



# VIRGINIA'S TRAUMA-INFORMED COMMUNITY NETWORKS

## Cross-sector collaboration for a resilient Commonwealth

Throughout Virginia, there are more than 19 communities coming together across disciplines around trauma-informed care. Most often in Virginia these groups form as trauma-informed community networks (TICNs). Some of these are well established with regular meetings and leadership structures. Others are just beginning the conversations. In each of these communities, these networks share common characteristics: spreading awareness; conducting training; supporting and implementing new practices in schools, courts, and community services and much more. These TICNs help to connect practice across disciplines and help to identify gaps and how policies can be implemented. Family & Children's Trust Fund is committed to supporting a trauma-informed Virginia through system wide trauma-informed network grants and technical assistance.

### **Alexandria**

Alexandria's TICN is in an emerging stage. The Children and Youth Master Plan's new Healthy Minds Work Group is planning an event in May 2019 at which they will kick off Alexandria's new TICN. After the Alexandria TICN's official kick-off, they will begin the process of designing their TICN based on the needs and strengths of the Alexandria community. The City of Alexandria's Department of Community and Human Services serves as the TICN's backbone coordinator and is currently working to identify a diverse group of "trauma champions" from various systems who share a commitment towards the creation of a more trauma-informed and resilient community. To date, their email list has over 50 people from 30 different programs and organizations signed up to receive updates about the TICN.

### **Amherst County**

The Amherst County Trauma Informed Community Network was recently formed in January 2019. The Amherst TICN has established a core leadership and planning committee who have been meeting regularly and hosted their first Trauma Summit Kick-Off event on March 22nd, 2019.

Approximately 100 attendees from a diverse array of community sectors attended the summit, which included screening of the film Resilience as well as a discussion about ACES, collective impact and next steps for the Amherst community.

### **Campbell County**

The Campbell County Resilience group (CRN) has been meeting for one year to brainstorm and envision what a trauma-informed community would look like, and to articulate that vision. This emerging TICN group is in the stage of weighing strategic priorities and recently had a meeting with potential funders to establish how Campbell County community stakeholders can support their network. The CRN's next stage is educating and training the community on trauma, resilience and trauma-informed initiatives.

### **Greater Charlottesville**

Since summer 2016, the Greater Charlottesville Trauma-Informed Community Network (GCTICN) has engaged more than 800 people from 68 different organizations by hosting multiple presentations in the greater Charlottesville community that have raised awareness about the prevalence and impact of trauma. The GCTICN has developed a three-tiered approach that is helping create a trauma-informed system of care. In Tier 1, they raise awareness by holding monthly network meetings, and engaging the community with presentations, forums and trainings. Tier 2 provides in-depth training that includes "Train the Trainer", a year-long curriculum with Dr. Allison Jackson, equipping individuals to offer 60-minute, 90-minute, and 3-hour presentations in the community. In Tier 3, the GCTICN creates



Trauma Informed Leadership Teams (TILT) in up to four different systems/organizations. This ongoing process includes establishing TILT with Pediatric Associates, UVA Emergency Medicine, Ivy Creek School/Region Ten and the Albemarle/Charlottesville Regional Jail/OAR/Region Ten. **The GCTICN is supported in part by the Family and Children's Trust Fund of Virginia.**

## **Eastern Shore**

The Eastern Shore is creating a Resilient and Trauma-Informed Community by offering introductory and in-depth workshops to targeted sectors like health, social services, the courts, education, faith communities, business, and parents. Their vision is to ensure a network of resilience-based and trauma-informed employers, service providers and caretakers who are self-aware and practicing resilience and capable of identifying trauma signs in others. In their first year the Eastern Shore Resilient and Trauma-Informed Community provided multiple trainings including Intro to Trauma, ACE Interface, and Train the Trainer. These efforts are a collaboration of two community coalitions: Community Partners of the Eastern Shore and Eastern Shore Healthy Communities, who share a common backbone, agency and Eastern Shore Community Services Board. Ongoing group support is also offered to these organizations. Funding is from the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Rural Health.

## **Fairfax County**

The Fairfax County Trauma-Informed Community Network is a multi-disciplinary, multi-agency effort to implement and support trauma-informed care initiatives across the Education, Health, Housing and Human Services System. The Fairfax County TICN was founded in 2015, and currently has over 200 members. Backbone support for the TICN is provided by the Prevention Unit of Fairfax County's Department of Neighborhood & Community Services. The larger network meets six times a year, and has coordinated over one hundred Basic Trauma Awareness/Trauma 101 trainings to date. In addition, it has offered a menu of other trainings focused on trauma-informed supervision, secondary-traumatic-stress and self-care, as well as various film screenings of documentaries such as Paper Tigers and Resilience. The Fairfax TICN has several subgroups, all in early stages of coalescing and defining their goals. Subgroups include the Integrated Health Collaborative, the Trauma

Sensitive Schools Team, and the Trauma-Informed Housing & Homeless Services Coalition.

