



# PROCLAMATION

## IN RECOGNITION OF BECOMING A TRAUMA INFORMED COMMUNITY

**WHEREAS**, Trauma is an event or experience that has a negative effect on an individual, such as homelessness, unemployment, family violence, and bullying, and can impact healthy development, affect relationships, and contribute to mental health issues including substance abuse;

**WHEREAS**, the long-term effect on a person with trauma can be reduced through an informed and supportive community.

**WHEREAS**, Winnebago County Health Department (WCHD) and \_\_\_\_\_ are committed to working collectively towards becoming a Trauma Informed Community (TIC) to address the significant health and social issues of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, WCHD established a Violence Reduction Workgroup (VRW) in 2017 to examine the impact of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) on the WCHD's health priorities of improving maternal and child health, improving mental/behavioral health, and reducing violence; and

**WHEREAS**, the mission of the VRW is to help leadership, service organizations, and community members to understand the collective impact of ACEs and foster resiliency skills to improve coping, manage emotional responses, form healthy relationships, and find purpose and meaning in order to improve individual and community well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, the VRW has adopted the principles of a Trauma Informed Approach as outlined by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration) [Trauma-informed Approaches | SAMHSA](#).

**WHEREAS**, the Trauma Informed Community upholds the following core values:

Awareness of Historical Trauma: Acknowledgement that historical transgenerational trauma can significantly impact entire communities with unresolved grief and anger.

Caring: Importance of treating individuals with compassion and understanding.

Collaboration: Benefit of using a collaborative process to include governmental agencies, mental health professionals, social service providers, educational institutions, and others.

Diversity: Importance of understanding community diversity and to incorporate this understanding in professional interactions.

Elimination of Stigma: Elimination of stigma associated with an individual's experience of trauma.

Health Equity: Understanding how health equity and health disparities significantly impact the well-being of the community.

Healing: Goal of having all service providers incorporate trauma informed principles in their professional interactions.

Healthy Relationships: Fostering healthy relationships between family members, community members, and institutions.

Holism: Adoption of an approach to care that supports the individual as a complex system of social, emotional, cognitive, and cultural factors.

Hope: Power of emphasizing that those impacted by trauma have the capacity to move beyond their experiences of trauma.

Humanitarianism: Promotion of the well-being of the community through a benevolent, trauma-informed approach.

Long-Term Commitment: Addressing the significant health and social issues of the community requires a long-term commitment and understanding that positive impact may not be recognized in the short-term.

**WHEREAS**, addressing trauma and its impact on the community requires a commitment to the core values and shared measurement of indicators,

**WHEREAS**, VRW, using SAMHSA's principles, is working to (i) educate the community on the impact of trauma, and (ii) help develop interventions that will allow the full integration of this knowledge into policies, procedures, and practices.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ is committed to becoming a Trauma Informed Organization and working with the VRW to promote a Trauma Informed Community.

**Printed Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_