VERMONT MEDICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION

Integrating the Science of the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)
Study in Vermont Medical Practice and Medical Education

Adopted October 25, 2014

Whereas, The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study is one of the largest investigations ever conducted to assess associations between childhood maltreatment and later-life health and well-being; and

Whereas, The study is a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Kaiser Permanente's Health Appraisal Clinic in San Diego; and

Whereas, The ACE Study findings suggest that certain experiences are major risk factors for the leading causes of illness and death as well as poor quality of life in the United States. It is critical to understand how some of the worst health and social problems in our nation can arise as a consequence of adverse childhood experiences; and

Whereas, evidence from the ACE study indicates that primary prevention of these events will reduce the burden of adult chronic disease and lead to better health outcomes; and

Whereas, results from ongoing research from the ACE study may identify best practices regarding referral and treatment for patients with a history of significant exposure to adverse childhood experiences; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the VMS work with public and private partners to identify, and rigorously evaluate and promote, strategies for the integration of strength-based, data-driven and age-appropriate prevention, resiliency promotion, and screening and follow-up/referral activities throughout Vermont’s health care delivery system; and be it further

RESOLVED, that VMS advocate for the integration of strength-based, data-driven and age-appropriate prevention, resiliency promotion, screening and follow-up/referral activities into health care professional training; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the VMS urge the Vermont Department of Health to continue to monitor the population-based impact of ACE using data collection strategies such as (but not limited to) the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System.