of the school system to acknowledge the high levels of adversity and trauma to the students, parents, and staff in the school system. RMG provided a brief summary of our goals and mission. We discussed possible ways to collaborate with Mr. Cassidy and the school system. Specifically, we talked about the CRM Trainings (for parents and teachers/staff) as well as the Handle with Care approach. Mr. Cassidy appeared to receive the information well and scheduled a follow-up meeting.

Meeting with Community Champions and Trauma-Informed Systems

On September 30th, Dr. Meyer Stinson, Jill Vanderhoek, and Zachary Mildren met with Poojah Mhatre from the San Francisco Department of Public Health. We were inspired by the work they do in "Trauma-Informed Systems"; we sought to better understand the model and discuss how it could be brought back to our project. The meeting was very helpful and informative. It

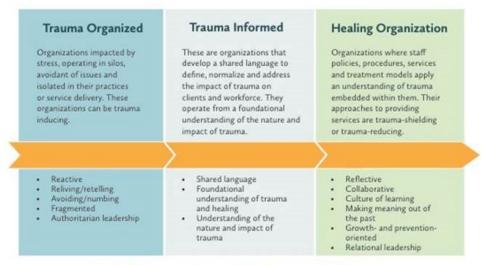


led to a commitment from RMG and Ms. Mhatre to provide TIS training for our community champion.

RMG invited our community champions and some coalition members to a meeting with TIS on November 10th. We had 17 attendees from a variety of agencies and organizations, see chart below for county representation:

Name	Organization (County Served)
Andrea Meyer Stinson Mercer University School of Medicine	
Variaio Wagatul	Navicent, Health Communities (Bibb, Baldwin,
Kerisia Wasztyl	Peach, Monroe, Houston, Crawford, Jones, Twiggs)
Christina Sikes	Houston County Department of Public Health
Christina Sikes	(Houston)
Jill Vanderhoek	Community Partnership Bibb County Family
Jiii vandemoek	Connection (Bibb)
Patty Gibbs	Family Counseling Center of Central Georgia (Bibb,
Tatty Globs	Houston & Jones)
Janet Cavin	Baldwin County Family Connection (Baldwin)
Nancy White	Macon Volunteer Clinic (Bibb)
Stacey Blankenbaker	SFDPH - TIS Speaker
Pooja Mhatre	SFDPH - TIS Speaker
Kathy Smith	Office of the Public Defender Macon Circuit (Bibb)
Elbert McQueen	Navicent, Senior Leadership team (Bibb, Baldwin,
Elbert WeQueen	Peach, Monroe, Houston, Crawford, Jones, Twiggs)
Tian Foss	Houston County Family Connection (Houston)
Stephanie Robinson	Georgia Department of Public Health (Atlanta area)
Jennifer Lautzenheiser	Middle Georgia Regional Library System (Bibb,
Jennifer Lautzenheiser	Crawford, Jones, Twiggs, Wilkinson)
Tajalyn Woodruff	District Attorney's Office (Bibb, Crawford, Peach)
Andrea Cooke	The Southern Center for Choice Theory (Bibb)
Tamika Fluker	Office of the Public Defender Macon Circuit (Bibb)
Katherine McLeod	First Choice Primary Care (FQHC) (Bibb, Houston)

Ms. Mhatre and Stacey Blankenbaker from the San Francisco Department of Public Health presented the TIS model and then discussed the next steps with our group. Interest in TIS was high and discussions are ongoing regarding how to build more awareness and investment in traumainformed systems in middle Georgia. RMG will meet again with TIS' partner organization, called Trauma Transformed, to investigate further options in training.



From Trauma-Inducing to Trauma-Reducing

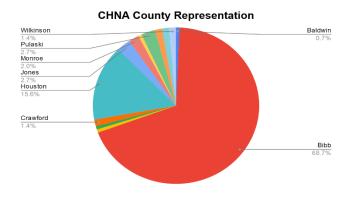
Meeting with Macon-Bibb County Mayor-Elect (Postponed)

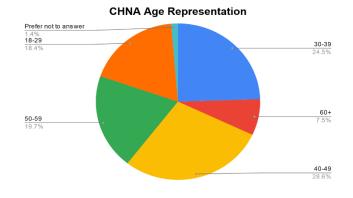
We had a meeting scheduled with Mayor-Elect Lester Miller on November 5th at 1:30 at Dr. Andrea Meyer Stinson's office; however, we had to postpone due to a possible COVID-19 exposure. We are in the process of confirming a new date to meet.

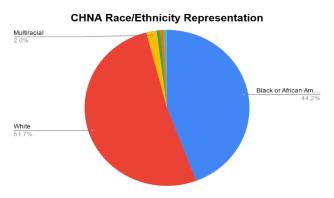
Research

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Survey

On July 7th, 2020, the Resilient Middle Georgia Leadership team met with Dr. Wendy Ellis, Director of the Center for Community Resilience at George Washington University to discuss the next steps and best practices for building a coalition within the community. She emphasized the importance of including the community's lived experiences for trauma-informed care practices. In response to her feedback, we developed and conducted a community needs assessment survey for participants to complete at the end of the following training events: Dr. Ross Greene Training, CRM Trainings. Although we collected a total of 206 responses were gathered from the survey, 148 responses were obtained from Resilient Middle Georgia counties. Demographics are shown below, see Appendix C for survey questions.



