

# ACE Collaborative Partnership Initiative

## *Understanding ACEs: Building Self-Healing Communities*

### **Phase 3: Community Resilience Conversations**



**Phase 3: FamilyWise will partner with Collaboratives to offer Community Resilience Conversations that will help Collaboratives' communities in "creating conditions for all families to flourish." Conversations can develop capacity for members of the community "to contribute their core gifts, experience belonging, and intentionally shape the future they would like for next generations." \***

After a Collaborative has hosted several *Understanding ACEs: Building Self-Healing Communities* presentations (Phase 1) and sent several Collaborative representatives to a Regional ACE Interface Presenter Training (Phase 2), the Collaborative will have the opportunity to hear about what matters most to community members by hosting in-person or virtual Community Resilience Conversations (Phase 3). Collaboratives can also use the *100 Cups of Coffee Interview Tool* during this phase to supplement conversations by gathering community insights through one-on-one conversations with community members, particularly those most impacted by ACEs and/or unable to attend conversations.

#### **What are Community Resilience Conversations?**

The Collaborative will host at least two Community Resilience Conversations and/or conduct *100 Cups of Coffee* interviews to hear from a minimum of 50 individuals through this process. These conversations will focus on the most important issues related to addressing childhood adversity and promoting protective factors in the Collaborative's community. Conversations will share Minnesota Student Survey ACEs, protective factors and other local data and harvest gather community input and wisdom.

FamilyWise regional staff will work with the Collaborative Coordinator and local Community Resilience Planning Team to advise and assist (e.g., plan, facilitate, coach, etc.) with these first two conversations. The conversations will allow time for community members, parents and practitioners to discuss ways to promote community resilience, reimagine "community" and seek "right fit solutions with unique local resources." \* Each community is unique, so the design of the conversations may vary, guided by community needs, strengths and community data. All conversations should strive to be welcoming and safe spaces for respectful listening and learning. These are times for hearing and honoring personal and cultural narratives. These inclusive conversations will help gather stories and statistics to drive the development of Community Resilience Plans and Initiatives in Phase 4.

\* Laura Porter, *Safety and Healing in Place*

**Community Resilience Conversations will be informed by:**

- NEAR Science – Neurobiology, Epigenetics, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and Resilience
- Qualitative data gathered from a diversity of community voices - including populations most affected by ACEs and people representing multiple sectors of the community, such as local schools, public health, law enforcement, mental health, congregations, community groups, and agencies
- Quantitative data related to risk and protective factors for children, youth and families – including data from a variety of local and state sources, such as out of home placement data, disparity data, Minnesota Student Survey (MSS) data, Search Institute data, census data, child protection reports, early childhood data, health care data, Children’s Mental Health GAPS Analysis, Kids Count data, and Annual Collaborative Reports

**Topics that may be explored at these conversations include:**

- What is life like for you? What is life like for others in your community?
- What one or two issues are the priority for our community? Where do we want to focus our efforts first?
- What do you know about the impact of trauma in your community?
- What are our community strengths?
- What ACEs and protective factors do students in our community report on the Minnesota Student Survey? What does other local data tell us about adversity, community needs and resilience/protective factors in our community?

**For more information about this project, or to find the contact information for your regional FamilyWise staff person, please visit the [project webpage](http://www.pcamn.org/ace-awareness-efforts-with-collaboratives/) at <http://www.pcamn.org/ace-awareness-efforts-with-collaboratives/>**

