

# Thriving Communities Collaborative

## PARTNER COVENANT

This Covenant is between the Thriving Communities Collaborative (TCC) and

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### **DEFINITIONS:**

#### **SAMHSA:**

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

#### **TRAUMA:**

According to SAMHSA, individual trauma results from an event, series of events, or set of circumstances that is experienced by an individual as physically or emotionally harmful or life threatening and that has lasting adverse effects on the individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

#### **TRAUMA INFORMED APPROACH:**

According to SAMHSA's concept of a trauma-informed approach, "A program, organization, or system that is trauma-informed:

1. *Realizes* the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery;
2. *Recognizes* the signs and symptoms of trauma in clients, families, staff, and others involved with the system;
3. *Responds* by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into policies, procedures, and practices; and
4. Seeks to actively resist *re-traumatization*."

### **VISION:**

Baltimore is comprised of a collection of communities where individuals, children and families are safe, healthy, informed, connected, have access to quality healthcare and education, and are treated as human beings/citizens with all the human rights and respect which should be afforded to all world citizens.

### **MISSION:**

The TCC mission is to build a movement of powerful, informed citizens in the Baltimore metro area who:

- understand what trauma is
- understand the causes and consequences of trauma,
- understand strategies for reducing the occurrence of trauma
- understand the power of connections in healing; and
- are committed to avoiding re-traumatizing individuals who have experienced trauma

Additionally, the TCC is committed to facilitating communities' access to the resources to promote and impact:

- education around trauma, it's causes and consequences by providing, advancing and promoting training and professional development opportunities;
- advocacy for appropriate prevention and intervention services within communities and systems including advocacy to reform systemic behaviors, procedures, and structures to reflect a trauma informed approach;
- awareness of issues facing members of our community who have been traumatized;
- strategies for long-term community healing and improvement; and
- how funding is being used and how legislation and policies are being developed in order to further drive systemic change through the incorporation of trauma informed principles.

**THIS COVENANT:**

This COVENANT is entered into this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, by and between \_\_\_\_\_ and the TCC.

**WHEREAS**, there is a definite correlation between the experience of trauma and resulting behavioral and health problems when the effects of trauma are unrecognized and unaddressed;

**WHEREAS**, the community recognizes that the cumulative effects of trauma over the lifespan are detrimental to individuals and society, and the consequences of ignoring trauma exist for the individual (depression, addiction, suicide, trouble concentrating and succeeding) as well as society (poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, child abuse/neglect and incarceration);

**WHEREAS**, Baltimore is taking steps toward addressing the causes and consequences of trauma through a coordinated comprehensive community effort; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties involved desire Baltimore to take a trauma informed approach with its citizens by providing trauma information, education, prevention, resources and assistance.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the parties agree as follows:

**STEERING COMMITTEE:**

The TCC will maintain a STEERING COMMITTEE which will meet on a monthly basis or other agreed upon schedule, to design and oversee the TCC program to achieve the MISSION as stated above. Steering Committee members will serve as a liaison between their organization and the TCC Initiative.