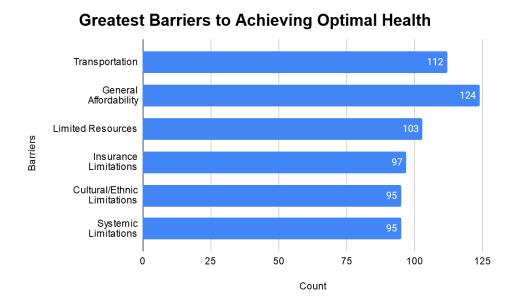




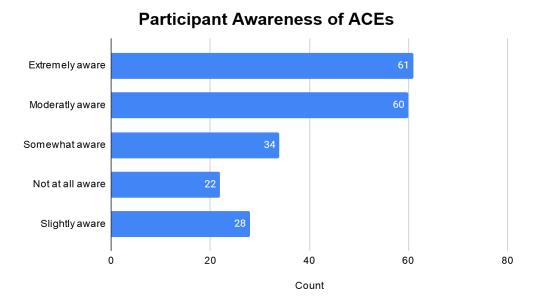
Additional survey questions were asked and evaluated below. Please note, the charts below reflect the responses of all 206 participants on the survey.

Include the list of counties that were mentioned in Sheet 1 on Aggregate Spreadsheet

1. In your opinion, which are the greatest barriers to achieving optimal health and wellness in your community? Select all that apply

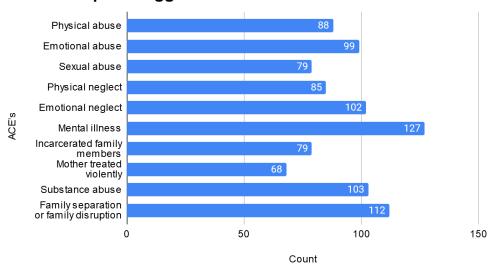


2. Please rate your awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)?



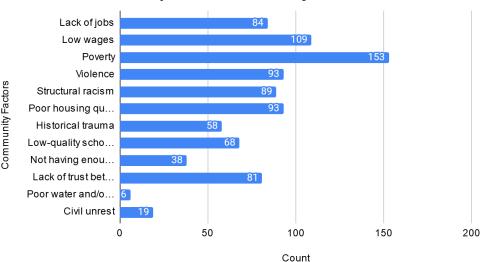
3. Of the following 10 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which should be addressed in your community first? Select all that apply.

Participant Suggested ACEs to be Addressed First



4. Which of the following community factors have the most impact on your community's well-being? Select all that apply.

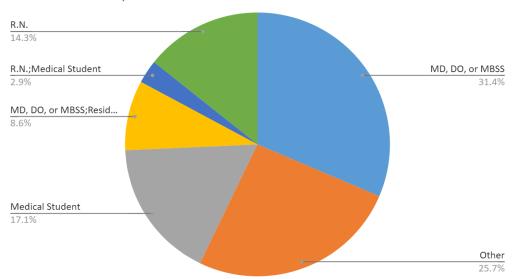
Most Impactful Community Factors



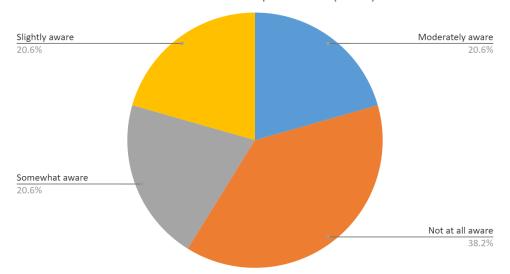
Poll Data for Pediatric Grant Rounds

More information regarding the Pediatric Grant Rounds will be discussed in the next section.

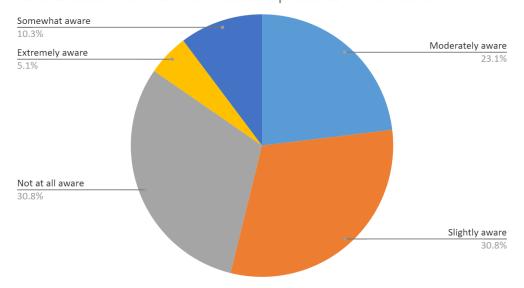
Status of Participants



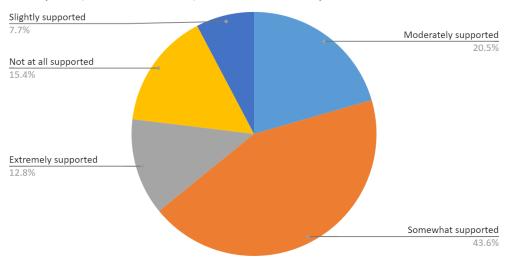
Awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) literature



Awareness of Trauma Informed Care practices in their field



To what degree is Trauma Informed Care supported by your workplace, administration, and/or leadership?



Training

Pediatric Grand Rounds

On May 21st Dr. Andrea Meyer Stinson presented at the Pediatric Grand Rounds for Navicent Health, the second largest Level 1 trauma hospital in Georgia. The presentation was entitled "Adverse Childhood Experiences: How Childhood Adversity Can Impact Health". Approximately <u>60 attendees</u> from a variety of medical and other health related professions were represented, including many school nurses for Bibb County. The participants were polled about various aspects of ACEs and Trauma Informed Care knowledge. Overall there was moderate awareness of ACEs and some support for TIC practices. The primary objectives of the training were to:

- Identify the primary goal and strategies of Resilient Middle Georgia
- Describe the ACEs research and list the ACEs from the original study
- Explain how ACEs are linked with health outcomes
- Summarize how adversity impacts Georgia and specific counties service by Navicent Health
- Identify the core elements of Trauma Informed Care

Foster Parent Training

Dr. Andrea Meyer Stinson was invited by a community champion, Angela Brown, to present at a foster parent monthly meeting on July 14th. The topic of the presentation was "The Impact of ACEs on Children". Dr. Meyer Stinson presented to <u>60 foster parents</u> who care for children in three counties: Bibb, Crawford, and Peach. The training introduced foster parents and case workers at DFCS to the ACEs literature, the connection between ACEs and mental health/physical health outcomes, as well as the Resilient Middle Georgia organizational goals. No evaluations or information about participants were collected from this event.

