



RESILIENT  
COMMUNITIES  
OF EAST GEORGIA

# COALITION PARTNER ONBOARDING GUIDE



*Creating a Resilient Future, Together*

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# RESILIENT COMMUNITIES OF EAST GEORGIA

## Principles of Shared Agreements in Group Work

Shared agreements are a group’s intentional commitments to how we interact, communicate, and create safety and trust while working toward a common purpose.

### PARTICIPATION & BELONGING

*Everyone matters. Everyone has a place.*



#### Respect Every Voice

Everyone’s perspective matters. We listen to understand, avoid interrupting, and assume positive intent.



#### Step Up, Step Back

We balance participation by noticing when to contribute and when to make space for others.



#### Share the Space + Share the Work

Collaboration means sharing responsibility and effort so no one carries the work alone.

### COMMUNICATION & CURIOSITY

*How we speak and listen shapes how safe and connected we feel.*



#### One Mic / One Conversation

One person speaks at a time. Side conversations and distractions are minimized so we can stay present and focused.



#### Use “I” Statements

We speak from our own experiences rather than assumptions or generalizations.



#### Stay Curious, Not Judgmental

Differences are expected. We ask questions and seek understanding rather than reacting defensively.



#### No Fixing

We listen to support, not to solve, unless advice is requested.

### ACCOUNTABILITY & REPAIR

*Intent matters — and so does impact.*



#### Assume Good Intent, Attend to Impact

Most people are trying to do the right thing. If harm occurs, we acknowledge it and work to repair without blame or shame.



#### Progress > Perfection

We value learning, growth, and forward movement over being “right.”

### GROWTH & LEARNING

*Discomfort can be part of growth when safety is present.*



#### Lean Into Discomfort

When something feels challenging, we stay present, breathe, and remain open to learning.



#### Confidentiality with Learning

Personal stories stay here. Lessons and insights can be shared beyond the room.

### PRESENCE & RESPECT

*How we use time and attention shows what we value.*



#### Honor Time

We start and end on time and stay engaged. Time is a shared resource.



#### Technology Boundary

Phones on silent; technology used only to support shared work.

# About

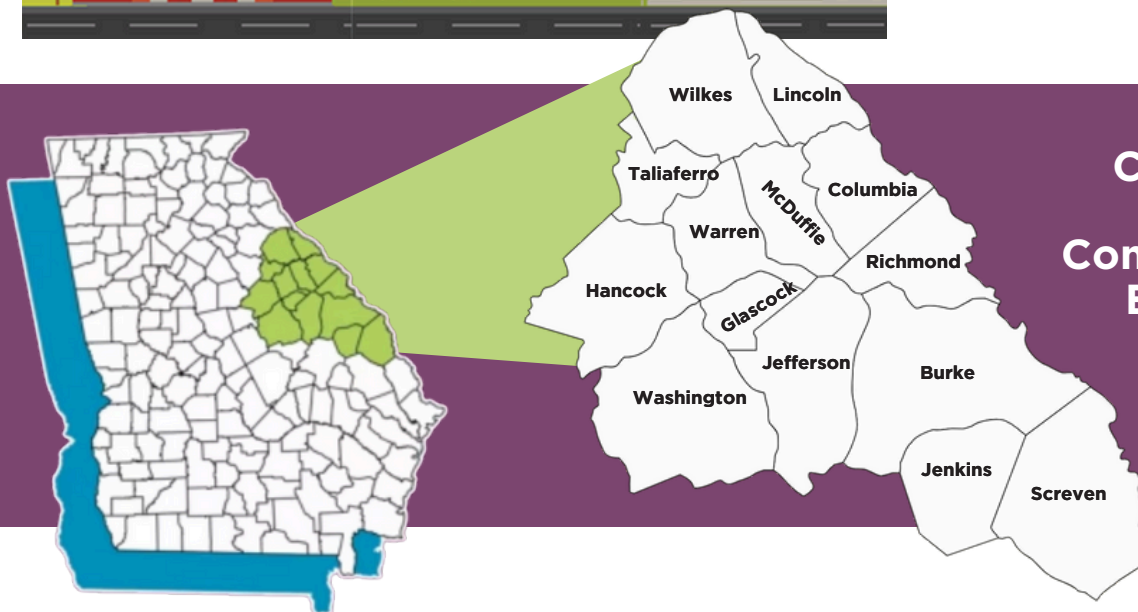
## Resilient Communities of East Georgia



### Building Resilience Across East Georgia

*Partnering with Resilient Georgia to Foster Trauma-Informed Communities*

We support Resilient Georgia's effort to create trauma informed organizations across the state of Georgia. Our organization covers 14 counties in the east region of Georgia and we work with representatives from each of our training roadmap sectors to provide trainings, resources and collaborative efforts.



