Community Resilience Initiative

- Nonprofit located in Walla Walla, Washington
- Becky Turner, Director of Community Engagement
- Providing nationwide training in the science of trauma and resilience
Responding to a Community Need

- Lincoln Alternative High School in Walla Walla: low graduation rates, low attendance rates, and high rates of student violence.

- Originally called the Children’s Resilience Initiative, CRI founder Teri Barila worked with faculty, educational services district, juvenile courts, parents, curriculum developers, and independent researchers.

- Goal: use a multi-disciplinary trauma-informed framework to work with the students.

- Result: increased graduation and attendance rates, decreased violence.

- The results of CRI’s work is highlighted in the documentary Paper Tigers.
Beyond Paper Tigers

• This framework could work for others as it had for Walla Walla.

• Children’s Resilience Initiative was eventually transformed into a 501c3 nonprofit, the Community Resilience Initiative.

• Coalition building in the community of Walla Walla:
  ➢ Drug prevention programs
  ➢ Resilience-focused recovery groups
  ➢ Suicide prevention groups
  ➢ Early childhood education programs

• Environmental advocacy
  ➢ Adverse catastrophic exposures, i.e. climate change
Engaging with the Community

• Ensuring all sectors are represented.
  • Education (public and private), education-adjacent positions (such as nutrition staff), criminal justice system, local government, nonprofits, tribes, enclaves, and the private sector (wineries and local businesses).

• Ensuring the needs of the community drive the work.

• Ensuring a culturally responsive, local response to increase engagement and buy-in.

• Welcoming everyone to the table with a regular, predictably scheduled community of practice.

Art shown at Together23
A Trauma-Informed Recovery Event hosted by Whitman College
CRI’s Approach

• **Educating** about the health effects of ACEs and other adverse experiences (such as racism, pandemics, and climate change).

• **Building resilience** on an individual, community, and collective level.

• **Focusing on whole-person wellness**: psychological, emotional, physical, and behavioral.

• **Decreasing isolation** and loneliness by actively – and consistently – bringing new people and groups into the discussion.