

CT Suicide Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: June 6, 2025

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Present: Dani Amaral (SERAC), Edith Atwerebour (DPH), Precious Baker (CT Poison Control Ctr), Scott Barton (SPRC), Madison Beach, Rebekah Behan (CHDI), Nicole Bengston (Amplify), Amery Bernhardt (CT Ctr for School Safety), Dana Bossio (CES), Alison Burge (CCSU), Brendan Burke (OCA), Kevin Burns (CT DOT), Heather Clinger (Wheeler), Ann Irr Dagle (Brian Dagle Foundation), Alice DeMeo (DCF), Andrea Duarte (DMHAS), Amy Evison (CHR), Arianna Flagg (Town of Somers), Jose-Michael Gonzalez (CT CHRO), Amanda Hart, Eric Hudson (CT Judicial Branch), Russ Iger (Coventry PD), Mark Irons (SERAC), Neena Jacob (DPH), Angela Jimenez (DPH), Angelika Karwowski (Bristol-Burlington Health District), Caitlyn Koripsky (Catalyst CT|The Hub), Amanda Kriz (Carelton Behavioral Health), Valerie Lepoutre (NAMI CT), Susan Logan (DPH), Gabriel Lomas (CT Ctr for School Safety), Steve MacHattie (Charter Oak Family), Mike Makowski (DPH), Abby Wood Maldonado (Western CT Coalition), Lesley Mara (CSCU), Jessica Markure (VHA), Shawn McColgan (Danbury PD), Noelle Michaud (CHR), Amanda Mihaly (UConn SSW/DMHAS), Michael Monterosso (DPH), Lucy Orellano (OCA), Tonya Patricia, Ashley Perreira (Hartford Healthcare), Anna Perry, Natasha Randolph, Rita Ricciardi, Eleni Rodis (DMHAS), Steven Rogers (CT Children's), Alisha Scott (AFSP-CT), Kara Sepulveda-Fonesca (Alliance for Prevention & Wellness), Marissa Sicley-Rogers (Hartford Health Care), Richard Siddall (SMART Recovery), Alyeska Tilly (United Way CT), Nadine Tulloch (DPH), Sara Wakai (UConn Health), Jennifer Waldo (Windsor Health Dept), Emmalyn Walenda (SERAC), Cheryl Weinstock (Freelance Journalist), Tyshaunda Wiley (DPH), and LoriBeth Williams (DSS).

AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION /RESPONSIBLE
I. Welcome and Introductions	Andrea Duarte and Ann Irr Dagle welcomed attendees	
II. Presentation	The scheduled presenter, Elan Javanford, will reschedule to a future date as he is currently responding and providing support services in Los Angeles, CA.	
III. CTSAB Business Reports & Minutes Approval	Statewide News/Updates from Tri-Chairs: State Plan 2030 - Using the same format as current plan; anticipate having a photo ready draft by mid-summer to share with the Commissioners - The special populations section is completed with over 250 references - Data was pulled together by DPH - Tri-chairs are reviewing the goals and objectives submitted by committees - Survey will be released to the CTSAB Suicide-related Grant Initiative Update: 988 Fund and 988 Survey - The Suicide and Crisis Lifeline are all about someone to talk to, someone to respond and somewhere safe to go - Call center managed by United Way	

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	- Youth and adult mobile crisis have been enhanced to 24 hours across the state - Urgent Crisis Centers for youth - Respite, crisis stabilization for adults - The Crisis Contact Specialists are not trained counselors; they are very well trained Crisis Contact Center Specialists - United Way answers multiple lines and depending on the line, will determine which staff answers the line - The same staff answer the ACTION Line for adults and 988; there is a separate group of staff that answers the 211 youth mobile crisis intervention services line - Anyone who is answering 988 is trained to respond to any age group; this is a requirement of Vibrant, which is the entity that manages 988 nationally - Year-to-date calls that come into 988 from across CT: approximately 4,000 per month - The goal is 95% of all calls answered within 15 seconds; CT has a high rate of answer with the average around 5 seconds year-to-date - On the materials page of preventsuicidect.org, there is a link to the 988 materials order page on the Federal site: https://www.preventsuicidect.org/get-materials/order-form/ - There is now the ability to accept donations by check to the Connecticut 988 Fund with CT DMHAS managing the fund: https://www.preventsuicidect.org/get-help/ct-988/ To view the presentation, visit: https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Customer-Content/www/files/PDFs/CTSAB_988_061225.pdf 988 Survey - Local CT evaluation of 988 by DMHAS/UConn School of Social Work, Eleni Rodis and Amanda Mihaly reviewed the survey - The 988 Awareness, Perception and Experience Survey has been sent for IRB approval; once approved, will collect data for six months - Survey will go out broadly in CT and will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and participants will have the ability to get a \$10 electronic gift card	

