# CT Suicide Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, April 9, 2015  
**Location:** Armed Forces Reserve Center, Middletown, CT

**Present:** Rosemary Baggish (IOL), Emily Betts (Jordan Porco Foundation), Kevin Borrup (CCMC), Heather Clinger (Wheeler Clinic), Ann Irr Dagle (Brian Dagle Memorial Foundation), Jenn Donnelly (DMHAS), Andrea Duarte (DMHAS), Michael Dutko (CTARNG), Helen Evrard (Wordifference), Jim Fox (CTARNG), Marisa Giarnella Porco (Jordan Porco Foundation), Jennifer Glick (DMHAS), Amy Hanoian Fontana (CT Poison Control Center), Holly Hinds, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick (APAAC), Nancy Hubbard (IOL), Amanda Johnston (SERC), Celeste Jorge (DPH), Tim Marshall (DCF), Tom Matthews (Solutions EAP), Yania Padilla (Accenture Federal Services/CTNG), Paula Rego (IOL), James Sypher (CTARNG), Meryl Tom (DPH), Arnold Trasente (DCF), Faith Vos Winkel (Office of Child Advocate), and Cheryl Weinstock (Freelance Journalist)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC</th>
<th>SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION</th>
<th>OUTCOME / ACTION/RESPONSIBLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I. Welcome and Introductions</strong></td>
<td>Tim Marshall welcomed the group and initiated introductions.</td>
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| **II. Presentation:** | **Office of the Child Advocate, Child Fatality Review Panel:**  
  - Office of the Child Advocate (OCA) is an independent state agency with subpoena authority created in 1995 to provide oversight to protect the legal, civil, and special rights of children and to advocate for their well-being.  
  - OCA has broad statutory mandate and authority, makes public policy recommendations, responds to citizen concerns, reviews facilities children where children are placed and is the child fatality review entity for the state.  
  - The Child Fatality Review Panel (CFRP) reviews unexpected or unexplained child deaths. The panel consists of 16 members: six state agencies, seven political appointments and three additional appointments can be made by the panel.  
  - Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month.  
  - CFRP used to review cases within the month they came in and switched to doing cluster reviews. | Reference link for presentation:  
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- Unexpected and unexplained child fatalities from January 1, 2001 to December 31, 2014 in Connecticut: total fatality cases included 520 accidents, 213 homicides, 114 suicides, and 174 undetermined cases.
- In 2014, there were no teen driving fatalities of teens with a driver’s license. There were 8 accidents compared to the usual 30 or 40 in a year.
- Faith further discussed SIDS. The occurrence of SIDS means there is no modifiable factor that could have been changed. There are some common modifiable factors that prevent a fatality being labeled as SIDS.
- From 2001 to 2014, there were 114 suicides among youth ages 10 through 17 years of age. The data does not include 18 year-olds even if they are still in high school.
- From 2001 to 2010, there were 52 boys who died by suicide; by 2014 it was 73. From 2001-2010, there were 23 girls who died by suicide; in just four years to 2014, that number nearly doubled to 41 girls.
- 84 of the youth suicides in CT were due to hanging.
- In 2013, five of the ten youth suicide victims completed suicide within six weeks of the start of school.
- CFRP took a closer look at the ten cases of youth suicide that took place in 2013. The kids, families, and reports varied.
- There are some cases that feel like a suicide death but are not necessarily classified in that way, such as overdose and single vehicle crashes.
- Connecticut youth that die from suicide out of state (vacation, visiting relatives, etc) are not always known to OCA.
- A Public Health Alert put out by OCA was distributed to members.

Public Health Alert:  
III. Review of March Minutes and Follow-up

IV. Updates regarding priority areas & sub-committees

- March minutes accepted.

**State Plan – State of CT Suicide Prevention Plan (PLAN-2020)**

- Tim Marshall announced that the state plans are printed. The first printing made 500 copies of the state plan. The goal is for every legislator in the state and all of the commissioners to have a plan. A second printing can be done to make additional copies.
- Tim Marshall asked the members to look at the goals and objectives where they might be actively doing work to determine ambassadors for each part. Two related projects that still need to be finished and printed are an executive summary and cards with the goals stated. Additionally, an event to disperse the plans is to be determined.
- Jenn Donnelly stated that the survey for the State Plan has been created with the help of Sara Wakai and a protocol is currently being developed. The survey is going to be piloted to a few members of the board before being dispersed.

