

June 3, 2016

Prominent Researcher to Discuss Lasting Impact of Childhood Trauma
Author of Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study Speaking June 9 in West County

WHAT:

Dr. Vincent J. Felitti, co-author of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) [study](#), will present insights from his groundbreaking research that revealed a direct link between traumatic childhood experiences and chronic disease, mental illness, and social problems later in life.

In the ACE study, Dr Felitti, the founder of the preventive medicine department at Kaiser Permanente, identified 10 categories of childhood trauma, including physical and emotional abuse and neglect and measures of household dysfunction like domestic violence, parental mental illness, substance abuse and divorce. The 17,000 patients in the study received an ACE score based on the number and type of traumas they experienced as children.

Findings revealed that ACEs are fairly common, with nearly 70 percent of the population having at least one. Those with higher ACE scores (four or more) had a much higher risk for developing chronic illnesses as adults including hepatitis, diabetes, chronic bronchitis or heart disease. They were also twice as likely to smoke, seven times more likely to be an alcoholic, and 12 times more likely to have attempted suicide.

Dr. Felitti and participants will brainstorm ways local health, education and criminal justice systems can use the ACE study to treat childhood trauma and prevent costly health and social service costs down the road. In addition, representatives from Richmond's RYSE Center will present findings from its three-year [Listening Campaign](#) to understand how Richmond youth expressed their experiences and needs in coping with trauma on a daily basis.

WHEN:

June 9, 2016

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Felitti is available for interviews during the lunch break.

WHERE:

De Anza High School

5000 Valley View Road At the Performing Arts Theater, El Sobrante

WHO:

Event sponsors include RYSE Center, First 5 Contra Costa, Contra Costa Health Services, and Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence. These agencies have formed a workgroup dedicated to training child-serving agencies and systems on trauma-informed practices designed to build more resilient communities and help children heal.

CONTACT: Kathryn Burroughs at 925-313-1791 or kburroughs@ehsd.cccounty.us

###