Elevate Retreat



Resilient Middle Georgia was invited to participate in a community event called Elevate Retreat on July 25th. Elevate Macon is a virtual experience where we provide a chance to breathe, connect and catch a smooth vibe, in addition to, curating a safe space to have conversations on various subjects such as: Trauma, Diversity, Entrepreneurship, and Resting as a professional. The Elevate Macon: Virtual Experience is free and open to the public online and in-person. This event was made possible by a collaboration of Community Foundation of Central Georgia's Conversation to Action Mini-Grants inspired from On the Table Macon 2019 conversations,

C-Qul, Hamtech Solutions, Macon Headspace, Resilient Middle Georgia, The Urban CEO and WordSmith LLC, the Tubman Museum and more.

According to the administrators of the event, approximately 100 community members participated in the event. The title of the event was "ACEs and Community"; information from the presentation focused on the basic information about ACEs and discussion of the "Pair of ACEs" which include adverse childhood experiences and adverse community environments. No evaluations or information about participants were collected from this event.



Dr. Ross Greene Training

On August 26, Resilient Middle Georgia hosted Dr. Ross Greene virtually for a daylong session called Collaborative & Proactive Solutions: Understanding and Helping Children with Social, Emotional and Behavioral Challenges. We worked closely with the Dr. Beverly Stewart, Director of Student Support Services at Bibb County School District to coordinate training that would help support school staff and teachers as they transition back to in-person school. Dr. Stewart also was appointed by Governor Brian Kemp and State Superintendent Richard Woods to sit on the K-12 Mental Health and Wellness Restart Working Group for Georgia. The training offered CEs for LMFT, LCSW, LPC, and GPA. Dr. Ross Greene is an accomplished child psychologist who has developed a research-based model for handling behaviorally challenging children. This model is called Collaborative & Proactive Solutions and focuses on solving problems rather than responding with punishment. As many students exhibit trauma responses through their behavior, Resilient Middle Georgia felt that it was necessary to provide training that gave staff and teachers information and a toolkit to help respond in a less trauma inducing response. The topics addressed in the training included:

- o Why are challenging kids challenging?
- o Identifying and assessing cognitive skills that are central to handling life's social, emotional, and behavioral challenges
- o Identifying lagging skills and unsolved problems
- o How trauma, environment and ACES affects skills

Dr. Stewart designated August 26 as a professional learning day for her staff to experience this training from Dr. Greene. There were 75 participants from Bibb County School District (BCSD). This training was also made available to the additional 13 counties within Resilient Middle Georgia. Overall, we had 254 participants in this training and collected 142 evaluations. It was challenging to find one date that would work for all the school districts in Middle Georgia due to the varying school start dates. RMG originally scheduled Dr. Greene for August 4; however, Bibb County pushed the first day of school back to September 8 so that delayed contract dates for staff and teachers. BCSD did not return to schools until August 6 so we had to adjust the training date for Dr. Greene to later in the month. This was a scheduling challenge with the smaller school districts in Middle Georgia because most of the 13 counties also included in the RMG footprint were able to start school at the beginning of August.



CRM Introductory Sessions

The Community Resiliency Model® (CRM) is a novel approach in trauma recovery and mental wellness that focuses on biologic and sensory-somatic techniques. A recent randomized controlled trial of CRM demonstrated improved well-being and reduced stress among nurses at risk for burnout. Because of its universal approach and ease-of-use, CRM skills are currently being taught in over 100 countries in a myriad of settings.

Building upon a new partnership with the Georgia Nurses Association, RMG offered three 1-hour Community Resiliency Model® Virtual Training introductory sessions on October 6, 7, and 8. Approximately **24 individuals attended** the event from Bibb, Houston, Jones, and Monroe counties in our catchment area. An addition **46 individuals**



<u>attended</u> from the following counties: Jackson, Fulton, DeKalb, Newton, Hampton, and Muscogee. The focus of the training was to provide a brief introduction to the stress response process and discuss small ways that individuals can move into a healthy window of stress response. Individuals who attended the 1-hour training were also sent follow-up emails in order to encourage attendance at the October 20th 3-hour CRM training.



CRM 3 Hour Session

partnership with Georgia Nurses Association, RMG hosted a 3-hour training on the Community Resiliency Model. Five attendees were present from Bibb County, along with two participants from Cobb and Coweta County, for a total of participants. The 3-hour Community Resiliency Model® Virtual Training will teach participants body-based self-care concepts and skills to recognize and develop resiliency resources from within to help them manage stress and trauma. Also, participants will have the opportunity to engage in small group practice sessions with a certified CRM teacher. Upon completion of the training, participants will be able to use the CRM skills for self-care, or for sharing one-on-one with patients, family, friends, and colleagues.