**Counties that Resilient Communities of East Georgia Serves**

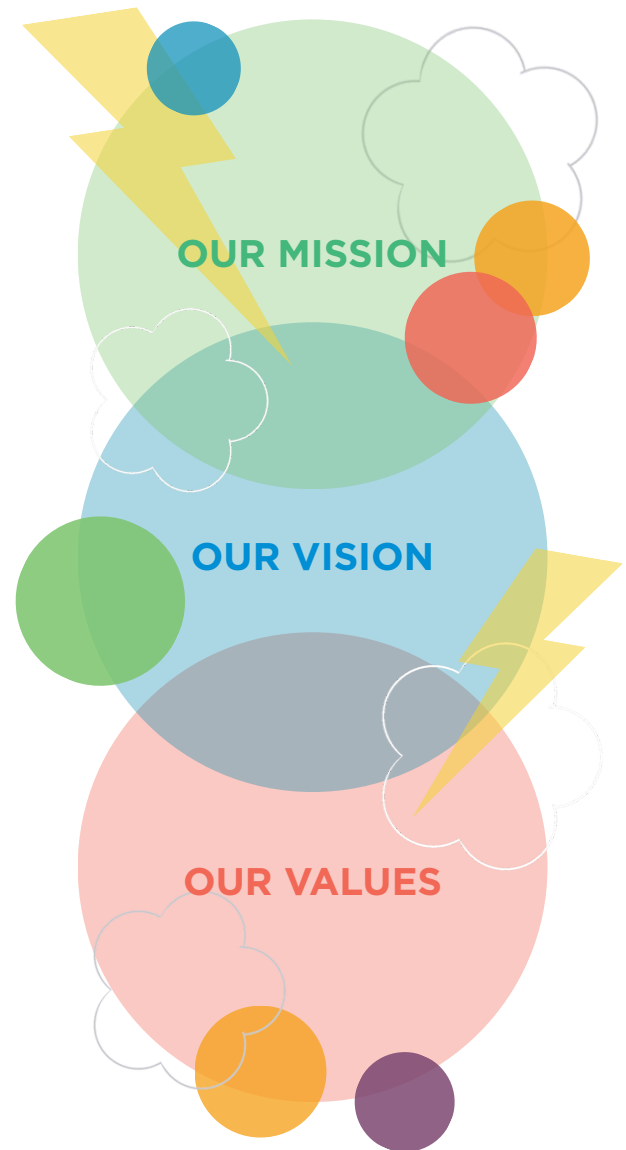
# About

## Resilient Communities of East Georgia

Resilient Communities of East Georgia strives to transform the East Central region of Georgia through promoting health and well-being across both public and private sectors.

The vision of Resilient Communities of East Georgia is to give all people the voice they need to thrive and be successful.

Resilient Communities of East Georgia is committed to championing advocacy, fostering a deep sense of belonging, and building a strong, inclusive community. We believe that every person deserves to be heard, supported, and given the tools to thrive.



# Our History

## Resilient Communities of East Georgia

Resilient Communities of East Georgia (RCEG) emerged from regional coalition work aligned with the Resilient Georgia framework to strengthen child, youth, and family well-being across a 14-county area. Built on trauma-informed, healing-centered principles, RCEG began by convening schools, healthcare partners, youth-serving nonprofits, and local leaders to coordinate prevention, training, and wraparound support.



Early momentum came from Resilient Teens—weekly, near-peer-supported sessions that pair adolescents with trained facilitators (including medical students) to build skills in self-regulation, connection, and purpose. As the program grew, RCEG added educator and caregiver trainings, research and evaluation, and policy/systems advocacy to reduce barriers and expand access to supportive environments. Annual summits, multi-county partnerships, and co-created projects with community organizations have turned the coalition into a practical engine for change rather than a meeting calendar.



