



## SW Regional Suicide Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Meeting Date:** March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Location:** Zoom

**Present:** Margaret Watt (Positive Directions), Gillian Anderson (My Friend Abby), Janessa Alvarez-Ortiz (Mobile Crisis of Southern CT), Kelley Meier (Norwalk Health Department), Julie DeMarco (Fairfield Social Services), Erin Mulhern (CT DPH), Rebecca Gabriel (Town of Greenwich Human Service), Ally Kernan, (TurningPointCT.org), Leigh Goodman (Trumbull EMS), Giovanna Mozzo (The Hub), Victoria O’Neill (The Hub)

AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION	OUTCOME / ACTION/RESPONSIBLE
<b>CT SAB Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 2022 Presentation: Problem Gambling and Suicide (March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month)</li> <li>• Fast Facts: “8% of people in the state of CT are at risk of developing a gambling problem in their lifetime”, “Up to 50% of people in treatment for a gambling disorder have suicidal ideation and 17% have attempted suicide”.</li> <li>• What percent of state revenue is going to prevention</li> <li>• Resources: call 1-888-789-7777, text “CTGAMB” to 53342</li> <li>• Review <a href="http://thehubct.org">thehubct.org</a> and this months newsletters to see updated information and resources in relation to problem gambling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previous minutes and agendas can be reviewed on CT SAB website</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholder Announcements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My Friend Abby: collaboration with teachers for grant applications (grant deadline is March 15<sup>th</sup>) – 3 individuals from our region have received the grants (Wilton, Norwalk, Trumbull). Examples of utilization of the grant include baking clubs and mental health journaling club.</li> <li>• Alternatives to Suicide Support Group: discussion surrounding target age groups (should it be limited to age brackets?), legality, connection to agencies, hospitals, mobile crisis, EMS and schools, how to promote (outside of RSAB), changes in language for promotion. Promotion should be among all stakeholders once details are finalized.</li> <li>• Existing flyer for Alternatives to Suicide: <a href="https://www.meetup.com/yarrow-collective-peer-support-of-larimer/events/284086147/">https://www.meetup.com/yarrow-collective-peer-support-of-larimer/events/284086147/</a></li> </ul>	



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<p><b>Guest Speaker:</b>   <b>Erin Mulhern</b>  <b>(Epidemiologist for the State of Connecticut)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is Syndromic Surveillance: public health monitoring system for emergency department and urgent care cases. Data collection is near real time and collaborative between federal, state and local health departments. (38 Emergency Departments and 37 Urgent Care Centers)</li> <li>• CSP Classifications: a. mental health, b. suicidal ideation, c. suicidal attempt (cases are not exclusive between the three)</li> <li>• Suicidal Ideation Trends from 2019-3/9/2022: Since August of 2021, there has been a spike in the number of ED visits for suicidal ideation without typical decline</li> <li>• Suspected SI and SA ED Visits in Fairfield County: males have fewer SI and SA visits compared to females. Since 2019, females have increased in both their SI and SA visit rates</li> <li>• Females have higher suicide attempt rates, yet males complete suicides more frequently (largely due to means)</li> <li>• SI and SA ED visits by race: overall, suicide ideation among “black” and “white” populations visits are decreasing. The “other race” category is increasing. Suicide attempts among races reflect that black populations had higher attempts in 2021</li> <li>• Discussion Surrounding Suicide Attempts and Ideation in young children – increasing in recent years</li> <li>• Hard to compare pre-covid data because fewer hospitals participated in reporting system, resulting in skewed data</li> <li>• Refer to PowerPoint presentation for actual data and statistics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See attached for PowerPoint slides.</li> <li>• SI – Suicide Ideation</li> <li>• SA – Suicide Attempt</li> <li>• ED – Emergency Department</li> <li>• Data is from 2019 – March 9<sup>th</sup> 2022</li> </ul>
<p><b>Discussion Following Presentation</b></p>	<p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobile Crisis – reference provider list is utilized in cases of backlog. When assessing a child with suicidal ideation, cases can be/are held up to 6 weeks</li> <li>• Resource: “Out of the Abyss: An Alternatives to Suicide Group” – an online adventure program for young adults to navigate the darkness in the current environment and beyond.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Updates from The Hub</b></p>	<p>Legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bill 5459 – submit testimony or testify on behalf of The Hub which puts RBHAO’s into legislation</li> <li>• SB 368 – CT SAB written into legislation</li> </ul> <p>Post-Vention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be continued discussion surrounding post-vention during each quarterly RSAB meeting.</li> <li>• The Hub will continue to compile resources for RSAB.</li> </ul>	