

Central Iowa ACEs 360 Steering Committee Timeline



2011: RESEARCH SPARKS ACTION

- In February, Dr. Robert Anda, co-investigator of [The Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\) Study](#) and consultant at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shares his research on the link between childhood toxic stress and poor adult health outcomes. His presentation at the Early Childhood Congress ignites a firestorm of interest in ACEs in Iowa.
- Mid-Iowa Health Foundation convenes partners interested in learning more about The ACE Study. The meeting launches the Central Iowa ACEs 360 Steering Committee.
- The Steering Committee decides that collecting Iowa ACEs data will help local leaders, policymakers and citizens better understand how ACEs impact the state and take action.
- In October, Dr. Anda gives a series of trainings to health professionals, followed by a presentation to the community. The presentation leads into a strategic planning meeting with key stakeholders across the state.

2012: ACES CONVERSATIONS BEGIN

- With funding from Mid-Iowa Health Foundation and Iowa Department of Public Health, ACEs questions are added to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) questionnaire.
- The Steering Committee [surveys other states](#) about lessons learned from their work around ACEs to inform next steps for Iowa.
- Representatives attend Minnesota's Legislative Institute to observe a state strategy for educating and informing policymakers about ACEs.
- A partnership with Casey Family Programs provides technical support and leadership to convene Iowa Department of Human Services administrators to discuss the implications of ACEs for the child welfare and foster care systems.
- In June, nearly 800 people attend the Iowa ACEs Summit in Des Moines, featuring Dr. Anda and Laura Porter, founder and director of the Washington State Family Policy Council, which led an innovative response to The ACE Study showing long-term improvements for children and adults.
- Committees form to focus on research, advocacy, awareness, engagement and funding.
- The iowaaces360.org website becomes a hub for ACEs information and resources.

2013: AWARENESS OF ACES IN IOWA GROWS

- In January, the Iowa Senate Human Resources Committee hears testimony on The ACE Study and gives a standing ovation to one [mother's story](#).
- Twenty-three organizations or systems complete an ACEs readiness assessment.
- The Steering Committee develops [a standard presentation](#) and delivers more than 30 trainings to more than 1,000 people throughout the state.
- In October, Iowa ACEs data is released to a sold-out crowd at the [2013 Iowa ACEs Summit](#) in Des Moines. An [Iowa ACEs report](#) is widely distributed.

- In partnership with Iowa Public Television, the Steering Committee captures [four stories](#) to showcase the personal impact of ACEs and how community support can prevent and mitigate the effects of severe childhood stress.

2014: IOWA DEVELOPS AN ACES RESPONSE

- A part-time program manager is hired to coordinate the Steering Committee's efforts.
- [Online learning modules](#) on ACEs and child abuse prevention are developed to foster broader education.
- Questions about child neglect are added to the BRFSS's ACEs data collection.
- Iowa legislators appropriate \$50,000 to continue to study the impact of childhood trauma on Iowa adults' health.
- Steering Committee is recognized with the LIVE UNITED Advocate Award from United Way of Central Iowa.
- Steering Committee members and other community groups develop innovative responses to ACEs in their work. [Examples are gathered](#) on the iowaaces360.org website.
- In September, stakeholders host the [Developing Brain, Developing Accountability](#) Summit to engage the education and juvenile justice sectors in addressing ACEs.
- The Steering Committee develops [awareness materials](#) to aid groups in sharing information.
- University of Iowa convenes representatives from Iowa communities to discuss how to better coordinate and research efforts.
- The Steering Committee presents on its work at the California ACEs Summit in November.
- A Steering Committee representative joins [national discussions](#) on how to expand awareness of ACEs and promote prevention and healing.
- Committee members attend the Midwest Regional ACEs Summit in Wisconsin.

2015: LEADERS SET A BOLD VISION

- The Steering Committee establishes a new vision and direction for its work around ACEs focused on empowering communities, organizations and individuals to take action.
- The [ACEs Response Toolkit](#) launches, providing ACEs-related resources for individuals, communities and professionals.
- Steering Committee members present on the group's research and messaging work at the Midwest Regional ACEs Summit in Chicago.
- A partnership among the Steering Committee, Trauma Informed Care Project and Developing Brain Group leads to the development of a [shared public message](#) and an effort to engage the community in ACEs efforts.
- The policy committee, in collaboration with other Iowa groups, establishes a five-year vision and a common legislative agenda for responding to ACEs in Iowa. Thirty-four legislators are educated on ACEs during the session.