

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CRATER HEALTH DISTRICT AND PARTNERS HOST SUMMIT ON ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES (ACEs) AND BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

The Crater Health District of the Virginia Department of Health along with United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg, The Cameron Foundation and the Petersburg Wellness Consortium have partnered to present a major summit entitled “Beyond ACEs: Building Community Resilience.” The Summit will be held on Thursday, June 1st and Friday, June 2nd at Tabernacle Family Life Center at 444 Halifax Street, Petersburg, VA 23803, and ends with a Community Day celebration on Saturday, June 3rd at Appomattox Regional Governor’s School, 512 West Washington Street, Petersburg, VA 23803.

Childhood experiences can have a tremendous impact on health and quality of life. The summit will focus on building Trauma Informed Care (TIC) and resilience practices that benefit children and adults who have faced early adversity to shape a healthier community.

“ACEs continue to have a significant impact on the health and well-being of our communities. The Beyond ACEs Summit is just one of the first steps we are taking to address this important public health issue. I encourage school staff members, law enforcement, social services, faith leaders, community members and more to attend this meaningful event” emphasizes Crater Health District Director Alton Hart, Jr., MD, MPH.

The Summit will feature over 30 presenters for three days of workshops and special community activities. Some featured speakers include Jonathan Kozol, Dr. Marva Lewis, Dr. Allison Jackson, Reverend Paul Abernathy and Kwame Shaka Opare. The workshops will focus on building trauma sensitive schools, clinical and support services and criminal and juvenile justice systems. For Summit registration: www.craterhd.net. The cost is \$100 for two days or \$75 for one day, either June 1st or June 2nd (including meals). Scholarships are available for the community.

In addition, we are excited to offer Special Community Activities open to the community at no cost. On Friday, June 2nd, community youth will showcase their talents and unveil a sculpture at 5:30 pm with a drum call in front of the Petersburg Health Department, 301 Halifax Street. The **H.O.P.E. Fest** (Healing Our People Everyday) will immediately follow the unveiling. Participants can enjoy an evening of LIVE JAZZ and SELF CARE with a community awareness focus to help people rest, relax and recharge. The evening will feature live jazz with saxophonist James “Saxmo” Gates and other jazz greats. Food will be provided at no cost. (In case of inclement weather, the H.O.P.E. Fest will be located at Gillfield Baptist Church, 209 Perry St, Petersburg, VA 23803.) Saturday’s session focuses on Building a Trauma Resilient Community with a faith-based Approach. The day will start with a community breakfast for registered participants. Highlighted talks include an overview of ACEs trauma and resilience, and a panel discussion led by faith leaders. The Summit will close with a youth celebration!

For more information about the Summit and registration, please visit www.craterhd.net, or call 804-863-8961.

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