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	- If CTSAB members have suggestions of where survey can be sent and/or would like to host a focus group, contact Eleni.Rodis@ct.gov or Amanda.Mihaly@ct.gov - <u>Statewide Announcements of Upcoming Events/Trainings from Regional Suicide Advisory Boards (RSABs), Committees, and Foundations</u> Brian Dagle Foundation https://brianshealinghearts.org/ - September 29 & 30 hosting two educational sessions with Dr. Alan Wolfelt - Email: Ann@brianshealinghearts.org CT Office of the Child Advocate - Brendan Burke reported there have been five youth suicides to date in 2025 - In 2024, there were a total of 14 youth suicides, with a majority happening in July and August AFSP-CT - Alisha Scott introduced herself as the new employee of AFSP-CT ascott@afsp.org CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation - Small summer conference July 24 in West Hartford with school safety issues, AI, and postvention response	

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IV. Review of Activities Since Last Report Out	<u>Committees</u> <u>Lethal Means</u> - The subcommittee had a presentation from DPH's Office of Firearm Injury Prevention Department - Main takeaways from the presentation was community programs to implement prevention strategies and evaluation, promotion of safe storage and distribution - Distributed 600 safes and 950 cable locks - Advocating for education for primary care providers - Plan to use the guide to preventing firearm suicide that was developed by the Lethal Means subcommittee in collaboration with DPH and provide the information along with pistol permits - An update through the Governor's Challenge: plans to implement the New York firearm safety and suicide prevention training - CALM training geared toward social workers; RSAB leads CALM trainers - Project ChildSafe will be adding 988 to gun locks - RSAB leads asked to reach out to their local police departments to promote Project ChildSafe https://projectchildsafe.org/ <u>Zero Suicide Learning Community</u> - Committee has existed for 10 years - Next meeting is July 23 with an agenda to discuss what systems are going to be planning for September - Last meeting discussed what systems did in May for Mental Health month; Dr. Quincy Lezine spoke, he founded post-suicidal growth clinical practice and support for clinicians	

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	- SPRC has ideas for action info brief for planning suicide prevention activities; they are working on the 2025 version Education & Advocacy - Speakers are booked for 2025; planning 2026 speakers - Sent an email blast on the CTSAB listserv with education and advocacy resources - The CTSAB video campaigns have been released on the listserv with the Lethal Means committee - Mental Health Day held on May 20 at the State Capitol - United Way of CT 211 Data Pulse: can get geographic-based information on why people are calling 211 https://www.ctunitedway.org/211datapulse/ - No July meeting; next meeting is August 7, 1:00pm - Speaker suggestions can be sent to: Alyeska.Tilly@ctunitedway.org	
Regional Suicide Advisory Boards (RSABs)	Region 3: SERAC - RSAB leads became CALM trainers and three also became AFSP Talk Saves Lives trainers - Tabled in May at health fairs, UConn Storrs and Avery Point Fresh Check Days - 235 students trained in SOS (Signs of Suicide) - Work collaboratively with UConn Wellness Department for 988 and 1 Word campaign on Daily Campus digital advertisements and the Husky Bus digital ads - QPR (Question Persuade Refer) trainings for 160 Ellis Tech students and groups of students at other high schools as well as Quinebaug Valley Community College, Three Rivers Community College, a manufacturing facility, Meals on Wheels staff, Veterans Rally Point staff, and parks and recreation staff	
V. Updates from Awareness Campaign/Website/Outreach Efforts	- Items added to website are on the monthly meeting announcement	
VI. Close of Coalition Meeting	Steve Rogers moved to approve the April 10, 2025 minutes. Amery Bernhardt seconded. Minutes approved.	

