

## Metro Training of Presenter April 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> – Trainer Team Bios



**Dr. Ruth Charles, *Certified ACE Interface Presenter & ACE Interface Trainer Candidate***

**Location:** Winona County

**Metro Training of Presenter Role:** Co-facilitator

Dr. Ruth Charles is a professor in the Social Work department at Winona State. She is a certified ACE Interface Presenter and worked with MN Communities Caring for Children on this research. Ruth loves taking complex ideas and breaking them down so audiences of any age can understand the information. The ACE material helps us understand how brain development and trauma can impact a person, family, school or community. Currently she has been working in collaboration with Winona area residents to create our own self-healing community. Ruth did her MSW and PhD at Syracuse University in New York.



**Dave Ellis, *Certified ACE Interface Trainer & Certified ACE Interface Presenter***

**Location:** Hennepin & Ramsey Counties

**Metro Training of Presenter Role:** Co-facilitator

Dave Ellis is the owner and Principal Consultant at Dave Ellis Consulting, LLC, a group dedicated to using Worldview Intelligence and the Art of Hosting Conversations That Matter for training on equity and inclusion, strategic planning, community engagement, trauma and trauma-informed care. He has hosted discussions with groups ranging from 10 to 2,000 participants. Ellis is a Certified Master Trainer on the impact of trauma on the neurobiology and brain development of children prenatal through 3 years of age, epigenetics, the Adverse Childhood Experiences study (ACE Study) and individual and community resilience and capacity building (NEAR Science). Ellis engages others in creating system-wide, community-based and culturally-specific approaches to address trauma- and stress-induced health issues in the lives of individuals and communities. He is a local, national and international planner/trainer on topics including the impact of trauma, trauma informed care, worldview intelligence, equity and community engagement strategies.



**Tom Gonzalez**

**Location:** Crow Wing

***Certified ACE Interface Trainer & Certified ACE Interface Presenter***

**Metro Training of Presenter Role:** Co-facilitator

Tom Gonzalez is Senior Pastor of Pointway church in Baxter, MN and has been in ministry for almost twenty years. He grew up in an alcoholic family, and has personally experienced the toxic stress that environment produces. One of his passions in ministry is pastoral counseling, where he works with a variety of people helping them through their life struggles. Tom has his Bachelor's and Master's degree from Crown College in Pastoral Ministry and Church Leadership, respectively, and is currently working on his doctorate at Bethel Seminary researching adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their effects on resiliency in pastoral ministry. Tom has been married to his amazing wife Paula for 25+ years and has two adult children: Thomas & Gabby.

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**Sam Simmons, *Certified ACE Interface Trainer, Certified ACE Interface Presenter, & Historical Trauma Trainer***

**Location:** Hennepin & Ramsey Counties

**Metro Training of Presenter Role:** Historical trauma trainer

Sam Simmons, AA, LADC has over 28-year experience as a behavioral consultant specializing in practical culturally sensitive trauma informed work with African American males and their families with a focus on addressing chemical dependency, interpersonal violence and historical trauma. He is co-creator of the African American Community of Practice (AACCP) aims to increase the capacity and numbers of African American professionals and paraprofessionals to increase culturally sensitive trauma informed resources for the African American community. For over 9 years Sam developed and managed a culturally-specific trauma informed project and curriculum that engages African American males to promote healthy relationships to end violence against women and girls and community violence. Sam is an Adverse Childhood Experience Interface Trainer in the state of Minnesota. He was awarded the 2009 Governor's Council on Faith and Community Service Initiatives Best Practices Award for his work with MN Department of Veterans Outreach Services, prison reentry and in the African American community. Sam received the 2016 Healing the Hidden Wounds of Racial Trauma award and the Black Tear Drop Award for his vision and leadership in culturally sensitive trauma informed work in the community and around the country. In 2017 Sam received the Champions for Children Award for his work in making the world a better place for children from the Minnesota Communities Caring for Children. He is co-host of "Voices" radio show on KMOJ FM that addresses issues of the urban community. Sam is co-creator the Community Empowerment Through Black Men Healing conference called "Groundbreaking and Visionary".



**Emily Clary. *Certified ACE Interface Presenter & ACE Interface Trainer Candidate***

**Location:** Hennepin/Ramsey Counties

**Metro Training of Presenter Role:** Note Taker/Observer/Regional Training Coordinator

Emily Clary is the Director of ACE Collaborative Partnerships at MCCC, and is responsible for helping develop and coordinate the ACE Interface training and Self-Healing Communities partnership with the Children's Mental Health and Family Services Collaboratives across the state. Emily holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota and a Bachelor's of Arts Degree in Sociology from Beloit College. From 2009-2015, Emily developed programming for incarcerated men at the Dakota County Sheriff's Office. She has been trained in Motivational Interviewing, Person Centered Thinking, Bridges Out of Poverty, MAVA Volunteer Leadership, is certified to administer the Level of Services/Case Management Inventory tool, and has an Offender Workforce Development Specialist (OWDS) certification.