

CT Suicide Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: August 12, 2021

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Present: Jeanette Baker (United Way CT), Scott Barton (Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation), Rebekah Behan (CHDI), Romeo Blackmar (Town of Putnam), Dana Bossio (Fairfield Public Schools), Bill Brassard (NSSF), Kaitlin Brown (CCPG), Heather Clinger (Wheeler), Sarah DeFlumeri (Step Up Naugy), Dave Denino (consultant), Michele Devine (SERAC), Nick Dionne (UConn), Riddhi Doshi (Beacon Health Options), Andrea Duarte (DMHAS), Jennifer Esposito (Judicial Branch), Lisa Girard (FAVOR), Rob Harrison (Westerly Hosp.), Aaron Jackson (CMHA), Brandon Jewell (SAVE), Angela Jimenez (DPH), Bob Kanehl (CT Poison Control), Pamela Lang (CSSD), Michelle Leibovitz (Rich Wright Productions), Valerie Lepoutre (NAMI CT), Kelly Leppard (DMHAS), Susan Logan (DPH), Jodi Lott (Gaggle), Cathy Ludlum (Second Thoughts CT), Mike Makowski (DPH), Giovanna Mozzo (The Hub), Allyson Nadeau (Amplify CT), Victoria O’Neill (Prevention Corps), Lucy Orellano (OCA), Jonathan Perloe (CTAGV), Sam Rainey (AFSP), Erin Reyes (UConn), Margy Roberts (CHNCT), Timothy Schmutte (Yale), Marissa Sicley-Rogers (IOL), Richard Siddall (SMART Recovery), Audrey Silva (UConn), Greg Simpson (Beacon Health Options), Heather Spada (United Way CT), Tom Steen (Steen Consulting), Robin Tousey-Ayers (DPH), Colleen Violette (DPH), Faith VosWinkel (OCA), Sara Wakai (UConn Health), Cheryl Weinstock (Freelance Journalist), Abby Wood (Western CT Coalition), and LoriBeth Young (DSS).

AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION /RESPONSIBLE
I. Welcome and Introductions	Andrea Duarte and Tom Steen welcomed the attendees via Zoom.	
II. Review of Minutes	July minutes accepted.	
III. Presentation Audrey Silva, Director, UCIS UConn Communication Access/Interpreting Services Center for Students with Disabilities Wilbur Cross Building 233 Glenbrook Road, Unit 4174 Storrs, CT 06269-4174 (860) 486-8120 (Voice) (860) 553-3243 (Video) audrey.silva@uconn.edu Erin Reyes Program Coordinator erin.reyes@uconn.edu	Audrey Silva and Erin Reyes presented “Deafness and Mental Health.” Nick Dionne was the interpreter. Deaf with a capital “D” is a cultural identity, primarily use American Sign Language (ASL) whereas deaf with a small “d” may mean a person became deaf later in life or does not use ASL. Hard of hearing is mild to severe hearing loss; a person has some degree of hearing but may miss certain words or sounds. Most individuals prefer hard of hearing versus hearing impaired as that is a deficit mindset. Interventions, techniques, and services that work for hearing clients are not equally effective for deaf clients. There is a shortage of mental health professionals with the training and experience to assess deaf individuals. It is never developmentally appropriate to ask a child to interpret. Only 30% of what is said in English is visible on the lips. Interpreters are nationally and locally credentialed professionals. Using qualified interpreters in the therapeutic process is effective. To view the presentation, visit: https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Customer-Content/www/files/PDFs/CT_SAB_Presentation_Aug_12_2021_final.pdf Additional resources:	

