Seminar builds a trauma-informed community

Building a Trauma-Informed Community was an opportunity for a cross sector of community professionals to have meaningful conversation about how to tackle this difficult to discuss topic. Led by consultants Matt Militello Ph.D., and Chris Janson Ph.D., authors of "Reframing Community Partnerships in Education: Uniting the Power of Place and Wisdom of People," participants were guided through a day of examining the strengths Montcalm County has to support children, families, and our workforce and how to build additional resources to foster resiliency.

Julianna Kozara, clinical director of the Montcalm Care Network, noted "Our rural community is built on relationships between people, businesses, and organizations. These are the necessary ingredients to create opportunities for our kids to flourish. It's just about knowing what questions to ask and working together for solutions."

The mission of the Trauma Champions Committee is to develop awareness of trauma and empower pathways of resiliency with the vision of a trauma-informed community by 2021. The diverse involvement of organizations and individuals such as the Michigan State Police, Spectrum Health, Sheridan Community Hospital, local faith leaders, foster care workers and school professionals signifies the community’s readiness to delve into the challenge ahead. The Trauma Champions Committee is planning community-wide education on ACEs along with spearhead-