Connections Matter (Train the Trainer)

As part of the Resilient Middle Georgia goals, we aim to increase awareness and build a common language about adversity, ACEs, trauma, and resilience. In support of a sustainable change moving forward, RMG supported a



group of targeted community champions to complete the first Connections Matter "Train the Trainer" process. As a result of CM/TTT training, each individual can provide this evidenced based 3.5 hour training using an in-person or virtual format. In addition, the individuals can offer a shortened one hour version to target audiences (Connect Now). The members who received the training (see Appendix A for coalition partners list) represent a variety of RMG counties and stakeholders who will be able to expand the awareness and language from RMG over the next year. We will also be supporting each trained individual in their initial practice training and encouraging trainers to expand into rural and underserved areas of middle Georgia. See below for list of community members who received the training:

- 1. Dr. Andrea Meyer Stinson, Mercer University School of Medicine (Academic/Healthcare)
- 2. Jill Vanderhoek, Community Partnership-Bibb County Family Connection (Community)
- 3. Tian Foss, Houston County Family Connection (Community)
- 4. Joy Carr, Jones County Family Connection (Community)
- 5. Tajalyn Woodruff, School Justice Partnership Coordinator Macon-Bibb District Attorney's Office (Judicial/ Education)
- 6. Angela Brown, Department of Family and Children Services (Public Service Agency)
- 7. Kerisia Wasztyl, Navicent, Healthy Communities (Healthcare)

Other Training Provided

RMG offered scholarships to foster families to attend Dr. Ross Green's training on June 25th (3-hours) called *Collaborative and Proactive Solutions: Special Training for Parents*. Two sets of foster parents participated in this training.

One foster parent noted:

"The Collaborative and Proactive Solutions Guide definitely helped with providing questions and responses to gain a child's trust, attention and correct actions. Sometimes you're so frustrated or disappointed you don't know where to begin or what to say. We definitely didn't know about the Bill of Rights for Behavioral Challenged Kids. Knowing the problem is the key. You can't begin any type of process until you do. This outline can easily be used in Married Couples as well. My husband and I grew up pretty much the same with corporal punishment. This is something we discussed with each other before we had a child. We didn't want to do it the same way as our parents and their parents before them. We have tried different techniques and much more communication and punishments/restrictions. We see change within the process, it's not always immediate, but with continued cause and effect thinking we all get there together..."

Evaluation of Training

To view the evaluation data for each of the training, please click the links below or see <u>Appendix D.</u>

Innovative Partnerships

Resilient Middle Georgia consists of a diverse group of community leaders from various sectors of work. We partner with them to build a common language of understanding for adversity and to be equipped in assisting children who have experienced trauma. The image below demonstrates our partnerships in these fields and highlights the goals of becoming a resilient region.



Opportunities and Future Goals

Rural County Outreach Project

Another focus project of Resilient Middle Georgia has been making connections with the rural counties and communities in our area of Georgia. Agencies and organizations in rural areas tend to struggle far more with getting adequate funding, resources, and data to further their goals compared to their urban counterparts, they also have difficulties making connections with organizations in other counties. We've begun the process of reaching out by creating custom infographics outlining the statistics and prevalence of various ACE's in each county compared to Bibb County and the state of Georgia as a whole. We intend to distribute these graphics to both current and prospective coalition members in all 14 target counties, as well as offer to give a presentation on ACE's and trauma-informed systems to their respective organizations.

Additional Goals/Outreach Opportunities

- Child Abuse Prevention Month partner with local child advocacy centers
- Dr. Stan Sonu & Panel Virtual program focused on medical community
- Drive-In Movie Showing of *Resilience* (Community Awareness Events)
 - o Macon Centreplex Bibb County
 - o Robins Air Force Base Houston County
- Leadership Summit meet with the new mayor, sheriff, DA, and community champions
- Trauma-Informed Systems continue partnership with Trauma Transformed
- Connections Matter Trainings expand CM trainings to community using trainers
- The Deepest Well Book Project purchase books and begin community conversation
- Handle with Care Project work towards partnerships/trainings to adopt this program

Spotlight

As we focused on building knowledge and awareness about resilience over the last year, our organization was forced to take a step back and evaluate our overall goals and objectives. The simultaneous stressors of a pandemic and increasing racial/ethnic injustices across the county presented an important pivot point for our organization. We knew that we were not adequately addressing the environmental and historical aspects of trauma that impact our specific community, which include hundreds of years of racial and income inequality.

Based on this realization, we sought out knowledge and support from other organizations and experts who could help us reevaluate. We found immense assistance from the Building Community Resilience Collaborative. From the BCR website:

The Building Community Resilience (BCR) collaborative at the Redstone Center seeks to improve the health of children, families, and communities by fostering engagement between grassroots community services and public and private systems to develop a protective buffer against Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) occurring in Adverse Community Environments (ACEs) – the "Pair of ACEs." Connecting community organizations (through a church health ministry or trusted food pantry, for example) with

larger systems (including those in health care, education, business, law enforcement) can begin to build a durable network to improve community wellbeing.



The RMG leadership team reached out to Dr. Wendy Ellis, Assistant Professor in Global Health and the Director of the Center for Community Resilience at the Milken Institute School of Public Health at George Washington University, to schedule time together. On July 7th the RMG leadership team was able to meet with Dr. Ellis via a zoom meeting. We discussed her work with BRC and she asked us questions about RMG's goals and objectives. Dr. Ellis pointedly asked about how racial and income inequities in our community are part of our mission and overall project model. She discussed the connection between trauma, equity, and resilience. Dr. Ellis explored with the leadership team how to move towards building our coalition and continued training while increasingly acknowledging the "Pair of ACEs".

