



## Santa Cruz County ACEs Community of Practice (CoP)

Wednesday, June 24, 2024 | 12:00 - 1:00 pm

Facilitated by: Jorina Elbers

Health Improvement Partnership

To view the meeting recording, click [here](#).

### MEETING NOTES

**Meeting Purpose:** This meeting convened health care providers, community-based organizations, and social service agencies to discuss efforts to raise public awareness of ACEs, including clinic-based strategies as well as broader community-level strategies to increase understanding of the importance of preventing and treating ACEs.

#### Raising Public Awareness on ACEs

- Dr. Lisa Guitierrez-Wang, Director of Behavioral Health, shared her current role and work she is doing at Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health. Additionally, she shared her previous work with former CA Surgeon General Dr. Nadine Harris Burke during the early development of the ACEs Aware Initiative.
- Dr. Guitierrez-Wang shared strategies to educate both clinic staff and patients on ACEs:
  - Acknowledging the stressful work environments that can be experienced by clinic staff
  - Informing clinic staff of the types of stress individuals can experience and the impacts of toxic stress
  - Informing clinic staff on the purpose of the screening, which screening tool to use (identified or de-identified), and identify who would be screening patients. This includes providing materials to clinic staff on scripts they can utilize when educating patients.
  - Clinics can educate patients about ACEs by setting up posters in their clinic regarding ACEs and utilizing tools on how to talk to patients on ACEs.
- Dr. Guitierrez-Wang shared ideas to educate the broader community on ACEs:
  - Being willing to meet with providers and community partners to inform them on ACEs, and presenting on ACEs at existing meetings can raise awareness.
  - For community based organizations who are interested in providing ACEs screenings, it is important for them to know if patients have received resources from their primary care provider and ask if they have been previously screened for ACEs.

#### Group Discussion:

- Priscila Bacio prompted folks to share their efforts on raising awareness and opportunities for ACEs education:
  - Share ACEs resources with Community Health Workers and Promotoras to share with the community, this can include brochures and posters on ACEs.

#### Closing/wrap-up

- Our ACEs Community of Practice (CoP) meetings will occur on a bi-monthly basis. Our next CoP meeting is on Wednesday, August 28 from 12 - 1 PM.