## **Hampton Roads**

The Hampton Roads Trauma Informed Care Network (HRTICN) is committed to increasing awareness of traumatic stress; addressing the impacts of all types of adverse experiences in Hampton Roads; facilitating the adoption of trauma informed policies and practices across sectors; and developing a cross-sector collaborative to create a trauma-responsive community. HRTICN's work is carried out by a six-member volunteer steering committee representing diverse sectors. The committee meets monthly to assess goals and plan next steps. The network receives support from the United Way of South Hampton Roads by way of staff time and space on their Community Resources web page. HRTICN has hosted several events to educate the community on trauma-informed care including an Open House, a screening of Resilience, and a two-day "Train the Trainer" workshop. HRTICN's next steps are to provide community trainings on trauma and resiliency as well as grow their membership and find funding to continue their efforts.

## **Harrisonburg-Rockingham**

The Harrisonburg-Rockingham Community Resilience Network is comprised of representatives from the Department of Social Services, Harrisonburg City and Rockingham County Schools, The Collins Center, the local Church World Service Office of Refugee Resettlement, the Community Services Board, the Harrisonburg Police Department, the Technical Training and Assistance Program at James Madison University and the Harrisonburg Center for Relational Health. Since the TICN's inception two years ago, the network has held several community-wide education and networking events, which have included guest speakers, showings of the film Resilience, and opportunities for connection with professionals and community members.

## **Loudoun**

The Loudoun County Trauma-Informed Community Network (LC TICN) was introduced by SCAN of Northern Virginia in August of 2018 at a day-long trauma training event that was held in Loudoun County for human services, child welfare and child serving professionals. Starting in September the LC TICN has been meeting monthly and a steering committee has been established.



The LC TICN has developed and distributed a community capacity assessment to help determine TICN partner's capacity for implementing trauma-informed best practices and developed a Trauma Awareness training for Educators (using Fairfax TICN's presentation as a starting point). Additionally, the LC TICN is in the process of planning a screening of the film Resilience followed by a panel discussion in partnership with Loudoun County Public Schools as well as developing network goals regarding trauma training, awareness and communications building, and advocacy. The LC TICN currently has 91 people on their email list, and 20 members on their steering committee.

### **Lynchburg**

The Lynchburg TICN has spent the past three years raising awareness and creating community buy-in regarding the importance of trauma and resilience. Network members include individuals across public, private, and nonprofit sectors. Together, the Lynchburg Community Network has hosted film screenings and trainings for human services professionals, educators, and community members across the City.

### **Northern Neck**

The Haven Shelter and Services, Inc. has partnered with Richmond County Public Schools to establish a trauma-informed leadership team (TILT) at Richmond County Elementary/Middle School. The TILT is responsible for the implementation of trauma-informed policies and procedures at Richmond County Elementary/Middle School; the coordination, development, and facilitation of training workshops for administrators, faculty, and staff on the trauma-informed approach and resilience; and the provision of trauma-informed interventions to students. The Haven Shelter and Services, Inc. also provides training workshops on the trauma-informed approach and technical support on the establishment of TILTs for other agencies, organizations, and community partners in Essex County, Lancaster County, Northumberland County, Richmond County and Westmoreland County.

### **Piedmont**

The Greater Piedmont Trauma-Informed Network (GPTICN) was formed as a 501c3 Non-profit in November 2015. Since their establishment, the GPTICN has trained several community agencies and groups on the impact of trauma and chronic

stress on children and families as well as how to mitigate that impact through resilience building. Additionally, the GPTICN has obtained grant funding to provide hygiene and snack supplies to all local schools in Culpeper, Orange, Rappahannock, and Madison Counties. Currently, through a grant from the PATH foundation and in partnership with Culpeper County Public Schools, the GPTICN is facilitating three four-week family education classes. These classes focus on teaching families tools to improve communication and emotional awareness.

### **Greater Prince William**

SCAN of Northern Virginia in partnership with Prince William County Community Services Board facilitates the Greater Prince William Trauma-Informed Community Network (GPW TICN) thanks to funding support from the Potomac Health Foundation. The GPW TICN began as a subcommittee of another coalition and broke off as its own network about three years ago. So far, in FY19 the GPW TICN has trained 112 individuals in trauma awareness. Additionally, the GPW TICN co-facilitators were trained in the ACE Interface Master Trainers curriculum and have trained over 50 individuals to date. The GPW TICN has coordinated screening of the film Resilience for community members and professionals and is currently planning an educational event for Spring 2019. The GPW TICN currently has 97 individuals on its email list and 8 trauma awareness training facilitators.

