Meeting Date: October 9, 2025 Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Present: Zachary Adams (United Way CT), Dani Amaral (SERAC), Gillian Anderson (My Friend Abby), Megan Avery (DMHAS), Gerry Baird (Clifford Beers), Jeanette Baker (United Way CT), Scott Barton (SPRC), Rebekah Behan (CHDI), Nicole Bengtson (Amplify), Kate Bohannan (CSDE), Kevin Borrup (CT Children's), Stephanie Bozak (DCF), Haley Brown (DMHAS), Shykina Brown (Yale), Kevin Burns (CT DOT), Kali Cavanaugh (JBCSSD), Kathleen Chapman (CT Psychological Assn.), Heather Clinger (Wheeler), Sara Darlagiannis, Alice Demeo (DCF), Anastasiya Domnich-Kovalesky (Torrington Area Health District), Amy Evison (CHR), Brianna Herrera (Norwalk Health Dept.), Emma Hollis (Western CT Coalition), Russ Iger (Coventry PD), Kevin Iglesias (Catalyst CT/Western CT Coalition), Mark Irons (SERAC), Angela Jimenez (DPH), Angie Karwowski (Bristol-Burlington Health District), Caitlyn Koripsky (Catalyst CT), Amanda Kriz (Carelon Behavioral Health), Kelly Leppard (DMHAS), Elisha Logan (Homes for the Brave), Susan Logan (DPH), Steve MacHattie (Charter Oak Family Ctr), Mike Makowski (DPH), Abby Maldonado (Western CT Coalition), Lesley Mara (CSCU), Jessica Markure (VHA), Patrick McCormack (Uncas Health District), Amanda Mihaly (UConn SSW/DMHAS), Wendy Mill (Governor's Prevention Partnership), Allyson Nadeau (Amplify), Katie O'Neil, Lucy Orellano (OCA), Ashley Perreira (Hartford Healthcare), Natasha Randolph (VA CT), Marie Lisette Rimer (Author), Richard Siddall (SMART Recovery), Cathy Sisco (Wheeler), Rebecca Sorornejad, Alyeska Tilly (United Way CT), Laura Vandermeulen, Kristen Volz-Spessard (CT Children's), Emmalyn Walenda (SERAC), Marissa White (CHQIS) and LoriBeth Williams (DSS).

AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION /RESPONSIBLE
I. Welcome and Introductions	CTSAB tri-chair Stephanie Bozak welcomed attendees	
II. Presentation	- Dr. Brown is a licensed Clinical Psychologist, the program director for Yale's Juvenile Justice Mental Health Program, and Assistant Professor at Yale School of	
Serving Youth with Suicidal Ideation Shykina Brown, PsyD Juvenile Justice Mental Health	Medicine - Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Program is contracted by the Judicial Branch Court Services Division	
Program Assistant Professor Yale School of Medicine	 Presentation: Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) for Justice-Involved Youth Introduction: Suicide is one of the leading causes of death among youth 	
shykina.brown@yale.edu	 Suicide prevention in Justice settings require structure DBT allows us to give youth tools needed to manage crises skillfully rather than just containment Why Justice-involved Youth? 	
	 Experience many overlapping issues: trauma, neglect, exposure to community violence, system inequities, stressful and unpredictable environments, emotional dysregulation, etc. Overrepresentation of youth from marginalized communities 	

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	There is a need for a focus on skill-building Core principles of DBT Developed by Dr. Marsha Linehan for chronic suicidality and self-harm Combines ideas of acceptance and validation Targets emotional dysregulation through structured training Core principles of DBT Individual therapy, coaching support, skills training groups, consultation team Frontline staff are also engaged in this effort to prevent burn-out and allow staff to come together to discuss how the model is being used with youth 4 core skills of DBT Module—Mindfulness, Distress Tolerance, Emotion Regulation, Interpersonal Effectiveness Chain analysis — used after an incident to identify precursing triggers, thought patterns, or decision points to understand how to prevent similar situations in the future DBT and suicide prevention Skills are applied before, during, and after high-risk moments Crisis → DBT intervention → Coping Crisis skills in action STOP Skill: Stop, take a step back, observe, proceed mindfully TTP Skill: work to change body temperature; intense exercise, paced breathing, dipping face in cold water or using an icepack Changes physiological response to distract from the emotional thoughts and behaviors that may follow Self-soothing: using senses to manage distress Cultural responsiveness in DBT Critical to make DBT work E.g. adapt the language, cultural identity and community context Address systemic mistrust and stigma in justice-involved	
	populations Use culturally relevant metaphors	

