



# BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE Oregon



## We Are BCR Oregon

Building Community Resilience (BCR) Oregon is a self-sponsored statewide collaborative that fosters engagement between grassroots community members and public/private systems to develop a protective buffer against adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) occurring in adverse community environments (ACEs)- the Pair of ACEs. Our membership is comprised of community members and cross-sector partners that seek to improve the health and wellbeing of children and youth, to strengthen families (families of choice, natural supports, or families of origin), and build more equitable and resilient communities. Founding Members include Oregon Alliance, Trillium Group, Self Enhancement Inc. (SEI), Cascadia, Catholic Community Services, and the Oregon Department of Human Services. BCR Oregon is affiliated with the Center for Community Resilience at the George Washington University. The BCR process serves as a fundamental strategy and organizing platform to improve child health and wellness outcomes throughout Oregon.

**The Oregon Alliance** is a non-profit dedicated to championing and advocating for the health and well-being of children, families, and communities across Oregon. Our members are a diverse and growing set of knowledge-driven organizations who advocate for and serve Oregon's kids and their families at home, at school, in residential settings, and within the community. We connect with community thought leaders, our partners in government, allied fields, and the private sector to bring together the most effective policies, best practices, and resources to help kids live healthier lives and for families and communities to thrive in every corner of the state. We use BCR tools to support Alliance members to connect with and engage the communities they serve - identifying issues and developing solutions together.

**Trillium Group** is Oregon's largest provider of mental and behavioral healthcare for children and families and the state's only provider offering a full continuum of children's mental and behavioral health services. Trillium served as the backbone organization for BCR Oregon beginning in 2015. Trillium's mission of "Building Brighter Futures with Children and Families" and vision of "changing the national narrative around health and wellness to include mental health and the social determinants of health" has galvanized and unified a collective approach that not only addresses our programs and services, but compels a focus on social impact and on being relevant to the communities we serve - always with a focus on working with community and not upon community. Where does this come from? A spirit of love. At Trillium, we embrace the knowledge that "the love of humankind" must include being anti-racist, and trauma informed.

## What is Building Community Resilience?

Building Community Resilience (BCR) is a national network and learning collaborative that seeks to improve the health and life outcomes of children, families, and communities. Teams in six regions across the country are using the BCR process and tools to help their communities not only 'bounce back' in the face of adversity, but bounce forward. Since 2017, BCR teams have helped build and strengthen the buffers that can prevent negative outcomes associated with adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), particularly in the context of adverse community environments (ACEs)—the Pair of ACEs.

Using the BCR process and tools, teams work to align large systems with one another—such as health care, city government, and education—and also with community-based partners, including parenting support services and grassroots health advocacy. Teams also develop strategies – from implementing trauma-informed practices to data sharing and advocating for policy change – that bolster strengths, fill gaps, and ultimately build child, family, and community resilience. Teams identify community strengths and gaps, work in partnership with community not on community, develop a shared understanding of adversities and goals, and identify concrete policy asks to pursue. The teams use CCR's free and publicly available tools and resources—including the [Pair of ACEs and Resilience Trees](#), [Communications & Coalition-Building Guide](#), and [Fostering Equity Guide](#)—to implement their work.

BCR is led by the Center for Community Resilience (CCR) at the George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health. CCR provides technical assistance, including strategic planning, facilitation of cross-sector information sharing, support for data and measurement, development of policy strategies, convening, and communications support.

**Self Enhancement Inc. (SEI)** joined BCR Oregon in 2018 and is dedicated to guiding underserved youth to realize their full potential. Working with schools, families, and partner community organizations, SEI provides support, guidance, and opportunities to achieve personal and academic success.

**Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare** is a new Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), and one of the largest providers in Portland, Oregon. Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare operates in four different counties with 75 locations, 750 housing units, over 900 employees, and serves approximately 18,000 people a year. Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare stands against racial injustice with Black, African American, Indigenous, People of Color, and other marginalized communities. Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare acknowledges that incorporating diversity, equity, and inclusion into our practices is an ongoing learning process. We also know we do not have all of the answers and we are committed to learning and using our voice to make positive change. We recognize that making an impact on racism throughout our community will take a lot more than this statement. Within Cascadia Behavioral Healthcare we use the BCR framework and approach in many areas of our work, including access, engagement, community building, treatment approaches, and collaboration with community partners, stakeholders, and service recipients when possible. The values and principles of BCR perfectly align with our own, and guide us in hearing, learning from, and serving our communities in a meaningful way.

**Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS)** is Oregon's principal agency for helping Oregonians achieve wellbeing and independence through opportunities that protect, empower, respect choice, and preserve dignity - especially for those who are least able to help themselves. ODHS provides direct services to more than 1 million Oregonians each year. These services provide a key safety net for those in our society who are most vulnerable or who are at a difficult place in their life.

**Catholic Community Services (CCS)** champions the positive development of children and adults, and helps strengthen families and build more resilient communities. Founded in Salem in 1938, Catholic Community Services is a non-profit, faith-based organization serving vulnerable children, youth, adults, and families in the Mid-Willamette Valley and Central Coast. CCS serves more than 5,000 individuals annually, employing trauma-informed care and research-based practices. Programs include outpatient mental health, a family shelter, food and clothing pantries, supportive housing, disability services, vocational alternatives, independent living, and the Fostering Hope Initiative, detailed below.

## **BCR Oregon In Action**

In 2019, BCR Oregon partners collaborated to establish a statewide Steering Committee that is operationalizing the BCR process through a living charter document including measurable goals and objectives. Specifically, the statewide cohort is exploring how to scale three groundbreaking initiatives:

**The Fostering Hope Initiative** is a neighborhood and community-based collective impact initiative designed to promote the positive development of children, strengthen families, and build resilient communities. Initiative partners work collaboratively to identify needs and leverage resources in neighborhoods to support building family protective factors, mobilize neighborhoods, advance collective impact, and promote family-friendly public policy.

**The Eastern Oregon Community Resource Network (EOCRN)** is a collaborative network that connects resources to people by putting organizations in touch with each other in order to share information and achieve a greater collective impact. This helps our community agencies, organizations, and service providers give better service to those in need. We encourage you to help expand our network by inviting partners, churches, civic organizations, and other community groups to join the EOCRN.

**The Community Business and Education Leaders (CBEL) Executive Council** is a group of Salem-Keizer residents who banded together to help build a community where every child grows up in a safe, stable, nurturing home, enjoys good health, succeeds in school, and goes on in life to become financially self-sufficient. CBEL was officially launched on August 1, 2019, when over 200 Salem and Keizer residents gathered to explore the question, "How can we build community resilience, strengthen families, and support world class education within the boundaries of the Salem-Keizer School District?" The CBEL Executive Council has identified a keystone success indicator and six related success indicators. The keystone indicator is, "Childhood/family homelessness is rare, short-lived, and non-recurring." The six additional indicators are: 1) Children arrive at kindergarten ready to learn; 2) Chronic student absenteeism is rare; 3) Disruptive classroom behavior is rare; 4) Children have a "medical home" and unnecessary emergency department visits are rare; 5) Child maltreatment and foster care rates are among the lowest in the nation; and 6) Chronic adult homelessness is rare, short-lived, and non-recurring.

## **BCR Oregon and The Oregon Child & Family Center for Excellence (The Center) Join Forces!**

In Spring 2023, BCR Oregon and The Center for Excellence formalized a partnership to achieve an increased positive community impact. The BCR process offers a practical framework and toolkit on the science of resilience and hope for Oregonians. The BCR framework and toolkit will be a pillar of both theory and practical reference for the Center for Excellence's work. BCR Oregon and the Center for Excellence are sharing resources to create a partnership that is sustainable, scalable, and impactful.

### **Grants & Deliverables**

In Fall of 2021 BCR Oregon received its first official grant award as a collective! The planning grant from Oregon Health Authority aims to support collaborative work on the elimination of behavioral health inequities in housing in our local communities and state. The community-based organizations with whom we're engaging in this project - Youth Progress Association, Jackson Street Youth Services, and Catholic Community Services - are all embedded in communities adversely impacted by behavioral health inequities in housing and facility-based residential services. BCR Oregon is currently providing technical assistance to help address and eliminate these inequities using the BCR framework, BCR Resiliency Coordinator, peer support, toolkits, the guidance of our BCR Oregon team, and in connection with statewide and national networks utilizing BCR strategies.

BCR Oregon founding member Trillium Group is also a part of a contract with the InterCommunityHealth Network of Lincoln, Benton, and Linn Counties through the delivery of a workshop series titled: Building a Trauma-Informed Community. This contract was awarded to Trillium Family Services in January 2021 with the goal of bridging cross-sector provider communities through training and facilitation of a community of practice to establish shared understanding and practice tools for creating a trauma-informed culture and system of care grounded in equity and connection. Six experiential workshops are currently being shared with cross-sector partners that introduce the BCR Pair of ACEs framework, tools, and projects.

### **Building Resilience Together**

As new partners join the Oregon BCR effort, we are positioned for deeper engagement in communities across the state. If you'd like to connect with our group, please connect with us.

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