



# 2026 Conference

## Context & Connection:

## *Reframing Childhood Adversity*

May 21, 2026, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

The Kirkhof College of Nursing  
301 Michigan St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Join us at the 2026 MIACE conference as we look at the context and connection of ACEs, trauma, PCEs and the frameworks within our communities that affect childhood outcomes and opportunities.

**[REGISTER NOW](#) for the 2026 Michigan ACE Initiative Conference**

Registration includes all keynotes, breakouts, panels, poster session, and resources. Continental breakfast, and lunch will be served. Hotel reservations should be made separately.

**Regular Registration Fee: \$95.00**

**Poster Presenter Registration Fee: \$35.00**

**Call for posters!** Michigan ACE Initiative Partners are invited to share a poster highlighting programs and projects that address ACEs and prevention strategies.

- [Submit your poster abstract online by May 1, 2026](#)
- [Reduced registration fee](#) for poster presenters: \$35.
- Your poster submission must include a title, contact information, and a 250-word or less description of your program or project.
- For questions about posters, contact Amy Stagg at [astagg@mphi.org](mailto:astagg@mphi.org).

# AGENDA

**7:30 - 9 a.m.**

## **Registration**

**8 - 9 a.m.**

## **Continental Breakfast** (provided)

**9 - 10:15 a.m.**

## **Welcome and Keynote: The Public Health Crisis of Pediatric Mental Health: Understanding the Why, Mobilizing the How, and Reimagining What's Possible**

*Keynote: [Crystal Cederna, Psy.D.](#), Charles Stewart Mott, Department of Public Health, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University*

Children and adolescents are facing an unprecedented mental health crisis - one shaped by rising adversity, shifting social conditions, and widening gaps in support. In this keynote, Dr. Cederna will review national, state, and local data to illuminate the scope of the challenge. Using a socioecological framework and an ACEs-informed perspective, the session will unpack how individual, relational, community, and societal forces interact to shape youth well-being. Participants will explore effective, scalable solutions and leave with actionable strategies to create meaningful change within their own spheres of influence. This talk is both a call to awareness and a call to action as we work together to create environments where all children can thrive.

**10:15 - 11 a.m.**

## **Poster Session & Coffee Break**

**11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

## **Concurrent Breakout Sessions**

### **1. ACEs 101 - How Experiences Shape Our Health and How Connection Helps Us Heal**

This session introduces how experiences in childhood can affect our health and well-being later in life. We'll talk about what "ACEs" (Adverse Childhood Experiences) are, why supportive relationships matter so much, and how positive childhood experiences (PCEs) can help people heal and grow. You'll leave with easy, practical ideas for creating safer, more supportive environments for children, families, and communities.

### **2. Data to Action: Understanding substance use data in Michigan to guide Prevention & Intervention efforts**

This session will look at trends in substance use data in Michigan and among specific populations, including youth. Presenters will discuss the development of substance use risk indexes and how those data guide prevention and intervention programs and communities of focus. Information on Michigan data dashboards, including MODA and miacedata.org, will be highlighted.

### **3. Moving the Needle on ACEs: Policy Levers that Drive Meaningful Change**

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are shaped not only by family and community conditions, but by the systems and policies designed to respond to them. This breakout session explores how targeted policy approaches can meaningfully reduce trauma and improve outcomes for children and families involved in child welfare and related systems.

#### 4. Context Matters: Building Cultural Humility into Programs and Services

This session reframes cultural humility as essential infrastructure for preventing childhood adversity. Participants will explore how relational practices, institutional norms, and power-sharing approaches shape the conditions that can prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACEs). Highlighting organizations that have embedded cultural humility into systems—policy, practice, and decision-making, which can strengthen trust, increase connection, and advance more effective, equitable prevention strategies.

**12:30 - 1:30 p.m.**

**Lunch (provided)**

**1:30 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Community Presentation Panel: Context and Connection in MI**

**2:30 - 3:30 p.m.**

**Context, Connection, and Care: Advancing ACE and Trauma-Informed Frameworks**

- Facilitator: [Kimberlydawn Wisdom, MD, MS](#), Senior Vice President of Community Health and Equity and Chief Wellness and Diversity Officer, Henry Ford Health

This closing session will spotlight organizations that have successfully embedded ACE-informed and Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) approaches into organization-wide frameworks. Panelists will share how they moved beyond isolated programs or activities to fully integrate ACE/TIC principles into their culture, policies, and practices. The session will conclude with a call to action, challenging all organizations to move from understanding ACEs to implementing comprehensive care frameworks that support the whole person.

**3:30 p.m.**

**Conference Adjourns**

## LOCATION AND OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

**CONFERENCE LOCATION:** The Kirkhof College of Nursing - 301 Michigan St NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503

**PARKING:** Complimentary parking at the KCoN, Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences.

**Guest Rooms:** Available for the night of: MAY 20, 2026

- **Hotel:** Hampton Inn & Suites Grand Rapids Downtown, 433 Dudley Pl NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
- **Rate:** \$119 plus applicable taxes
- **Reserve:** Call 1-800-774-1500 and ask for the MPH ACE Conference Room Rate, or use the booking link: <https://bit.ly/3NicLaQ>
- **Deadline:** Reserve by May 1, 2026, to receive this special rate.

## CONFERENCE POLICIES

**PRE-PAYMENT REQUIRED:** The registration fee must be paid at the time of online registration with a major credit card or check. Refunds will not be issued to registrants who do not participate in the conference for which they registered.