In addition, Dr. Ellis provided guidance on how to develop the questions for our Community Needs Assessments. Finally, Dr. Ellis pointed us towards the many resources available on the BCR website. The BCR approach, according to the website:

> Currently, no process exists to break the multi-generational chain and address the "Pair of ACEs." The BCR design is informed by research on child health care systems and also on barriers to addressing the root causes of community and childhood adversity.



Barriers to fostering resilience include a clinician's lack of training to screen for a patient's social needs that impact health, such as food insecurity, housing needs and financial burdens. Barriers also include a clinician's difficulty or inexperience connecting patients to community-based resources and agencies to address their social needs. Systemic barriers include the inability to share information across large systems – such as housing, health, education, juvenile justice and public safety – in efforts to collaborate and foster community resilience.

BCR employs a systematic approach based on four central components that are applied as a continuous improvement model: creating shared understanding of childhood and community adversity, assessing system readiness, developing cross-sector partnerships, and engaging families and residents in a collaborative response to prevent and address the Pair of ACEs.

Building Community Resilience: Process of Assessment, Readiness, Implementation & Sustainability Resilience System Capacity/ Capability · Narratives of the Community Policy Supports Shared State of Understanding Readiness Cross-Sector Community **Partners** Organizational How to Connect Linkages • Resource Distribution • Citizen Leadership . Community & Political Social Supports Attachment to Place Collaboration

Ellis, W., Dietz, W. (2017) A New Framework for Addressing Adverse Childhood and Community Experiences: The Building Community Resilience (BCR) Model. Academic Pediatrics. 17 (2017) pp. S86-S93. DOI information: 10.1016/j.acap.2016.12.011

As we reviewed the website for BCR, we found a number of <u>helpful resources</u> for coalition building (mapping assets, identifying potential partners), increasing awareness about the "Pair of ACEs", communication tools (such as infographic templates), and guides for addressing policy makers. The RMG team has utilized this information in several ways.

- To guide new conversations about the "Pair of ACEs" in coalition meetings and work with community champions
- To assist in our Rural Coalition Building Project
- To create updated infographics for each of the 14 counties based on the online template provided by BCR.



We chose to spotlight this information in our report because of the significance it has had on our RMG approach. We would encourage all grantees to review this information and would recommend that Resilient Georgia consider inviting Dr. Wendy Ellis to host a future training.

Income and Expenses/Financials

Funding Report

Resilient Middle Georgia has matched the Pittulloch Foundation grant with a diverse mix of community partner in-kind matches. The tables include the budget and projected in-kind matches for the original proposal and actual budget report. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Resilient Middle Georgia had to think the majority of its budget to adjust to the public health protocols.

Expenses related to community engagement activities, events, food, travel and rural area community were shifted to a marketing and outreach campaign and virtual training platforms. To date, Resilient Middle Georgia has spent \$67,082 on initiatives to build a common language and understanding of adversity, trauma, and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) while also identifying and empowering community champions to join the trauma-informed care (TIC) movement.

The remaining fund balance is \$32,918. We have included a budget for the expected planned expenses until December 31, 2020. The expenditures total \$30,990. These funds will include \$11,163 for an additional 2500 resilience bags with informational materials, foam putty and crayons. Our coalition partners have asked for additional bags to share within their communities.

Resilient Middle Georgia identified seven community leaders that were able to attend the Connections Matter Train the trainer certification in October. In order to equip our trainers for success in the virtual training session, \$5,800 has been budgeted for Zoom licenses for each trainer along with two training sessions with experienced Georgia Center for Child Advocacy Connections Matter trainers. Other items to be expensed are \$1,750 for a stipend for a Mercer University graduate student for project support along with a data evaluation support stipend. Lastly, there are two future community events we are working to organize. We are in conversation with Spectra, owner of Macon Coliseum, about hosting a free drive-in screening of Resilience paired with a community panel discussion. The estimate for this event is \$9,377. The other community event will be organized around Dr. Nadine Burke Harris's book *The Deepest Well: Healing the Long Term Effects of Childhood*. We have budgeted \$2,900 for the cost of securing at least 100 copies of the book for a larger community conversation. The remaining funds will be earmarked for requested community trainings based on sector needs.

When we begin this project in November of 2019, we anticipated working closely with many community partners in the 14 county footprint to provide in-person trainings and support existing community outreach with trauma informed education. However, because of the continuing COVID-19 pandemic the work Resilient Middle Georgia shifted from large in-person, community gatherings to virtual connections. From the original budget, the majority of the grant match was based on in-kind items of facilities, events and volunteer time. We were able to adjust the in-kind match as the work of Resilient Middle Georgia pivoted; however, there is a 10% variance in budgeted match vs. actual match.