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	 Include family or mentors in coaching sessions Recognize racism, discrimination, and socioeconomic stressors Cultural responsiveness allows more engagement and trust, therefore more likely to apply what is learned Evidence and impact Studies show DBT reduces self-harming behaviors and suicidal attempts in adolescents Improved emotional stability and greater engagement in programs in judicial system System-level benefits Enhances rehabilitation outcomes and reduces recidivism risk Supports safer environments for staff and youth Facilitates smoother reentry and community integration Implementation considerations Implementation takes commitment Staff training and ongoing consultation are essential Fidelity monitoring ensures quality and sustainability Integration with existing trauma-informed and behavioral health programs Support from leadership is important Summary: DBT transforms moments of crisis into opportunities for change Justice involved youth benefit from structure, validation and accountability Clinical and cultural adaptation is essential Questions: Stephanie Bozak: Could you touch on the differences between self-harm and suicidal ideation and how they are not always related? Answer-Youth experience self-harm and ideations. Difference is self-harm can be attached to behavioral need or behavioral component – understand where self-harm is coming from. 	
	 Marissa White: Can you speak about the bridge to reentry and how DBT is maintained once individuals go back into the community? Answer- focus on real life examples – when allowing kids to bring in own examples, they can apply skills in a more realistic manner – they have home passes, going out to get jobs or experiencing 	

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	outings where they can use the skill and come back to the therapist to talk about their application of skills / how they can improve. Helps us understand youth and provide applicable skills versus what we think is necessary. Jeanette Baker – Would one of goals be getting other communities to implement this? Answer – Judicial system does a good job streamlining with kids in the centers and back to residential programs. Some step-down programs are using DBT. DBT training is easy to get, and great tool set to have when talking about suicide prevention in this population. To view the presentation, visit: https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Customer-Content/www/files/PDFs/DBT and JJ Youth Presentation- CTSAB.pdf	
III. CTSAB Business Reports (Minutes approval)	Cathy Sisco moved to approve the September 11, 2025, minutes. Lesley Mara seconded. Minutes approved. Statewide News/Updates from Tri-Chairs - State Plan - CT State Suicide Prevention Plan 2030 is continuing to be worked on - Efforts to ensure new plan is not as academic as past plans - Making it streamlined to use as a guide to utilize in all settings or functions Suicide-related Grant Initiative Updates - 988 Contact Center Specialist Workforce Education - Zachary Adams - Training and Outreach Manager at United Way of Connecticut Zachary.Adams@ctunitedway.org - 988 Crisis contact specialist training overview o In-Person Training structure • Week 1: Orientation for all staff • All departments in health and human services • Training on how to provide empathy, respect to callers, work with challenging callers, become mandated reporters, core required trainings, and more • Week 2 and 3 : Crisis and Basic Needs staff receive core I&R training	

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	 All staff learn to assess information and provide appropriate resources through 211 data bases Resources include topics of food, income, employment, disabilities, youth, older adults, substance use, domestic violence, etc. Week 4-5: Crisis staff go to core crisis training Independent online lifeline modules, supplemented with live in person training Week 5-8: Staff are taking live crisis calls with coach Saff start mock calls and simulation practice Week 8: Staff will sit for approval with supervisor Training mediums used to touch on all different learning styles: E.g., enhanced PowerPoints, videos, mock calls, interactive listening, discussion groups, games, hands on activities, 988/Reflex AI simulations, call shadowing, call handling w/ coach support, third party programs (Kahoot, ReflexAI, Relias), 988 lifeline learning trainings Process improvement Feedback forms on overall training, individual training, and the individual trainer/coach All trainings are periodically reviewed/shadowed by training team Positive outcomes Orientation satisfaction average rating of 4.8 / 5 Overall training satisfaction average rating 4.6 / 5 To view the presentation, visit: https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Customer-Content/www/files/PDFs/CTSAB Presentation United Way.pdf Statewide Announcements of Upcoming Events/Trainings to highlight from Regional 	
	Suicide Advisory Boards (RSABs), Committees and Foundations	
	- CT Clearinghouse educational forums o Educational Forums:	
	October 16 th - Survivor-Centered, Trauma-Informed Complexities	
	and Considerations for Working with Domestic Violence Survivors	
	o In-person Mental Health First Aid training coming soon	