Today, RCEG serves as a regional backbone: coordinating partners, elevating youth voice, sharing data and best practices, and mobilizing resources for prevention and early intervention—all guided by the simple idea that resilient kids grow in resilient communities. RCEG’s story is still being written, and as a coalition partner, you help shape what comes next — through your leadership, your voice, and your commitment to collective impact

# Leadership Team & Contributors

## Board of Directors



**Anna Reeves  
(Chair)**

Owner, Paws and Claws Pet Bakery



**Jonathan English  
(Vice Chair)**

Owner, State Farm Agency



**Jennifer Scott  
(Treasurer)**

Interim VP for Communications and Marketing, Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University



**Angela Hickson  
(Secretary)**

IRB Reviewer, Augusta University



**Allison Layman**

Clinical Counselor, Riverfront Counseling



**Lauren Petro**

Owner + Clinical Counselor, Holly Counseling



**Shironda Brown**

Lead School Counselor  
Burke County Public Schools/Burke County Middle School



**Holly Weaver**

Interior Designer, Design Images and Gifts



**Seth Smith**

Marketing Specialist, Hull Property Group



**Chandler Shields**

Audit Supervisor, SME CPAs

# Leadership Team & Contributors

## Coalition Leaders & Staff



**Dr. April Hartman, MD, FAAP**

Professor and Vice Chair for Advocacy  
Associate Program Director, Pediatric Residency Program  
Department of Pediatrics, Medical College of Georgia,  
Augusta University  
Dorothy A. Hahn, MD Endowed Chair in Pediatrics  
Division Chief, General Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine  
Wellstar Children's Hospital of Georgia



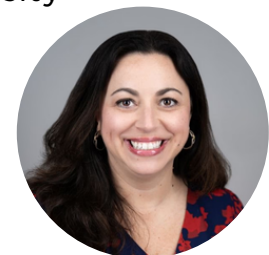
**Julie Miller, MPA**

Regional Manager, Georgia Family  
Connection Partnership



**Dr. Tracy Casanova, PhD**

Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Health Behavior  
Assistant Dean of Learner Well-Being  
Medical College of Georgia, Augusta University



**Rebecca Best, MBA**

Executive Director, Resilient  
Communities of East Georgia



**Kari Viola-Brooke, LPC, CPCS**

Executive Director, Child Enrichment



**Caitlyn Brantley, LCSW**

Prevention Services Director, Child  
Enrichment



**Teresa Carter, M.ED., MNLM**

Executive Director, Burke County  
Family Connection, Inc.

# Leadership Team & Contributors

## Coalition Leaders & Staff *cont.*



### AmeriCorps

Through our partnership with United Way of the CSRA and the AmeriCorps VISTA program, we are grateful to host dedicated team members who are using their skills, passion, and service to build stronger, more resilient communities. AmeriCorps VISTA members commit a full year to advancing local solutions, working alongside organizations like ours to expand capacity, strengthen partnerships, and address the root causes of poverty.



**Amber Bowick**

Americorps  
VISTAS



**Lena Garrard**

Americorps  
VISTAS

## Research Strategy Team



**Dr. Tracy Casanova, PhD**

Associate Professor, Psychiatry and Health Behavior  
Assistant Dean of Learner Well-Being  
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**Sabina Widner, PhD**

Professor and Graduate Director  
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Augusta University



**Ashwini Tiwari Pandey, PhD**

Assistant Professor  
B-STRONG Lab Director  
Department of Community and Behavioral Health Sciences  
School of Public Health, Augusta University

# Leadership Team & Contributors

## Board and Coalition Leadership Roles

Area	RCEG BOARD OF DIRECTORS	COALITION LEADERS COUNCIL
<b>Authority &amp; Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds legal and fiduciary responsibility for RCEG</li> <li>• Provides governance, compliance, and long-term strategic direction</li> <li>• Has voting authority on official organizational matters</li> <li>• Ensures compliance with nonprofit regulations</li> <li>• Represents RCEG as legal stewards of the organization</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory, non-governing body with no fiduciary authority</li> <li>• No voting authority; serves as strategic thought-partners</li> </ul>
<b>Support &amp; Engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversees financial health, budgets, and audits</li> <li>• Participates in give-or-get fundraising expectations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides insight into community needs and regional trends</li> <li>• Advises on program design and implementation</li> <li>• Assists with outreach, awareness, and community engagement</li> <li>• Helps connect RCEG to partners, resources, and volunteers</li> </ul>
<b>Leadership &amp; Strategic Alignment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hires, supports, and evaluates the Executive Director</li> <li>• Approves organizational policies and priorities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports collaboration across schools, health systems, nonprofits, and community sectors</li> <li>• Strengthens regional alignment and shared mission ownership</li> <li>• Offers county-level and sector-specific expertise</li> </ul>
<b>Structure &amp; Composition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meets on a formal schedule with recorded minutes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprised of leaders from the 14-county regional coalition</li> </ul>