<u>Appendices</u>

Appendix A: Resilient Middle Georgia Coalition Members

Emerging Champions

	First		
Last Name	Name	Organization	Organization Type
			Community/
Whitfield	Marc	Mayor-Elect Lester Miller transition team	Government
Mcleod	Katherine	First Choice Primary Care	Healthcare
Wasztyl	Kerisia	Healthy Communities Navicent	Hospital
Lautzenheizer	Jennifer	Middle Georgia Regional Library System	Library
Cooke	Andrea	Southern Center for Choice Theory	Non-profit
Collingsworth	Taryn	Communities in Schools Central Georgia	Non-profit
		Family Counseling Center of Central	
Gibbs	Patty	Georgia	Non-profit
Brown	Angela	DFCS	Public
Woodruff	Tajalyn	School Justice Partnership, DA's office	Public
Bloodworth	Maggie	Pulaski County Family Connection	Public
Carr	Joy	Jones County Family Connection	Public
Foss	Tian	Houston Family Connections	Public

Coalition Partners

Last Name	First Name	Organization	Organization Type
Benesh	Andrew	MUSM MFT	Academic
Cline	Susan	MUSM	Academic
Cudjoe	Darice	Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center	Academic
Dickinson	Bonny	MUSM	Academic
Hazlett	Rebekah	Middle GA State	Academic
Kamara	Paula	Mercer University	Academic
Laster	Rena	Central Georgia Technical College	Academic
Meyer Stinson	Andrea	MUSM MFT	Academic
Taylor	Erika	Mercer University	Academic
Puckett	Debra	Pulaski School District	Academic
Solomon	Angela	Bibb County School District	Academic

Stewart	Beverly	Bibb County School District	Academic
Mildren	Zachary	Mercer University	Academic
Bohnstedt	Mark	Middle GA Regional Library	Community
Lautzenheizer	Jennifer	Middle GA Regional Library	Community
Andrade	Maria	ABC Breathe	Community
Davis	Sheknita	Bibb Mt. Zion Baptist Church	Community
Granade	JD	First Baptist Church of Christ	Community
Butler	Angela		Community
Fabian	Liz	The Center for Collaborative Journalism at Mercer University	Community
Rowell	Edward	Bright from the Start DECAL	Community
Green	Sonya	Center for Collaboration Journalism (CCJ)	Community
Edwards	Tara		Community
Hill	Sharonda	Office of Congressman Sanford Bishop	Government
Sanderson	Kemberlie	Crescent House, Navicent	Healthcare
Gunter Johns	LeAnn	Hospice Care Options	Healthcare
Babcock	Carol	Navicent Health	Healthcare
Scott	Lawanda	Navicent Health	Healthcare
Cornelius	Felecia	First Choice Primary Care	Healthcare
Wasztyl	Kerisia	Healthy Communities Navicent	Healthcare
Williams	Johnny	Medical Center Navicent Health	Healthcare
Callins	Keisha	Community Healthcare Systems, Inc.	Healthcare
Upshaw	Missy	Navicent Health	Healthcare
White	Nancy	Macon Volunteer Clinic	Healthcare
Jones	Chevonnia	Navicent, Healthy Communities	Healthcare
Gordon	Shannon	RiverEdge	Healthcare
Cleveland	Nancy	Macon Headspace and One World Link	Non- Profit
Isom	Kayla	Griffith Family Foundation	Non- Profit
Sexton	Judy	Loaves and Fishes Ministry	Non- Profit
Vall	Emily Anne	Resilient Georgia	Non- Profit
Cissé	Gloria	Southern Center for Choice Theory	Non-profit
	Andrea	Southern Center for Choice Theory	Non-profit

Johansen	Susan	Crisis Line & Safe House of Central GA	Non-profit
Collinsworth	Taryn	Community in Schools of Central Georgia	Non-Profit
McLeod	Katherine	First Choice Primary Care	Non-profit
Hall	Ivey	Habitat for Humanity Macon	Non-profit
Gibbs	Patty	Family Counseling Center of Central Georgia	Non-profit
Woodford	Sundra	OneMacon/ United Way/ Bibb County School Board Member	Non-profit/ Academic
Gregory	Alicia	Reflections Psychotherapy	Private
D'Anthony	Harris		Private
Quinton	Kristin		Private
Ibekwe	Lisa	The Comfy Place, LLC	Private
Brown	Angela	DFCS	Public
Fluker	Tamika	Macon Public Defender Office	Public
Woodruff	Tajalyn	School Justice Partnership, DA's office	Public
Bloodworth	Maggie	Pulaski Family Connections	Public
Carr	Joy	Jones County Family Connection	Public
Foss	Tian	Houston Family Connections	Public
Toney	Lea	Twiggs Family Connections	Public
Johnson	Chsandra	Macon AIM	Public
Martin	Flo	Women's Interfaith Alliance	Public
McAfee	Allison	Washington County Family Connections	Public
Miller	Rhonda	Macon Housing Authority	Public
Resch	Lacey	Community Health Works	Public
Vanderhoek	Jill	Bibb Community Partnership – Family Connections	Public
Cohen	Jordann	River Edge Behavioral Health	Public
Combs	Tara	Program Director for Region 6	Public
Cavin	Janet	Baldwin County Family Connection	Public
Wright	Alicia	Macon-Bibb County Health Department	Public Health
Stewart	Brittney	North Center Health District DPH	Public Health
Johnson	Holly	North Center Health District DPH	Public Health
Sikes	Chris	Houston County Health Department DPH	Public Health
Young	LeKeisha	Macon-Bibb County Health Department	Public Health

