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New Hanover Resiliency Task Force (RTF) Belief Statement

We believe:

A proven correlation exists between ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and toxic stress to serious life-long health, emotional and behavioral challenges for individuals and families;
ACEs are common in all socio-economic, geographic and racial groups, but are especially harmful when experienced in the first 2000 days of life;
Adverse Community Environments and Adverse Climate Events significantly exacerbate and contribute to ACEs and trauma;
Historic trauma and micro-aggressions experienced by people of color have been compounded for residents of Wilmington, NC partly due to the unresolved 1898 massacre;
Children with trauma are often misdiagnosed as having ADHD and ODD and unnecessarily medicated;
Trauma is relative – Some events that are traumatic to some may not be to others;
None of these events or situations are the fault of the person experiencing the trauma.

We also believe that:

ACEs are not destiny and do not define a person.
People of all ages can learn resilience skills;
Resilience grows in a compassionate community where people feel safe, competent, and loved;
Safe human connection and relationships are the key to all healing;
We are stronger and better together.

Therefore, as a member of the New Hanover Resiliency Task Force I/Our organization commit (s) to:

Creating an inclusive, safe space for all including at Task Force Meetings;
Doing everything we can to reduce ACEs at the individual, family and community level;
Educating staff and/or community about ACEs and its impacts;
Implementing trauma-informed policies and procedures, and actively seek to avoid re-traumatizing our clients/students/colleagues;
Taking care of providers so they are safe and well and better able care for the people they serve;
Collaborating with other agencies and individuals working towards our common goals;
Participating as able in the Resiliency Task Force monthly meetings and sub-committees;
Sharing as able data with the Resiliency Task Force to aid in our collective work.

Name _____ Date _____

Organization _____ I am signing on behalf of an organization. I am signing on my own behalf.