



SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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## To Whom It May Concern

We are delighted to support the HEARTS Initiative for ACE Response in their application to participate in the MARC project. In planning for our growing medical infrastructure, including the new Dell Medical School, the ACE Study and its implications have been of great concern to several community physicians and partners. As a result, we developed a *Pediatric Trauma-informed Research and Care Collaborative* and a partnership with UAlbany, including consultation from Heather Larkin, PhD, on lessons learned on ACE Response in the Capital Region of New York: <http://sites.utexas.edu/cfri/community-collaboration/tipcrc/#.VbLF4sZVikp> .

Resources developed through the HEARTS Initiative have been helpful to us as we plan next steps through our *Pediatric Trauma-Informed Research and Care Collaborative* here in Austin, Texas. We bring together medical doctors working in community clinics with the School of Social Work's Child and Family Research Institute here at the University of Texas at Austin. In doing so, we have made use of the articles, website, brochure, and presentation materials generated through UAlbany's leadership of the HEARTS Initiative.

In particular, we have drawn upon and disseminated the article by Larkin, Felitti, and Anda (2014), *Social work and adverse childhood experiences (ACE) research: Implications for practice and health policy*. The article helpfully demonstrates how social work knowledge supports translation of medical ACE research into ACE-informed services. We have, in fact, benefited from a number of resources provided on the ACE Response website, [www.aceresponse.org](http://www.aceresponse.org). This includes our use of the ACE Response brochure to stimulate discussion on tailoring ACE Response for diverse settings and identification of the most appropriate first steps in pediatric health settings of particular interest to our medical doctors at this time.

These resources, along with lessons learned from UAlbany's ACE events and how those led to the development of the HEARTS Initiative in the Capital Region of New York, are informing our community engagement here in Austin. Consultation and resource sharing supports our own presentations to academic and community partners across medical and social work fields, and in making the case for a needs assessment appropriate to our regional interest in pediatric healthcare.

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We look forward to ongoing collaboration with the HEARTS Initiative. Investment by MARC/RWJF in HEARTS will show the impact of ACE-resilience collaboratives on community outcomes, further informing other communities. It is also our experience that HEARTS partners seek insights about what works in other regions and will also learn from our efforts as they expand their own outreach into healthcare.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [barbarajones@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:barbarajones@mail.utexas.edu) and [john.d.walker@utexas.edu](mailto:john.d.walker@utexas.edu) if there is additional information we can provide.

Sincerely,



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