**Awareness Campaign/ Website**

- Andrea Duarte announced that Jeanette Baker has been updating the website. If anyone has ideas for the website, they can let Andrea or Tim know about their suggestions or resources they would like to see added.

**Statewide Network/Foundations**

- Heather Clinger announced that there are over 240 members on the statewide network listserv.
- Marisa Giarnella Porco announced that the Jordan Porco Foundation will soon be starting their spring Fresh Check Day season; there are seven scheduled for the spring. The first national launch will be in September at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. There are additional colleges outside of Connecticut, including Providence College and WPI, who will be hosting a Fresh Check Day this year. Marisa stated that they are also working with the Jed Foundation to develop a framework.
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- Yania Padilla announced that the Southern AFSP Chapter is having a volunteer/board recruitment social at Southport Brewing Company, 2600 Post Road, Southport, April 22, 7:00pm-9:00pm.

**Evidence-Based Practice Promotion**
- Tim Marshall discussed legislation about a youth suicide advisory board that may affect our board. The legislation would mandate training and member positions. Both liaisons from DMHAS and DCF are suggesting that the CTSAB is working efficiently with its current membership and trainings.

**Suicide-related Federal Grants**
- Andrea Duarte announced that the Garrett Lee Smith Grant was released on Friday. It will be very competitive with many states in this area also applying. Rob Aseltine and Sara Wakai are doing the data analysis section of the grant. The GLS is focused on connecting people at risk with treatment. There are 12 grants being awarded.

**Intervention-Postvention Response Committee**
- Emily Betts announced that the committee has finalized the resources they want to have in the packet, the resources they will provide online, and a draft of a trifold document with resources listed.
- The committee is meeting directly following the CTSAB meeting.

**Student Wellbeing Workgroup**
- Tim Marshall stated that the workgroup is coming up with a draft and an estimate for their printing of student resource cards for teachers. They will also be receiving feedback from educators on the cards.
- The workgroup is meeting directly following the CTSAB meeting.

**Armed Forces Panel**
- Yania Padilla indicated that the panel has been working with Jim Grimord to invite commanders from the VFW and American Legion to suicide prevention training.

Contact Yania Padilla for more information: yaniapadilla@gmail.com

Contact Yania at yania.y.padilla.ctr@mail.mil if you are interested in being a member of the advisory group.
**IV. Member Updates**

**Member Updates**

- Tim Marshall announced that June 11, 2015, is the date of the CTSAB Annual Meeting from 9:00am - 3:30pm at the Crowne Plaza in Cromwell. Registration and breakfast at 8:30am. The meeting is open to the first 75 people who register. An announcement on the CTSAB listserv will open the registration.

The meeting adjourned at 11:06am.

**VI. Upcoming Meetings**

Meetings are the second Thursday of the month, 9:00am—11:00am

MG Maurice Rose Armed Forces Reserve Center
375 Smith Street
Middletown, CT 06457

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>5/14/15</td>
<td>Tom Matthews, Solutions EAP, Workplace Suicide Prevention in Employee Assistance Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/11/15</td>
<td>CTSAB Annual Meeting, Crowne Plaza, Cromwell</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/9/15</td>
<td>Martin Burke &amp; Hilary Bryant, Advocacy Unlimited, Alternatives to Suicide Support Group</td>
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<td>8/13/15</td>
<td>Judy Murray, Don’t Accept No</td>
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<td>9/10/15</td>
<td>National Awareness Month</td>
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**2015 Meetings**

Topics TBD:
- 10/08/15
- 11/12/15
- 12/10/15

Contact Andrea Duarte with suggestions of presenters andrea.duarte@ct.gov.

**In the event of inclement weather**, the CTSAB meeting is cancelled if Middletown Schools are closed. If they have a delay, the meeting will still take place. Here is a link for closings and delays: [http://www.wfsb.com/category/211195/school-closings](http://www.wfsb.com/category/211195/school-closings).