

THEMATIC ANALYSIS: PARTNER LISTENING SESSIONS

Over the last two years, the Resilient Northeast Georgia program manager has conducted a series of three in-person listening sessions with the grant’s key partners in an effort to better understand community needs, the state of the partnership, and opportunities for the growth and expansion of regional and county-specific initiatives. The findings of these listening sessions have been recorded, analyzed by the coalition evaluation team, and summarized in a de-identified format for the annual report to preserve the respondent’s confidentiality.

The overarching analysis of the past 2 years’ sessions are published below.


HOW HAS THE REGION BECOME MORE TRAUMA-INFORMED?

Since partnering with Resilient Northeast Georgia over two years ago, respondents feel that the coalition has made significant progress in becoming more trauma-informed. The following themes emerged from the in-person listening sessions:

- **Increased awareness and understanding of trauma and trauma-informed practices**
 - Trauma is now being talked about more in community meetings, there is more awareness of ACEs, and new sectors are beginning to engage in conversations about trauma.
- **Expansion of trauma-informed training and resources**
 - Youth Mental Health Aid and Circle of Security trainings have been transformative in the schools, and the community now has access to information about trauma-informed practices.
- **Development of a common language and shared understanding of trauma**
 - Partners now speak the same language and have a common understanding of what it means to be trauma-informed. This has facilitated collaboration and made it easier to implement trauma-informed practices across systems.
- **Increased opportunities for self-education and community education**
 - There are now more opportunities for individuals and the community to learn about trauma and trauma-informed practices. This is helping to build a more trauma-informed culture in Northeast Georgia Counties.


THEME: DESIRE TO KEEP MOMENTUM MOVING FORWARD AND GROWING THE WORK IN THE REGION

Participants expressed a desire to continue building on the collaborative's successes and achieve even greater impacts in the community. They spoke about the importance of continuing to increase awareness and understanding of trauma-informed practices, expanding training and resources, and developing a more trauma-informed culture in Northeast Georgia Counties.




HEALTHCARE

- Mental Health Care Providers and Psychiatrists
- Health Departments and Local Health Districts
- Youth Mental Health Providers



SCHOOLS

- School District Leadership
- Community Partners
- Counseling Staff
- Parents, Caregivers, and Students at Local Schools




FIRST RESPONDERS

- Local Sheriffs
- Police Departments
- Fire Departments
- Emergency Response Units
- Crisis Response and Co-Responder Units


← **WHAT SECTORS CAN WE ENGAGE WITH MORE IN THE FUTURE?**

WHAT BARRIERS TO COLLABORATION EXIST IN THIS WORK? →




POLITICAL CLIMATE

Hesitation around discussing or hosting trainings that cover topics, like diversity, gender, sexuality, and race in certain areas/sectors




TOO MANY DIRECTIONS

Risk of mission drift and ability to stay focused with so many areas of interest, as well as competing priorities with own job roles




ENGAGEMENT/PARTICIPATION

Challenge in getting people to show up for trainings they've registered to attend, and getting partners to understand the "why" for the work



LOCATION AND TIMING

Travel distance, time of year, scheduling, and general seasonal busyness are impacting turnout at all events across the region



WORKFORCE CRISIS

Rise in workforce shortages and staffing challenges, especially in childcare, is impacting turnout and engagement

KEY PROGRAM SUCCESSES IN YEAR 4

1. Regional summit

2. Expansion of resources

3. Use of common language

4. Perceived regional identity
5. Observed change in personal and professional life

6. Improved capacity and confidence to respond to trauma

7. Increased focus on mental health outcomes

8. True regional collaboration and partner buy-in

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- Re-Engage and cultivate the cluster approach further to bring specific trainings
- Continue and adapt the summit with different focus areas and in different seasons
- Maintain consistent program management presence with a strategic plan
- Identify common regional goals and objectives, develop a communication plan
- Continue to ask for reporting and do face-to-face listening sessions with partners

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Continued Awareness
Continued access to community education to create a trauma-informed culture in the region



Systems Change
Cross-systems efforts to drive sustainable change that includes all sectors



More Trainings
As many and as varied training opportunities as possible in clusters



Different Age Groups
Annual focus area on teens, early care, young children, parents and caregivers, college-aged adults, etc.



Advocacy Focus
Engaging more with local legislators and advocating for mental health policies



Expanded Reach
Engaging more diverse partners for trainings and events across the region

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