Appendix B: Resilient Middle Georgia's Timeline of Events

Date	Event/Description	Attendees (if applicable)
November 19th, 2019	Kick-Off Coalition Meeting/Connections Matter Training	39
February 4th, 2020	Coalition Meeting #2	39
February 25th, 2020	Connections Matters for Faith Communities (Steve Collins – Adults Protecting Children)	16
March 6th, 2020	Secondary Traumatic Stress – Community Event	25
March 8th, 2020	International Women's Day at First Baptist Church of Christ (FBCX)	37
April 6th, 2020	Secondary Trauma GSU Child Welfare Collaborative Training at DFCS	Canceled due to COVID-19
April 8th, 2020	Child Abuse Prevention Symposium - Panel Discussion/Table for Training	Canceled due to COVID-19
April 13th, 2020	MUSM Event via Zoom with faculty, staff, and students	90
April 13th, 2020	Community Engagement Event Hosted by District Attorney	Canceled due to COVID-19
April 14th, 2020	Community Screening – Central GA Technical College (Macon)	Canceled due to COVID-19
April 21st, 2020	Community Screening – Central GA Technical College (Warner Robins)	Canceled due to COVID-19
April 29th, 2020	Child Abuse Prevention Month - Community Screening - Macon	Canceled due to COVID-19
May 21st, 2020	Dr. Meyer's Presents at Navicent Pediatric Grand Rounds	60
June 2nd, 2020	RMG Coalition Meeting #3 on Zoom	25
July 7th, 2020	Discussion with Dr. Wendy Ellis, Director of the Center for Community Resilience at George Washington University	RMG Leadership Team
July 14th, 2020	ACEs Training to Foster Parents (Bibb, Crawford, and Peach Counties)	60
July 25th, 2020	Elevate Conference (12 for ACEs & Community Breakout)	100
August 26th, 2020	Dr. Ross Greene Training	254

September 30th, 2020	Discussion with Poojah Mhatre from San Francisco Department of Public Health (SFDPH) on developing collaboratives and creating trauma-informed systems within communities	RMG Leadership Team
October 6th, 2020	Community Resiliency Model Introductory Training Session, Day 1	25
October 7th, 2020	Community Resiliency Model Introductory Training Session, Day 2	24
October 7th, 2020	Discussion with Jamie Cassidy, Assistant Superintendent of Student Affair for Bibb County School District	RMG Leadership Team
October 8th, 2020	Community Resiliency Model © Introductory Training Session, Day 3	21
October 13th, 2020	RMG Coalition Meeting #4 on Zoom	26
October 18th, 2020	Tabled for Open Streets Macon	
October 20th, 2020	Community Resiliency Model © 3-Hour Training, Day 1	14
October 22nd, 2020	Completed Connections Matter Train the Trainer	7
October 30th, 2020	Discussion with Marc Whitfield & Andrea Cooke	
November 6th, 2020	Dr. Meyer discusses Connections Matter Training with the Georgia Rural Health Innovation Center	
November 10th, 2020	Trauma-Informed Systems Meeting	18

Appendix C: Community Needs Assessment Survey

- 1. In your opinion, which are the greatest barriers to achieving optimal health and wellness in your community? Select all that apply
 - a. Transportation Barriers (no or limited access to transportation)
 - b. General Affordability of Care (unforeseen costs of care)
 - c. Limited Resources (lack of services or providers)
 - d. Insurance Limitations (lack of coverage based on insurance type)
 - e. Cultural/Ethnic Limitations (lack of providers who are culturally responsive/competent)
 - f. Systemic Limitations (inequalities or discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, income, etc.)
 - g. Other

2. What would help address/remove the barriers to health and wellness in your comm			

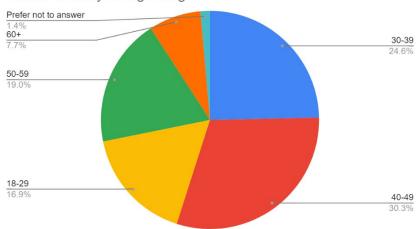
- 3. Please rate your awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)?
 - a. Not at all
 - b. Slightly aware
 - c. Somewhat aware
 - d. Moderately aware
 - e. Extremely aware
- 4. Of the following 10 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), which should be addressed in your community first? Select all that apply.
 - a. Physical Abuse
 - b. Emotional Abuse
 - c. Sexual Abuse
 - d. Physical Neglect
 - e. Emotional Neglect
 - f. Mental Illness
 - g. Incarcerated Family Member
 - h. Mother Treated Violently
 - i. Substance Abuse
 - j. Family Separation or Family Disruption

- 5. Which of the following community factors have the most impact on your community's well-being? Select all that apply.
 - a. Civil unrest
 - b. Historical racism/trauma (examples include oppression, slavery, forced migration)
 - c. Low-quality schools
 - d. Lack of jobs
 - e. Low wages
 - f. Poverty
 - g. Violence
 - h. Lack of trust between individuals and difficulty rising in social status
 - i. Structural racism
 - j. Poor water and/or air quality
 - k. Not having enough food or access to healthy food
 - 1. Poor housing quality and affordability
- 6. In the community in which you live, how would you describe the ease of accessing healthcare services?
 - a. Very difficult
 - b. Difficult
 - c. Neutral
 - d. Easy
 - e. Very easy

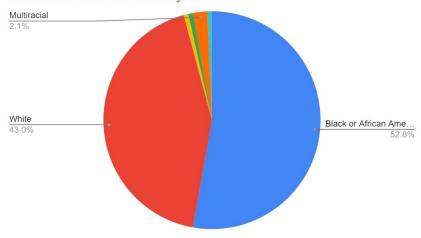
Appendix D: Evaluation Data from Training Events

Dr. Ross Greene Training Demographics Data

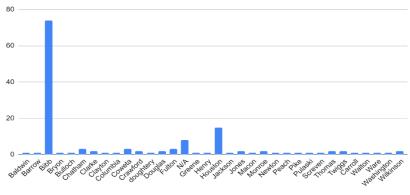
Please select your age range



What race best describes yourself?



If you're from Georgia, what county do you live in?