### **Roanoke Valley**

The idea of the Roanoke Valley Trauma Informed Community Network (RV TICN) began as a result of the recognition that traumatic experiences in the lives of children profoundly affect their developmental trajectories in the medical, psychological, educational, and social realms. RV TICN's local initiative was conceived by the coming together of 20 child-serving agencies, all of which recognize the damaging effects of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). With the Children's Trust as their backbone agency, RV TICN provides education on trauma with a focus on recovery from trauma and building resilience in the aftermath of trauma. The RV TICN comprises of a Steering Committee, an Education Committee, a Mental Health Committee, and the Resiliency Collective.

### **Greater Richmond**

The Greater Richmond Trauma-Informed



Community Network (GR TICN) is a diverse group of individuals, convened by Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now), who share a commitment toward the creation of a more trauma-informed and resilient community within the Greater Richmond region. The GR TICN was formed in the fall of 2012 and is currently comprised of 385 members from 160 different public, private, non-profit, state and local government agencies. The GR TICN committees—Training, Legal and Courts, Schools, Healthcare, Community Resilience, Brief Screening Tool, Workforce Development, Policy, and Outcomes—work toward advancing and supporting trauma-informed practices and policies. The GR TICN has also provided consultation and support to the developing TICNs across the state.

**The GR TICN is supported in part by the Family & Children's Trust Fund of Virginia.**

## **Southwest Virginia (Smyth County, Mt. Rogers, Abingdon)**

The Virginia Department of Health, State Office of Rural Health and United Way of Southwest Virginia are partnering to sponsor a Rural Summit for Childhood Success. This summit, scheduled for May 23, 2019, will convene leaders from across the Commonwealth of Virginia to learn 1) how systems to lead to childhood success have been adversely impacted by substance abuse and 2) best practices for professionals in rural settings to address Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), trauma, resiliency in children, families and child-serving systems. The Summit will kick off a conversation across southwest Virginia and rural Virginia about the impact ACEs and trauma are having on children, families, and child-serving systems. The goal is to align communities in southwest Virginia around their understanding of trauma and ACEs and the importance of building resilience in children, families, and child-serving systems to better deal with trauma, and to serve as a launching pad and accelerant for emerging TICNs in Smyth County, Mt. Rogers, and Abingdon.

Currently, Smyth County's emerging trauma-informed community network is developing a structure through the collaboration of Smyth County Schools, United Way of Southwest Virginia, Ballad Health, law enforcement, Emory and

Henry College, Mount Rogers Health District and the Faith-based community. With the support of these organizations, several initiatives are being implemented, including the training of all Smyth County teachers in trauma informed care, Emory and Henry College's development of an online series of trauma related courses for teachers, and offerings of trauma informed care training by the faith-based community to its members. Additionally, Mount Rogers Health District is working to include an ACE evaluation as part of the Pre-K and Kindergarten school entrance physical and local law enforcement has implemented a program called LENS (Law Enforcement Notifying Schools) of Trauma.

## **Southside**

The Southside Trauma-Informed Community Network (STICN) serves the cities of Petersburg, Colonial Heights, Hopewell, and Emporia and the counties of Dinwiddie, Prince George, Surry, Greensville and Sussex and meets monthly. Supported by the Crater Health District, the STICN employs ACEs Connection's 2.0 Model for Building Community Resilience by educating, engaging, activating and celebrating trauma-informed strategies and resilience in the community. The STICN *educates* through ACEs, Trauma-Informed Care and Resilience Workshops and a Community Learning Collaborative. The STICN *engages* through regular community network meetings where members are encouraged to use their lived experience and expertise to inform the larger network on the unique issues affecting their communities. The STICN *activates* by working with Voices for Virginia's Children to inform trauma-informed policy and amplify their efforts through train-the-trainer workshops on ACEs and trauma-informed care. Finally, the STICN *celebrates* through a Healing Arts Program, which uses art to help youth overcome obstacles and adversities as well as an annual Beyond ACEs, Building Community Resilience Summit that focuses on the impact of race, culture and poverty on Adverse Childhood Experiences.

**For links to TICN's Websites and TICN Contact information please visit Voices for Virginia's Children's page: [vakids.org/trauma-informed-va/](http://vakids.org/trauma-informed-va/)**

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If you would like to start a TICN in your community, please contact Melissa McGinn at [MMcGinn@grscan.com](mailto:MMcGinn@grscan.com)

