

ACEs Connection Network

Join the movement to prevent ACEs, heal trauma, build resilience.



Trauma and Child Welfare
Jennifer Hossler, MSW
ACEs Connection Network

ACEs Connection Network



Join the movement to prevent ACEs, heal trauma, build resilience.

www.acesconnection.com

ACEs Too High!

NEWS

ACEs = Adverse Childhood Experiences

www.acestoohigh.com



Profile card for ACEsTooHigh (@acestoohigh) on Twitter. The card shows the profile picture, name, handle, and statistics: 557 tweets, 279 following, and 2,638 followers.

TWEETS	FOLLOWING	FOLLOWERS
557	279	2,638

Twitter @acestoohigh

ACEs Connection Network



Join the movement to prevent ACEs, heal trauma, build resilience.

The 5 Pieces of ACEs Science

Epidemiology – The ACE Study itself – who, how many, with what consequences.

Toxic stress effects on the brain.

Toxic stress effects on the body.

Toxic stress passed from generation to generation.

ACEs Connection Network



Join the movement to prevent ACEs, heal trauma, build resilience.

Current System Child Welfare System

- **Focus on safety, permanency, well-being of the child only**
 - **Reactive vs. proactive**
 - **Traumatizes already traumatized people**
- **Lack of understanding of the 5 pieces of ACEs science**
 - **Does not adequately address caregiver trauma**
 - **Does not provide adequate supports for caregivers**
- **Timelines that do not account for trauma history of caregivers**
- **Use of congregate care and other institutions – and fellow practices**
 - **Pathologize previously adaptive behavior**
 - **Blame, shame, punishment**

ACEs Connection Network



Join the movement to prevent ACEs, heal trauma, build resilience.

NCTSN Essential Elements of a Trauma-Informed CW System

- 1. Maximize Physical and Psychological Safety**
- 2. Identify Trauma-Related Needs**
- 3. Enhance Child Well-Being and Resilience**
- 4. Enhance Family Well-Being and Resilience**
- 5. Enhance the Well-Being and Resilience of Those Working in the System**
- 6. Partner with Youth and Families**
- 7. Partner with Agencies and Systems**

ACEs Connection Network

Join the movement to prevent ACEs, heal trauma, build resilience.



Harvard Brief – Applying the Science of Child Development in Child Welfare Systems

The triple burden for adults:

- 1. A steady supply of highly stressful circumstances**
- 2. A stress response system that is easily aroused and remains on high alert**
- 3. Stigma and shame reinforcing the belief they are fundamentally flawed and unable to change their condition**

ACEs Connection Network



Join the movement to prevent ACEs, heal trauma, build resilience.

Harvard Brief – Continued

Ways to improve outcomes:

- 1. Reduce external sources of stress – this includes circumstances that led to CW involvement and both external and system forces (includes workforce)**
- 2. Develop responsive relationships – with parents and with their children: “Go slow to go fast”**
- 3. Strengthen core life skills – enhance self-regulation and executive functioning**

ACEs Connection Network



Join the movement to prevent ACEs, heal trauma, build resilience.

Trauma-Informed System and Promising Practices

- Prevention vs. intervention
- Differential response (assess vs. investigate)
 - Multi-generational approach
 - Screening for ACEs
 - Trauma screening and assessment
 - Less congregate care
 - Caregiver training and supports
 - Safe baby and drug courts
- Perspective shift – What happened vs. what’s wrong?
 - Focus on STS, workloads, and retention of staff
- Integrated programs for enhanced communication – WA State

ACEs Connection Network



Join the movement to prevent ACEs, heal trauma, build resilience.

Jennifer Hossler, MSW

www.acesconnection.com

Twitter: @acestoohigh

jhossler@acesconnection.com