

Status Report
November 24, 2014



The Fostering Futures Learning Community has grown to 60 members over the past fifteen months. Each of these members has participated with high rates of engagement in a series of monthly or quarterly working meetings as well as four off-site Peer Learning Sessions during the past year. The fourth and final Peer Learning session was concluded on Friday, November 21, 2014.

The Peer Learning sessions have provided members with the opportunity to reflect on the intergenerational effects of historical trauma within a community and toxic stress in childhood for individuals and families. Members have learned first-hand about prevention efforts in the states of Washington and Oregon as well as Waupaca County, Wisconsin and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In addition, three members, one from each community-based core team, were trained as ACE Interface trainers in January 2014. This has been a critical success factor for the three core teams.

Simultaneously, Fostering Futures has invested in the development of a website, with support from Children's Trust Fund. The website showcases ACEs but also showcases current thinking about operationalizing trauma-informed care and building resiliency. The website will be launched on or before December 31, 2014. Fostering Futures also has begun to prepare tools for a prevention-focused public-health campaign that can be implemented by community leaders: messaging, brochure, billboards and so forth.

Unfortunately, Fostering Futures' letter of intent for Phase Two funding from the Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program was not advanced. The funder has provided guidance that leads us to believe they are seeking a project that will produce measurable public-health outcomes more quickly and on a larger scale. This has sent the Fostering Futures Steering Committee back to the drawing board in preparation for a revised letter of intent on or before January 9, 2015 for a project to begin July 1, 2015. It is not known yet what might be the features of a Phase Two project.

Steering Committee has declared its intent to continue working on behalf of the well-being of Wisconsin's children, with committed support from Casey Family Programs. Wisconsin's Department of Children and Families has provided limited funding during the bridge period for core teams to continue their work. The Fostering Futures Policy Advisory Council also has pledged to stay together working toward a trauma-informed Wisconsin.

The Steering Committee will plan a summit for May 2015 when the Fostering Futures Learning Community will have the opportunity to spend a day with representatives of Magnolia Place, a trauma-informed community in southern California.