

Program updates from the Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative

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Updates from The Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative

Hello,

Welcome to our April newsletter! This month, we are busy making plans for Illinois' inaugural Trauma-Informed Awareness Day coming up on May 15.

The Collaborative commends the State of Illinois on this recognition of the impact of trauma and early adversity on individuals, families, and communities. Trauma-Informed Awareness Day was established via the recent adoption of [SR 99](#).

Sponsored by State Senators Julie A. Morrison, Laura Ellman, Elgie R. Sims, Jr., and Laura M. Murphy, SR 99 recognizes the impact of ACEs and other forms of trauma on long-term health outcomes. In addition to establishing Trauma-Informed Awareness Day, the resolution promotes two other important strategies: 1) that policy decisions enacted by the state legislature should take into account early childhood brain development and the concepts of toxic stress, early adversity, and buffering relationships, and 2) that officers, agencies, and employees of the State of Illinois whose responsibilities impact children and adults should learn about ACEs, toxic stress, and structural violence, as well as about trauma-informed care practices that promote healing and resiliency.

The Senate's focus on intervention and investment during early childhood is important for the wellbeing of all people across the state. We also look forward to seeing the House adopt a [similar resolution](#) under the leadership of State Representative Karina Villa. **You can support Representative Villa's resolution by submitting a witness slip [here](#) or [click here](#) for instructions.**

We are working to make May 15th a meaningful day that recognizes the work our partners are doing across the state and mobilizes new stakeholders to join our efforts. **We are encouraging all of our members to get involved, and [we are highlighting some of the ways that you can do that in this newsletter](#)**

Is your organization marking the day with its own event or action? Tell us how [HERE](#).

As always, we invite you to reach out with questions or to become more involved in our work.

Please also check out our [ACEs Connection page](#) and [website](#) for program updates.

Thank you,

The Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative

[Here are some ways you and your organization can support Trauma-Informed Awareness Day!](#)

- **Share on social media** using #TraumaInformedIL—graphics and additional info to come!
- Based in Chicago? Host an **On the Table** Conversation related to trauma, ACEs, and resilience. The Chicago Community Trust's On the Table is an annual forum designed to bring people together to make good things happen. Whether they gather in homes, offices, schools, libraries, restaurants or other spaces, they meet with others to share ideas and explore ways to improve our region. This year, those conversations will focus on a more inclusive future for our region under Chicago's new leadership. On the Table hosts and their guests will write a Memo to the Mayor. [Learn more here](#).
- Not in Illinois? **Contact your state legislators** and tell them you want them to work towards a Trauma-Informed Awareness Day in your state [Use the language in our resolution as an example](#).
- **Host a screening** of [Resilience](#), [Paper Tigers](#), or a great TEDTalk like "[The Science of Adversity and the Case for Systemic Empathy](#)" with the Collaborative's Stan Sonu or "[How Childhood Trauma Affects Health Across a Lifetime](#)" by Nadine Burke Harris.

- **Host a book club** event to discuss *The Deepest Well*, *The Body Keeps the Score*, or *The Boy Who Was Raised As a Dog*.
- Join the Collaborative and the Chicago Department of Public Health for our event, "**Beyond Trauma-Informed: Advancing Your Organization Along the Continuum**" (details below).
- We'll be adding to this list soon as well as sending you draft communications you can share with your networks to raise awareness about ACEs, trauma, and resilience!

HR 248 (Trauma-Informed Awareness Day) Witness Slip Instructions:

1. For link to witness slip, click here.
2. Section I. Identification, fill out your organizational or personal information.
3. Section II. Representation, write your organization name if you are filling it out on behalf of your organization or write self if you are filling it out on behalf of yourself.
4. Section III. Position, mark "Proponent."
5. Section IV. Testimony, check the box for "Record of Appearance Only."
6. Check the box in the bottom left corner to agree to the ILGA Terms of Agreement.
7. Then go to the bottom right hand corner and click on "Create Slip."

In observance of
Trauma-Informed Awareness
Day



&

The Illinois
ACEs Response
Collaborative

Health & Medicine
POLICY RESEARCH GROUP

Invite you to attend:
Beyond Trauma-
Informed:

Advancing Your Organization
Along the Continuum



Attendees will:

- Learn more about the Trauma-Approach Spectrum.
- Discuss how their organization can go from Trauma Aware to Trauma Empowered.
- Network and collaborate with like-minded organizations and advocates.

May 15th, 2019
9:00 AM-12:00 PM

SEIU Healthcare
2229 S Halsted St, Chicago, IL
60608

Register Now

Messages from our partners:

The **Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence** is organizing a community education campaign about the recently-enacted Firearm Restraining Order law. This potentially life-saving law is a civil court order that allows individuals to file a restraining order that prohibits a family or household member's access to firearms, in the event that you believe they are a risk to themselves or to others. This law can go a long way in lowering the rates of deadly interpersonal violence here in Illinois, and the goal of this campaign is to educate and empower individuals to be proactive in addressing their concerns.

For more information, visit SpeakForSafetyIL.org, or contact Peter@ICHV.org.

Call to action:

Voices of Youth in Chicago Education (VOYCE) is a youth organizing alliance for education and racial justice led by students of color from across the city of Chicago and Illinois. VOYCE's steering committee includes young leaders from Communities United (Convening organization of VOYCE), Southwest Organizing Project, Westside Health Authority, and Mothers Opposed to Violence Everywhere (MOVE).

The **Rethinking Safety Campaign** is calling on Illinois residents to advocate for the passage of SB 1941: The Safe Schools and Healthy Learning Environments, and the construction of school based health centers. Citizens can visit their State Senator in office, or write, email, or call on behalf of keeping kids safe and healthy.

The Rethinking Safety Campaign is about challenging the status quo, and the idea that safety means more security guards, metal detectors, or even arming our teachers. For us, safety means providing safer learning environments through mental and behavioral health resources like restorative justice program and hiring nurses, psychologists, social workers, and other student supports.

In this campaign, we demand:

Demand #1: Expanding access to mental and behavioral health services and other students support. SB1941 advocates for effective ways of addressing the root cause of students mental and behavioral issues by providing them with restorative justice programs, clinicians, social workers and other countless effective resources.

Demand #2: Improving public transparency around the role of the criminal justice system within schools. SB1940 demands data on school based arrests needs to be transparent and accessible for the community, and includes specialized data on students with special needs.

Demand #3: Investing in school-based health and wellness clinics. We demand secure funding that will build resources to provide holistic health resources for students and families across the state and securing the existing budget for existing clinics and their operating costs.

Support the Rethinking Safety Campaign! [Contact your legislator today.](#) If you have any questions, please contact Maria Degillo, VOYCE Coordinator, at (773) 799-6404.



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