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Bath, NY - Pro Action's *Kids On Track Steuben* initiative – in partnership with Corning-Painted Post Area School District, Care Compass Network and Prevent Child Abuse New York – hosted more than 300 community members Wednesday evening for a meal and a screening of the film **Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope** produced by KPJR Films and directed by James Redford. Following the film screening, a facilitated community conversation provided attendees the opportunity to think together about ways that individuals and the community can respond to what they learn about adverse childhood experiences and trauma.

As the film's promotional materials describe it, **Resilience**, "Documents a growing movement among pediatricians, therapists, educators and communities, who are using cutting-edge brain science to disrupt cycles of violence, addiction and disease." Key lessons of the film are that adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are common and that they put people at risk for long-term physical health problems. At the same time, *resilience* – defined as, "The ability to thrive, adapt and cope despite tough and stressful times," is something that can be developed when stable, caring adults and safe, nurturing environments create a buffer against the effects of adversity and toxic stress.

"Interest in this topic is definitely building throughout the community. The more we can learn about the effects of childhood trauma, the better we as individuals and systems can respond sensitively to it," said Laura Rossman, CEO of Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc."

Mike Ginalski, Superintendent of Corning-Painted Post Area Schools, said, "If our employees, who interact with children every day, can be that caring adult who boosts the resilience of a child who has experienced adversity, then why wouldn't we? Understanding ACEs and their effects is a great starting point."

Kaitlyn McWilliams presented on The Finger Lakes Resiliency Network's Trauma Informed Learning Community, a year-long process for organizations to self-assess and update their policies and practices to be more sensitive to those affected by childhood trauma.

Event attendees who want to take action on this topic were invited to join committees that will continue learning about ACEs and trauma and prioritize cross-sector responses. Guests left the event energized to tell the story of ACEs and resilience to their colleagues, to hold more movie screenings, and to adopt some of the response strategies highlighted in the film.

www.proactioninc.org

Pro Action works to build a community of resilient individuals and families who can meet their basic needs, overcome adversity, and prosper.