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	Coalition meeting ended at 10:31am																																														
VII. Board Meeting	Board meeting began at 10:32am with the following voting members in attendance: <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Rebekah</td><td style="width: 33%;">Behan</td><td style="width: 33%;">Child Health and Development Institute</td></tr> <tr> <td>Amery</td><td>Bernhardt</td><td>CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation</td></tr> <tr> <td>Dana</td><td>Bossio</td><td>Cooperative Educational Services (CES)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Kevin</td><td>Burns</td><td>CT Dept. of Transportation</td></tr> <tr> <td>Ann Irr</td><td>Dagle</td><td>The Brian Dagle Foundation</td></tr> <tr> <td>Andrea</td><td>Duarte</td><td>CT Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services</td></tr> <tr> <td>Amy</td><td>Evison</td><td>Community Health Resources</td></tr> <tr> <td>Russ</td><td>Iger</td><td>Coventry Police Department</td></tr> <tr> <td>Valerie</td><td>Lepoutre</td><td>National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) CT</td></tr> <tr> <td>Steve</td><td>MacHattie</td><td>Charter Oak Family Center</td></tr> <tr> <td>Abby Wood</td><td>Maldonado</td><td>Western CT Coalition</td></tr> <tr> <td>Lesley</td><td>Mara</td><td>CT State Colleges and Universities (CSCU)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Steven</td><td>Rogers</td><td>CT Children's</td></tr> <tr> <td>Sara</td><td>Wakai</td><td>UConn Health</td></tr> <tr> <td>LoriBeth</td><td>Young</td><td>CT Dept. of Social Services (DSS)</td></tr> </table> Coalition members in attendance (non-voting): Edith Atwerebour (DPH), Alice DeMeo (DCF), Angelika Karwowski (Bristol-Burlington Health District), Alyeska Tilly (United Way of CT), Tonya Patricia, Jennifer Waldo (Windsor Health Dept)	Rebekah	Behan	Child Health and Development Institute	Amery	Bernhardt	CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation	Dana	Bossio	Cooperative Educational Services (CES)	Kevin	Burns	CT Dept. of Transportation	Ann Irr	Dagle	The Brian Dagle Foundation	Andrea	Duarte	CT Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services	Amy	Evison	Community Health Resources	Russ	Iger	Coventry Police Department	Valerie	Lepoutre	National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) CT	Steve	MacHattie	Charter Oak Family Center	Abby Wood	Maldonado	Western CT Coalition	Lesley	Mara	CT State Colleges and Universities (CSCU)	Steven	Rogers	CT Children's	Sara	Wakai	UConn Health	LoriBeth	Young	CT Dept. of Social Services (DSS)	
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	There will be a survey released for the State Plan related to the priorities for the advisory board for the next five years. Review page 41 of current State Plan for current priorities. Looking to launch State Plan in September Alyeska Tilly shared Gizmo-based 988 brochure for feedback - In addition to feedback provided from board members, Julie Evans from EDC has provided input as well as a former elementary teacher and Amy Evison from CHR - Additional ideas from board members included bookmark, water bottle stickers, and calm strips - Alice DeMeo shared the Free Intro to Gizmo video on the CHDI Kids Mental Health Training site. https://register.kidsmentalhealthtraining.com/courses/gizmo Jeanette Baker from United Way will attend the July meeting to gather feedback from the board about the website as there are plans to update and revitalize the website There was discussion regarding social media for CTSAB and what role the Education and Advocacy Committee could have	
	Board meeting adjourned at 11:00am.	
2025 Meeting Schedule Meetings are the second Thursday of the month Coalition meeting: 9:00am—10:30am Board meeting: 10:30am-11:00am Meetings are currently scheduled virtually. Please refer to the	<u>2025 Meeting Dates/Presentations:</u> - 7/10: Michael Makowski, CT DPH, CTVDRS Data Update - 8/14: Dr. Christopher Barsotti, MD, FACEP, FAAEM, Co-Founder and Program Director of American Foundation for Firearm Injury Reduction in Medicine AFFIRM at the Aspen Institute, <i>Building community support for safe firearm storage</i> - 9/11: State Plan 2030 release - 10/9: Nate Checketts, CEO & Co-Founder of Rhone Apparel Inc., <i>How a sportswear company is changing the narrative about "Mental Fitness" in the athletic world</i> - 11/13: TBD - 12/11: TBD Subcommittee meetings are listed in the monthly meeting announcement sent on the CTSAB listserv.	

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monthly meeting announcement for meeting information.		