



A network responding to adverse childhood experiences by building resilience

**Network Meeting**  
**MINUTES**  
**Thurs Nov 9, 2023 on Zoom**  
**email: [tihc@wmtcinfo.org](mailto:tihc@wmtcinfo.org)**

Time	Item	Next steps/Actions
I. 20 min (Chase)	<p><b>Welcome</b>  <i>Present: Chase Giroux–CSO; Jenifer Urff–MAMH; Ariane Krumholz–CSO; Lisa Goldsmith–SPIFFY; Laurie Loisel–NWDA’s office; Alexandra Mello–Food Policy Council; Brian Campbell–Belchertown School Superintendent; Rebecca Edwards–Quaboag Hills Alliance; Sharon Lerman–RP trainer; Suzanne Koch–NWDA’s office/CAC; Alene Motta–Belchertown Public Schools; Melissa Hutchins–BHN; Kris Hoag–Belchertown PS; Jay Krol–SRO Belchertown; Lexi Policoff–SPIFFY; Kate Shapiro–DHHS DART program; Ruth Ever–TIHC staff; Kara McElhone (presenter)--CAC</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Brief Grounding</li> <li>● Diversity, Equity, Inclusion &amp; Connection question: <i>What is something or someone who made a difference when you were in school? Something they did that made it easier for you to be at school or to persevere? And if there wasn’t anything, what do you think might have helped you?</i></li> </ul>	
II. 60min	<p><b>Presenter: Kara McElhone from Children’s Advocacy Center on <i>Handle with Care</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Presenting with Kara was the Superintendent for Belchertown schools and the School Resource Officer. Kara gave an overview of HWC: it is a communication system between first responders and school districts, to ensure that children who’ve experienced trauma outside of school are identified and supported. Only the name, age and school of child is used to identify them and the message: “handle with care”. Staff went through training, and information was also sent home to families.</li> <li>● The SRO (school resource officer) and/or superintendent are alerted and reach out to the relevant school principal who then informs only those who need to know such as the child’s teacher and counselor. It started as a pilot in October 2023 in Belchertown but has been in place in other parts of the state and country.</li> <li>● The idea is to create common language without any stigma or calling out.</li> <li>● The message of HWC can come from anyone who calls the school; for example, if a neighbor wants to alert the school about an overdose in the neighborhood even if first responders were not on the scene or involved with the child’s family. Sometimes the SRO isn’t available immediately, so it</li> </ul>	

	<p>doesn't have to depend on them reporting it if someone else calls, or superintendent reaches out to other staff.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The intention is to avoid many concerned school staff from approaching the student or discussing that they know police were at child's house, etc. It enables teacher to use extra care, maybe allow for extra time to do homework, etc so child feels supported.</li> <li>• The numbers work out to roughly one child per classroom who needs a HWC message conveyed.</li> </ul>	
<p>II. 10 min</p>	<p><b>UPDATES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TIHC film series with discussion was so well received, it will continue this year. 4+ trauma-related films being planned across the county. Next <b>film showing</b> is THE ANTIDOTE to be shown at Smith College in collaboration with the Psych Dept and discussion facilitated by Dr. Nnamdi Pole, chair. Wed. Nov. 15 5-7 pm at Seelye Hall on Smith Campus. All are welcome.</li> <li>• Next general <b>Resilience Roadshow</b> is online on November 17 from 12-1:30 pm. Register here.</li> <li>• The Design Team of the Governance Restructuring project for TIHC is meeting to explore how our structure and governance style can best engage and welcome as many and diverse parts of the community as possible. We are working with consultants from <i>NonProfit Solutions Associates</i> on this.</li> </ul>	
<p>IV. 10 min</p>	<p><b>Next TIHC Meetings:</b>  <b>Dec. 14–GPS presentation</b>, with Liz Friedman, CEO and co-founder of Group Peer Support. The Group Peer Support approach is a trauma-responsive support group model based on evidence-informed modalities that has been replicated in diverse communities nationally. Learn more <a href="#">HERE</a>  <a href="#">ZOOM LINK</a> for meeting (same link for all our monthly network meetings).  <b>Jan. 11–18 Degrees</b> (formerly Berkshire Children and Families) will be presenting on an innovative parenting program.</p>	<p>If you have ideas for topics and presenters, let us know!</p>