

Derailing Early Childhood Trauma

Trauma-informed care, incorporated across the community, is creating significantly better outcomes for affected young children--this was the key message delivered by Dr. Joan Gillece at the February 15th program, “Derailing Early Childhood Trauma,” held at the Friends Meeting House. Almost 80 members and community guests, many of them active professionals in the field, attended the program.

Dr. Gillece explained how untreated trauma can have a drastic lifelong impact on children and that treatment must be shaped so that it does not further traumatize a child. She shared a short animated [video](#) to illustrate how a trauma-informed, empathic approach differs from other treatments.

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Dr. Gillece described success stories in communities throughout the country, including a city-wide program being led by the mayor of Tarpon Springs, Florida, and special efforts in Baltimore.

As a long-time Annapolis resident, Dr. Gillece issued a call to action to those living and working in Anne Arundel County to establish our own community-wide trauma-informed program, a call that was met with much enthusiasm from attendees. AAWGT distributed contact information for additional [local and national resources](#) and audience members were encouraged to network and collaborate to bring this program to our local children.

Dr. Joan Gillece is Director of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s National Center for Trauma Informed Care and Director of the [National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors’ Center for Innovation in Trauma-Informed Approaches](#).