# RCEG Coalition Structure



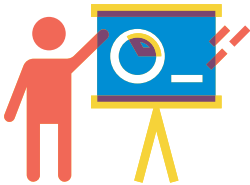
# Our Approach

## Resilient Communities of East Georgia



### Prevention/Intervention

- We believe in making measurable, meaningful differences in the communities we serve. Our programs create sustainable impact by addressing immediate needs while fostering long-term growth and resilience.
  - Resilient Teens Program



### Training

- Through specialized training, education, and capacity-building initiatives, we empower individuals and communities with the knowledge, tools, and skills they need to address challenges proactively.



### Advocacy and Fundraising

- Our work relies on the generosity of donors and partners who share our vision for a better future. We prioritize sustainable fundraising practices to ensure the investment in our communities is amplified in impactor reach.



### Research and Evaluation

- Our commitment to research and evaluation is essential in guiding our initiatives and measuring our impact. By conducting rigorous assessments and collecting data, we identify effective strategies and areas for improvement within our programs.



### Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) Change

- We work collaboratively with coalition members and community stakeholders to create systems change that benefits everyone.

# Our Commitment

## Resilient Communities of East Georgia

*Commitments are co-created and sustained through partnership.*

Promote and facilitate training opportunities within Coalition partners



Assist Coalition partners implement trauma-informed practices to achieve systemic changes



Provide research and evaluation expertise to Coalition partners



Organize events and activities to introduce trauma informed language, ACES, PCES and their impact on the community



# Involvement

## Coalition Partner Commitment

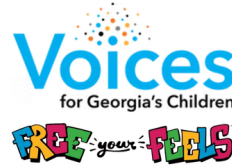
Coalition Partners represent a diverse group of people from different sectors across the region who support, advocate and participate in the shared vision of embedding trauma-informed care practices in their organizations, businesses and communities by committing to the following:

- **Attendance and Preparation:** Regularly attend coalition meetings, actively contribute, and gather/share relevant information for decision-making.
- **Community Involvement:** Assist in conducting community assessments and contribute to strategic action planning.
- **Open Communication:** Share thoughts and concerns openly, encouraging others to do the same, and actively engage in initiatives.
- **Reporting and Recruitment:** Report coalition progress to your organization, share their ideas and concerns with the coalition, and actively recruit new members.
- **Advocacy and Promotion:** Actively advocate for and promote the coalition's mission, whenever possible, in various settings, including county, regional, and state levels.
- **Leadership:** Serve within a strategy team or on the Coalition Leaders Council
- **Training:** Train to become a practitioner and gain the skills needed to equip others in your organization and community

Partners are encouraged to engage at levels aligned with their capacity. Involvement may shift over time, and all contributions are valued.



# Coalition Partners



THE CARTER CENTER



# Inspired Action

## How Our Community Can Support Resilient Communities of East Georgia & Resilient Teens

Resilient Communities of East Georgia is stronger because of the shared commitment of schools, families, youth-serving organizations, faith leaders, healthcare partners, businesses, and neighbors across our region. There are many meaningful and accessible ways to help our work grow and sustain impact:

### Stay Connected and Share Our Message

We believe everyone has a role in building resilience. One of the simplest and most powerful ways to support the coalition is by staying connected and sharing our message within your circles.



### Follow & Share on Social Media:

- Facebook: [facebook.com/ResilientCommunitiesEG](https://facebook.com/ResilientCommunitiesEG)
- Instagram: [instagram.com/resilientcommunitieseg](https://instagram.com/resilientcommunitieseg)
- Website: [rceg.org](https://rceg.org) (Our website includes training calendars, program descriptions, outreach opportunities, coalition resources, and contact information.)



### Join Our Email List:

We share updates on trainings, community events, coalition meetings, and youth opportunities. (Sign-up available at [rceg.org](https://rceg.org).)

