



## **South-Central Suicide Advisory Board (RSAB) Meeting Minutes**

**Time: Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 10:30 AM – 12 PM via Teams**

**Facilitators:** Taylor Gainey, Kara Sepulveda-Fonseca – APW

### **Welcome & Introductions**

#### **Attendees:**

Eve Hein – APW, Odali Rodriguez – Clinton Human Services, Mikhela Hull – Carelton, Austin Telford – Naugatuck Valley Health District, Lorena Mitchell – City of New Haven, Theresa Heier – East Shore District Health Department, Francis Fisco – Clifford Beers Youth Mobile Crisis, Pamela Davies – Branford Counseling & Community Services, Rob Bibbiani – Tri-Town Youth Service Bureau, Alice Demeo – DCF, Michelle Silva – Wallingford Health Department, Ben Eaves – APW, Briana Miller – Carelton, Mandy Miranda – Wallingford Youth Services, Tonya Patricia – Lived Experience, Sadie Witherspoon – ACES, Alli Behnke – Haddam-Killingworth Youth Services, Capt. Mike Fumiatti – New Haven Police Department

### **Report Out of May Mapping Action Items**

Lorena – Distributed 988 coasters to bars in downtown New Haven, presented a mental health resiliency training at CFAN's (Coordinated Food Assistance Network) monthly meeting, and distributed 988 and mental health materials to their food pantries network.

Pam – Distributed mental health materials at Branford's 3rd annual charity softball game PD vs. FD and dedicated their pitches to those impacted by mental health.

Ben – Highlighted a nice collaboration of alcohol and mental health challenges, almost 100% compliance with liquor stores and signage placed in 3 towns.

Kara – Created variations of a Free Gun Locks flyer to share with police depts. across the region and on social media, and for RSAB members to share with their local PD.

Eve – Distributed 30 goodie bags (988 and '1 Word 1 Voice 1 Life' materials) to stores and cashiers at local businesses. 12 stores immediately put out the resources to start the conversation and embrace mental health.

### **Community-Led Suicide Prevention (CLSP) Overview**

- Taylor and Kara highlighted the EDC's Community-Led Suicide Prevention Academy in March and reviewed the [Community-Led Suicide Prevention toolkit](#) with the group.

- The CLSP toolkit features plain language and practical how-to steps for communities to use in their local suicide prevention efforts based on seven elements and [seven strategies](#).
- Integration is the element of focus we established – we know behavior is influenced by multiple risk & protective factors that require a range of strategies and approaches that work together.
  - Translating materials to reach new populations; one example – signage with the Lethal Means subcommittee
- The group developed 2 SMARTIE objectives for the RSAB to accomplish throughout the region. SMARTIE (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound, Inclusive, Equitable)
  - By September 2025, we will distribute English and Spanish mental health and 988 resources to 15 town food pantries in the region.
    - \*Note: ask food pantries if there's other languages that need to be considered.*
      - ESDHD is present twice a month at the Community Dining Room
      - Opportunity to partner with Housing Authorities, home bound agencies and senior centers.
  - By January 2026, we will expand the English and Spanish Vibrant 988 signs to 3 new community locations throughout the region like gun shops, shopping plazas, and motels/hotels.
    - Branford motels/hotels and convenience stores are very open
    - Alice – DCF Human trafficking works closely with motels and can connect us
    - Lawn signs could also be utilized for colleges, town greens and beaches
- Kara and Taylor will follow up on towns represented in the RSAB and strategize assignments who will take the lead for assisting with the food pantry component.
  - Tonya will take the lead with Portland & Middletown

### **September Connect Training Brainstorm**

- Plan to host a community in-person Connect postvention training for Suicide Prevention Month, with a maximum of 30 attendees
- Interested towns – New Haven (Lorena), Tri-Town (Rob), Branford (Pam), East Shore (Theresa)
- Interested organization – River Valley Services (Tonya)

Next steps: Taylor will send out an interest form to the group and gather more details.

### **Closing**

Next meeting: Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10:30 AM via Teams