

Minutes of the Region 5 SAB Virtual Meeting September 23, 2020 10am- 11:30am

In attendance: Allison Fulton, Kathy Hanley, Abby Wood, Dawn Fawcett, Debbie Berman, Maryann Pieratti, Jill Pluta, Gabriel Lomas, Bethany Didato, Jennifer DeWitt, Patricia Gaylord, Kristin Mabrouk, Sheila Levine

Allison opened the meeting with a check in with everyone and reviewed the agenda.

School grant update – no one in the room with an update except Kristen from Naugatuck reported that their 2 year grant just ended and they are renewing some licenses. Heather Spatta will be sending out the final data soon.

Allison will let everyone know if another mini grant opportunity for suicide prevention money becomes available.

Education:

Abby presented her power point presentation on the State Plan 2025 (see attached) Page 79 has live links with resources and videos. Abby encouraged everyone to review the list of possible strategies. One example is to put the hotline number on the back of all student ids.

Kathy shared Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) opportunities. They switched to a webinar format and have trained 268 people since April. They are doing them Friday mornings and some event dates have been added. Kathy and Abby are wondering if anyone has suggestions on how to reach more lay people and should they be changing the wording on the flyer to attract more people. Some suggestions are to train bus drivers, Boy Scout leaders, Girl Scout leaders, YMCA, doctors offices, schools, suicide support groups, libraries, church group etc.

Getting the QPR information to Superintendents for professional development days.

Project:

Post-vention plan

Tom Steen has a 4 hour online Training. It's 3 hours in one session, then one hour the second session to draft post-vention plan for the community

We can schedule this sometime in February if we can identify people from our community that this would be helpful for. We can get it booked and invite people. Everyone was in agreement to get it booked.

Announcements:

Gabe has been working with Senator Julie Kushner and the CARES ACT has some funding in it and they are working to propose a law. He is proposing that there be a Center for school safety that will cover the entire state of CT. It will be housed at Western CT State University. The

center would be doing research on school safety and collaborations with schools across the state and have experts for everyone Regional Education Service Center (RESC) would have 2 staff members who are employed by this center and they would be organizing crisis teams. This would be part of the state government and more systematic. This would be different from the volunteers we have right now. Gabe will let everyone know when it comes to fruition. Allison stated that we are in total support of this and will help in any way we can.

CAC 21 is holding their Legislative forum virtually on Oct. 22 from 3pm-4pm. We have invited all the local legislators and candidates from the Greater Danbury area. If anyone wants to draft a question to get in in the discussion, let us know.

Discussion:

There is concern for the kids who may have mental health challenges that leave high school and go on to college. With isolation issues now these kids may not have access to resources that they had before and due to HIPPA rights no one from High Schools can forward any mental health information onto schools.

Allison mentioned that Drug Free Schools group may want to put together a transition to next level after high school online series.

Sharon Guck did one about 10 years ago. This may be a good thing to do again.

Sheila stated that Bethel had purchased a program in January and was not able to implement it. She is still in contact with students who graduated last year and these kids are struggling. They still feel isolated and she is very concerned with them. We tend to look at them and think “well, they are 18 or 19” and they don’t need the support that they used to when they actually need it more.

Implementing the For What’s Next program or any kind of program is very important right now.

Jennifer DeWitt mentioned that the Waterbury Police want to train over 300 police officers over the next year in QPR.

Next meeting is December 16th 10am – 11:30am