



# New Hanover County Resiliency Task Force Belief Statement

## We believe...

- ... scientific evidence proves Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and trauma can cause serious life-long physical, emotional, and behavioral challenges for individuals and families.
- ... ACEs and trauma are common in all socio-economic, geographic, racial and cultural groups, but are especially harmful when experienced in the first 2000 days of life.
- ... Adverse Community Environments, Adverse Climate Events, and Atrocious Cultural Events significantly contribute to and exacerbate ACEs and trauma.
- ... ACEs and trauma experienced by people of color in New Hanover County have been compounded, in part, by historic trauma such as the unresolved Wilmington Coup d'état and Massacre of 1898.
- ... children with trauma are often misdiagnosed as having attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and/or oppositional defiant disorder (ODD) and, as a result, are unnecessarily medicated and do not receive the support they need.
- ... trauma is relative. Some events that are not traumatic to some may be to others.
- ... none of these events or situations are the fault of the person experiencing the trauma.

## We also believe...

- ... *ACEs are not destiny and do not define a person.*
- ... Positive Childhood Experiences (PCEs) can counteract the impact of ACEs.
- ... safe human connection and relationships are the key to healing and resilience.
- ... resilience grows in a compassionate community where people feel safe, competent, and loved.
- ... people of all ages can learn resilience skills.
- ... we are stronger, better, and more resilient *together*.

## Therefore, we are committed to...

- ... raising awareness about ACEs and trauma and their impact.
- ... doing everything we can to prevent and respond to ACEs and trauma at the individual, family, and community level.
- ... providing training on how to build resilience.
- ... creating an inclusive, safe space for all.
- ... taking care of providers so they are safe, well, and better able to care for the people they serve.
- ... implementing trauma-informed policies and procedures to support our staff and prevent re-traumatizing those we serve.
- ... collaborating with those who are working towards the RTF mission and vision.
- ... actively contributing to the success of the RTF, wherever possible. Examples include, but are not limited to, attendance at monthly subcommittee and/or Task Force meetings, participation in projects and programs, and the sharing of data, resources, and updates on organizational activities supporting the RTF mission.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am signing on behalf of an organization.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am signing on behalf of myself.