

Memorandum of Understanding for Resilient Bladen Coalition:

We hereby acknowledge that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and Toxic stress are traumatic experiences that affect the long term development of children and the health outcomes of adults who have experienced them. We strive to educate communities with the knowledge that ACEs are common in all socio-economic, geographic and racial groups, but are especially harmful when experienced in the first 2000 days of life.

We hereby acknowledge the systemic, behavioral, institutional, environmental, and social issues that may lead to trauma in children and adults. We strive to overcome ACEs and toxic stress by providing education on how to combat these experiences to build more resilient, trauma-informed, & healing communities in Bladen County.

We hereby acknowledge that trauma-informed adults can serve as protective factors for children and families in our community. We strive to educate the entire community on evidence-based & trauma-informed practices, child development, and building resilience.

We hereby acknowledge that ACEs, trauma, and toxic stress affects all parts of our community and recognize that these issues have a compounded impact on the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, & People of Color) communities in Bladen County. We strive to educate about intergenerational and historical trauma and the impacts on individuals, families, and communities.

With this knowledge and understanding, we are committed to...

- Attend and participate in monthly Resilient Bladen meetings and trainings;
- Commit to ongoing trainings and professional development about ACEs, trauma, and resilience;
- Communicate and collaborate with other agencies and individuals to ensure access to evidence-based programs within our community to give families access to resources they need in times of need.
- Do everything we can to spread knowledge and provide educational opportunities about ACEs, the effects of trauma, and resilience at the individual, family, and community level;
- Engage the community in conversations to reach all communities/populations to listen to and support their needs;
- See each family as unique and acknowledging their perspective, needs, and life experiences and supporting them through a lens of compassion and equity;

Signed ____ day of _____ 20____.

Signed _____ Printed _____

Print title (if applicable) _____

I am signing on my own behalf I am signing as leader/representative of an organization

Organization (if applicable) _____

Sector (circle one) Business ● Child Care ● Civic ● Community Service Organization ● Community Initiatives Education (Pre-K-12) ● Education 13+ ● Emergency Responders ● Faith-based ● Funders ● Health ● Media Justice System ● Political Organizations ● Recreational Clubs & Organizations ● Social Services ● Youth Organizations