



September 8, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the City of Columbia's Office of Violence Prevention, I am pleased to express support for Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services' (PHHS) proposed county-wide initiative to prevent Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) among families impacted by substance use disorders.

This initiative aligns directly with our mission to address the root causes of violence through prevention, early intervention, and community engagement. By implementing School of Hard Talks, focused on strengthening parent-child relationships, and SPARK (Speaking to the Potential, Ability & Resilience Inside Every Kid), centered on youth resilience and well-being, PHHS is addressing critical risk factors that contribute to cycles of trauma and violence.

The program's goals—reducing ACEs, strengthening family resilience, and improving relationships—are consistent with our priorities of supporting parents, equipping youth with positive coping strategies, and ensuring safer, healthier communities across Boone County.

The Office of Violence Prevention values this partnership and stands ready to support PHHS in advancing this important work. Together, we can build stronger families and safer communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D'Markus Thomas-Brown'. The signature is stylized with a large 'D' and a prominent 'M'.

D'Markus Thomas-Brown

Administrator

Office of Violence Prevention

City of Columbia