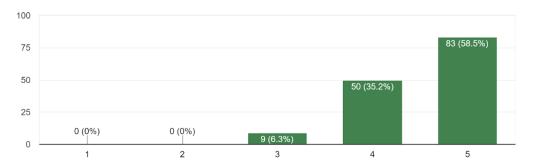


If you're from Georgia, what county do you live in?

Dr. Ross Greene Training Evaluation Data

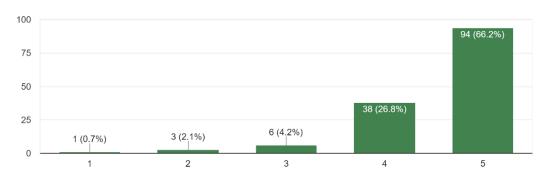
 $Content\ included\ recent\ studies/findings/literature\ on\ the\ topic.$

142 responses



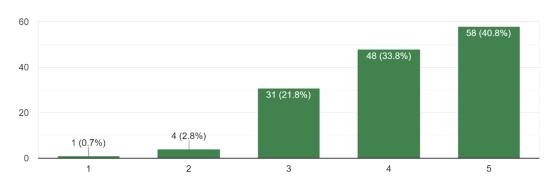
This presentation will be helpful to my family, job, or clinical practice.

142 responses



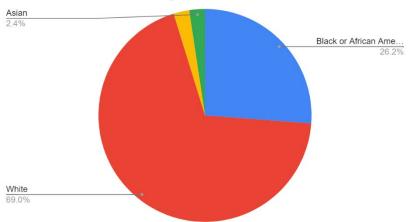
Cultural, racial, ethnic, socio-economic, gender, and sexual orientation differences were considered.

142 responses

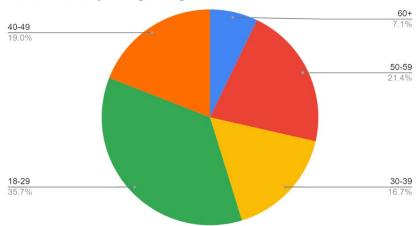


CRM 1 Hour Introductory Training Demographic Data

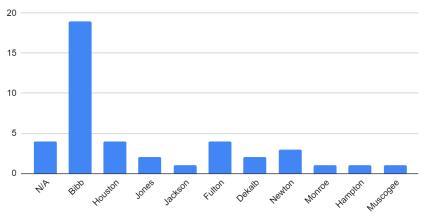




Please select your age range



What county do you live in?

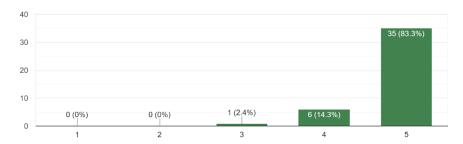


Count of What county do you live in?

CRM 1 Hour Introductory Trainings Evaluation Data

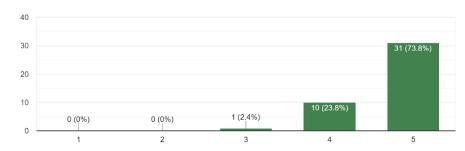
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42 responses



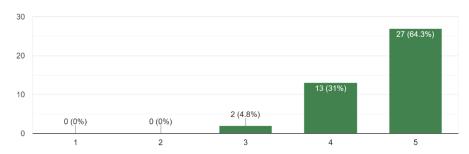
This presentation will be helpful to my family, job, or clinical practice.

42 responses



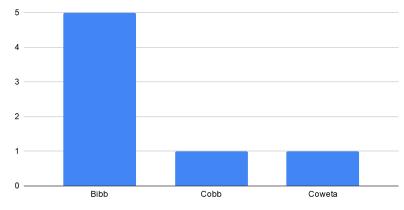
Cultural, racial, ethnic, socio-economic, gender, and sexual orientation differences were considered.

42 responses



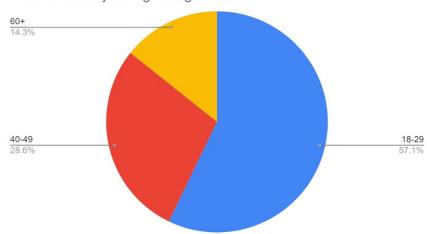
CRM 3 Hour Training Demographic Data



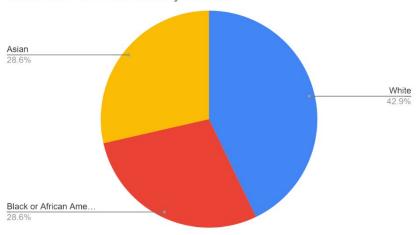


Count of What county do you live in?

Please select your age range

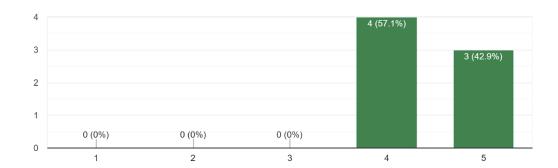


What race best describes yourself?

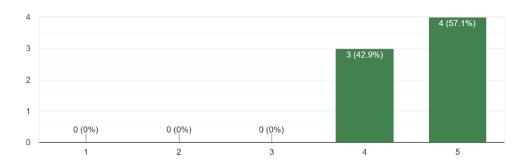


CRM 3 Hour Training Evaluation Data

Content included recent studies/findings/literature on the topic. $\ensuremath{\text{7}}\xspace$ responses



This presentation will be helpful to my family, job, or clinical practice. 7 responses



Cultural, racial, ethnic, socio-economic, gender, and sexual orientation differences were considered.

7 responses