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Nick Dionne Staff Interpreter nicholas.dionne@uconn.edu	<p>UConn Interpreting Services https://ucis.uconn.edu/</p> <p>Article--Deaf Students & Suicide https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Customer-Content/www/files/PDFs/SuicidePosterADARAapril2009__1_.pdf</p> <p>Shane Spurlock's story https://www.newsreview.com/sacramento/content/can-you-hear-me-now/60673/</p> <p>National Deaf Center https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/resources</p> <p>National Deaf Therapy https://www.nationaldeaftherapy.com/</p>	
IV. Member Updates	No updates	
V. 2022 CTSAB Speakers	Filling vacancies for 2022 meetings that are TBD on the agenda. Contact Andrea.Duarte@ct.gov with speaker suggestions.	
VI. Updates	<p><u>Foundations</u></p> <p>American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) https://afsp.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Six walks scheduled to begin in September; all are currently scheduled for in person. - Seeking new board members for the CT chapter. Contact Tom Steen tom@steenconsulting.net <p>Brian Dagle Foundation https://brianshealinghearts.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No update <p>SAVE https://save.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - September 10 Light the Night with luminaries on the Enfield Town Green for lives lost to suicide <p>Jordan Porco Foundation https://www.rememberingjordan.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No update <p>My Friend Abby https://www.myfriendabby.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fundraiser being planned for the Fall and hosting a local event on September 10, 2021. <p>Grief Coalition</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No update <p><u>Committees</u></p> <p>Data to Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next virtual meeting scheduled October 25, 10:00am. - Last meeting focused on the SPRC Community of Practice meeting of engagement of community sectors and community evaluation. - August 24 is a wrap-up Community of Practice meeting. <p>Intervention-Postvention Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Various systems are notified when there is an untimely death for an effective response. - All Regional Suicide Advisory Boards have completed postvention training and are continuing to work on their postvention plans. - Faith Vos Winkel, Ann Irr Dagle, and Andrea Duarte presented to Maryland on Connecticut's postvention work. Maryland has an office of suicide prevention within their state government. <p>Lethal Means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The draft firearm safe proof your home brochure will next be reviewed by clinicians. - Working with DOT for signs at West Haven, Bridgeport, Fairfield, State Street and Derby train stations. Sign also in Stamford at the East Main overpass. - Air Rights Garage in New Haven ordered 50 signs. - Looking into adding a QR code to signs similar to Rhode Island. - DEEP is identifying locations within state parks for signs. - Looking into adding signs in courthouse garages. - 21 healthcare sites are part of the lockbox project. <p>Attempt Survivors/Lived Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bridging the Gap training is going well. - Researching more resources for individuals with lived experience to be added to the website. <p>Zero Suicide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steven Rogers, MD, from Connecticut Children's will co-chair the committee along with Andrea Duarte and Patty Graham. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Last committee meeting focused on staff wellness and thanks extended to Nancy Hubbard for her time as co-chair of the committee. <p>Clinical Workgroup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to develop web-based curriculum with DMHAS Workforce Development & Training. <p>Legislative Advocacy Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next legislative steps will be reviewed at the August 26 meeting. <p><u>Regional Suicide Advisory Board Meetings</u> https://www.preventsuicidect.org/about-us/regional-sab-business/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact the lead for each region for more information regarding meetings and trainings. <p>Region 1/Southwestern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional team for AFSP walk October 24 with the NPW mascot. - Dr. Stephen Xenakis and Matt D. presented their Community Resilience Campaign in June. Community Resilience Silver Hill Hospital: https://silverhillhospital.org/communityresilience/ . If anyone is interested in the recording of the meeting and/or the PowerPoint, contact Giovanna Mozzo gmozzo@thehubct.org . - QPR and Talk Saves Lives trainings scheduled for September. <p>Region 2/ New Haven:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Awareness project for September. - QPR trainings in September. - Participating in the October AFSP walk in Hamden with an info booth <p>Region 3/Eastern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hiring for one full-time and one part-time position for suicide program lead and assistant. - QPR trained approximately 100 camp student leaders. - Hosting a screening of My Ascension October 6. - Provided 400 Senior Wellness Pack to groups around the region; materials included info on mental health, depression, and suicide prevention. - Supporting local police departments to have comfort dogs and community police officers. <p>Region 4/ North Central:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QPR trainings continue. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning September suicide prevention awareness month activities. <p>Region 5/Western:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QPR and Narcan trainings continue. - Attended the Bridging the Gap training. - Postvention efforts continue. <p><u>Grant Initiatives</u></p> <p>988</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A no cost extension has been granted through January to continue the planning process. - Survey was released on August 9, 2021, and committee members were encouraged to share the survey with others. - If interested in joining the stakeholder group, contact Tim Marshall tim.marshall@ct.gov or Andrea Duare andrea.duarte@ct.gov <p><u>CDC Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Grant</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning is completed with a few tweaks to plans before the end of first grant year. - Implementation of our strategies will begin in September and October including broadcasting suicide awareness and prevention video PSAs during September and October on social media and other platforms. - The Center for Population Health at UConn is on board to evaluate the project and update an inventory of state and local level Suicide Prevention Resources especially in the areas of the state with higher rates of suicide attempts and death by suicide. - Contracting with United Way of CT to conduct much of the prevention program coordination and focus the statewide suicide awareness campaign in the higher risk areas of the state and to the selected vulnerable populations. <p><u>Awareness Campaign/Website/Outreach</u> https://www.preventsuicidect.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New website shown during the meeting. - Members reminded that they can order 1 WORD items from the website and to order far enough in advance of events. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting adjourned 11:01am 	

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<p>2021-2022 Meeting Schedule</p> <p>Meetings are the second Thursday of the month, 9:00am—11:00am</p> <p>Meetings are currently scheduled virtually. Please refer to the monthly meeting announcement for meeting information.</p>	<p>Contact Andrea Duarte with suggestions for meeting presenters/topics, andrea.duarte@ct.gov</p> <p>Dates/Presentations:</p> <p><u>2021-2022 Meeting Dates/Presentations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 9/9/21: Annual Meeting—988: National Suicide and Mental Health Crisis Hotline - 10/14/21: Sara Gaer, Suicide Prevention Specialist/Author, <i>Trauma and Suicide</i> - 11/11/21: Veterans Day/ State Holiday, no meeting - 12/9/21: Barbara Ward-Zimmerman, CHDI Educating Practices, <i>Intersection of ADHD and Suicide</i> - 1/13/22: Juliet Meskers, Mental Health Global Network, Normalizing Mental Health - 2/10/22: TBD - 3/10/22: TBD - 4/14/22: Rachel Collins, Counseling Services, Autism and Suicide - 5/12/22: TBD - 6/9/22: TBD - 7/14/22: TBD - 8/11/22: TBD - 10/13/22: TBD - 11/10/22: TBD - 12/8/22: TBD <p>Subcommittee meetings are listed in the monthly meeting announcement sent on the CTSAB listserv.</p>	