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	o CT Clearinghouse Calendar of Events CT Events & Trainings	
	October is Prevention Month, Overdose Awareness month and Domestic	
	Violence Awareness month	
	- My Friend Abby	
	o Fundraising event October 24th - "Share your Light" at Two Roads Brewery	
	in Stratford, CT	
	 Speakers include – Stephanie Szostak (Author and Actress), Dr. Kristin 	
	Rodriguez (Yale School of Nursing), and Caitlyn Koripsky (Catalyst CT)	
	 Tickets found at <u>www.myfriendabby.org</u> 	
	- Marie Lisette Rimer – Presentation at Putnam Library, Wednesday, November 5,	
	2025	
	 Speaking about her book Back From Suicide: Before and After the Essential 	
	Patrick, her son's story, suicide theory, and a discussion of suicide and	
	attempts in the eastern CT area	
	Committees	
IV. Review of Activities	- Education and Advocacy	
since last report out	 Focused on booking speakers for 2026 	
	 Trying to get ahead of legislative session 	
	Working to prepare toolkits and resources for individual advocacy efforts	
	 Next meeting is Thursday, November 6, 1:00pm 	
	- Lethal Means	
	Continuing work on firearms education and awareness	
	Working on scheduling webinar in partnership with NSSF	
	o Creating a 6-minute PowerPoint to be added into any training (e.g. permit	
	classes or law enforcement training)	
	o Signage program	
	 Tracking QR code data to see if signs are used for information and 	
	support	
	 Hoping to publicize work of signage group to get more information through 	
	articles or presentations	
	- Zero Suicide	
	TT 1	
	o Had an in-person meeting on September 24 with 28 attendees o Presentations were well received and elicited helpful discussion	
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	 Discussed pathways to care Prevention panel from RSABs Treatment Panel 	
	RSABs	
	- Eastern – SERAC	
	 Serve 41 towns in Eastern CT Regional Suicide Advisory Board meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 	
	 9:00am Recent presentations involved: veteran community, affirming care in suicide prevention in LGBTQIA+, and support groups for family members, caregivers and loved ones struggling with suicidal ideation and self-harm Offers a menu of suicide and postvention training throughout the region Highlights QPR Training with Scouts of America in Ashford, Cornerstone Baptist church (counseling ministry), and suicide prevention work at Quinebaug Valley Community College Many school entities are training staff – Woodstock Academy, ECSU, Mitchell College QPR training for general region and some specific towns Group Highlight Norwich Free Academy (NFA) is working on postvention policy and crisis preparedness 	
	 A group of theater students performing "The Children's Hour" in the end of November- heavy themes of LGBTQIA+ and suicide SERAC will be tabling at all shows Many of those students participated in QPR training SERAC fundraising opportunity: partnering with a local tattoo shop for a flash day event Saturday, October 11, 2025, for mental health promotion 	
	mash day event Saturday, October 11, 2023, for mental health promotion	
V. Updates from Awareness Campaign / Website / Outreach efforts	 https://www.preventsuicidect.org/ had over 5,000 page visits in September Top three pages visited: materials page, 988 page, and protective factors page Awareness campaign on Governor's Challenge 	

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		Three new videos targeting service members, families, and the veteran			
			population http	os://www.preventsuicidect.org/get-materials/audio-video/	
		- Stepha	nie Bozak shared	I that voting members are in the process of determining how to	
		cohesi	vely track data ac	cross various state departments supporting suicide prevention.	
		A draft	t spreadsheet:		
		0	Acts as one pla	ace to show prevention efforts and identify areas for change	
		0	Spreadsheet co	onsists of 3 tabs:	
			 Tab 1 	- prevention event dates, funder, location, type of marketing /	
				tive, platform, target audience, point of contact, results, notes /	
				details	
				2 - monthly website hits	
VI. Close of C	1:4:	Tab 3 – list / menu of available trainings and target populations			
Meeting	oantion	Coalition meeting ended at 10:16am			
VII. Board Med	eting	Board meeting began at 10:16 am with the following voting members in attendance:			
		Suicide Prevention Resource Center and Mashantucket Scott Barton Pequot Tribal Nation			
		Rebekah	Behan	Child Health and Development Institute	
		Kate	Bohannan	CT State Dept. of Education	
		Kevin	Borrup	Connecticut Children's	
		Stephanie	Bozak	CT Dept. of Children and Families	
		Kevin	Burns	CT Dept. of Transportation	
		Kathleen Chapman CT Psychological Association			
		Amy Evison Community Health Resources			
		Russ Iger Coventry Police Department			
		Susan Logan CT Dept. of Public Health			
		Steve	MacHattie	Charter Oak Family Center	
		Abby Maldonado Western CT Coalition			
		Lesley	Mara	CT State Colleges and Universities	

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	Marissa White Correctional Healthcare Quality In	provement Solutions
	LoriBeth Young CT Dept. of Social Services	
	Coalition members in attendance (non-voting): Alice DeMeo (DCF), Mark Irons (SERAC), Kevin Molinelli, Alyeska CT)	Tilly (United Way of
	 Updates: Working on making some changes to state plan to a accessible tool for all 	low it to be an
	In process of revamping preventsuicidect.org:Did poll with group:	
	Q 1. How long should meeting ag remain available on website? (Anyears)	swer options of 1, 2 or 3
	• Q2. Should there be a cap on how can be requested? (ex. Stress balls items vs. printing material)	, only small quantity
	 Once the graphical portion of the site is correach out to voting board members with members with members want the content of the website design 	ni polls to identify how
	Board meeting adjourned at 10:23 am	
2025-2026 Meeting Schedule	2025 Meeting Dates/Presentations (2nd Th. monthly): - 11/13 - State Plan 2030 Release (In-Person meeting)	
Meetings are the second	- 12/11 - Christina Cipriano, Ph.D., Ed.M., Yale Child St	
Thursday of the month	the Education Collaboratory at Yale, Social Emotional Intersectionality	Learning and
Coalition meeting: 9:00am—	•	
10:30am	2026 Meeting Dates/Presentations (2nd Th. monthly): - 1/8	
Board meeting: 10:30am-	- 2/12 (state holiday, no meeting)	
11:00am	- 3/12	

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Meetings are currently scheduled virtually. Please refer to the monthly meeting announcement for meeting information.	- 6/11	