

CT Suicide Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: January 9, 2025

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Present: Dani Amaral (SERAC), Jeanette Baker (United Way CT), Gerry Baird (Clifford Beers), Rebekah Behan (CHDI), Rob Bibbiani (Tri-Town Youth Services), Donna Bielefield (McCall Behavioral Health Network), C.J. Boggs (YWCA New Britain), Dana Bossio (CES), Chelsea Bourn (Brian Dagle Foundation), Stephanie Bozak (DCF), Bill Brassard (NSSF), Brendan Burke (OCA), Kevin Burns (CT DOT), Beth Castillo (RHAM), Bridget Cepalia (Vita Health), Kathleen Chapman (CT Psychological Assn.), Heather Clinger (Wheeler), Ann Irr Dagle (Brian Dagle Foundation), Sophia D'Ambrosi, Julie DeMarco (Fairfield Social Services), Alice DeMeo (DCF), Anastasiya Domnich-Kovalevsky (Torrington Are Health District), Andrea Duarte (DMHAS), Kelley Edwards (DMHAS), Jennifer Esposito (Judicial Branch), Amy Evison (CHR), Taylor Ford (Reflections Psychotherapy Services), Joanna Fornwalt (Town of Enfield), Taylor Gainey (APW), Katie Gallo (Daydream Communications), Tressa Giordano (AHM Youth & Family Services), Lisa Girard (FAVOR), Kathy Grega (Clinton Human Services), Grace Grinnell (NAMI Farmington Valley), Heath Hightower (University of St. Joseph), Emma Hollis (Western CT Coalition), Eric Hudson (Judicial Branch/CSSD), Russ Iger (Coventry PD), Mark Irons (SERAC), Angie Karwowski (Bristol-Burlington Health District), Michelle Leibovitz (Rich Wright Productions), Valerie Lepoutre (NAMI CT), Susan Logan (DPH), Cathy Ludlum (Second Thoughts CT), Steve MacHattie (Charter Oak Family Ctr), Abby Wood Maldonado (Western CT Coalition), Lesley Mara (CSCU), Stacey Mayer (CAGV), Krystal Medley (United Way CT), Briana Miller (Carelon Behavioral Health), Rashida Miller (Weston Human Services Youth and Family Services), Michael Monterosso, Giovanna Mozzo (Catalyst CT The Hub), Allyson Nadeau (Amplify), Lucy Orellano (OCA), Erica Previti (DPH), Steve Rogers (CT Children's), Stephanie Schillat (ESDHD), Marisa Sicley-Rogers (Hartford Healthcare), Richard Siddall (SMART Recovery), Cathy Sisco (Wheeler), Jennifer Sussman (UConn Health), Taylor Tantaquidgeon (OCA Intern), Paul Tieger (SpeedReading People, LLC), Alyeska Tilly (United Way CT), Colleen Violette (DPH), Sara Wakai (UConn Health), Jennifer Waldo (Windsor Health Dept), Emmalyn Walenda (SERAC), Mia Weed (Yale Brain Imaging Program), Tyshaunda Wiley (DPH), and LoriBeth Young (DSS)

AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION	OUTCOME/ACTION /RESPONSIBLE
I. Welcome and Introductions	CTSAB tri-chairs Stephanie Bozak, Andrea Duarte and Ann Irr Dagle welcomed attendees	
II. CTSAB Business Reports & Minutes Approval Stephanie Bozak <i>Board & Updated Bylaws For Approval</i>	<u>Statewide News/Updates from Tri-Chairs: New CTSAB Structure and Bylaws</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agenda will be vastly different than what it has been in the past; typically will start with welcome and introductions and move into presentation - No presentation today; instead will be discussing bylaws and the new meeting structure - CTSAB business reports will be statewide news/updates from the Tri-Chairs; Suicide-related Grant Initiative Updates; and Statewide Announcements of Upcoming Events/Trainings from RSABs, Committees, and Foundations who will be focusing on what's coming up instead of what happened since the last meeting. - Review of activities since last report out. This will be on a rotating basis. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates from the awareness campaign - After awareness campaign updates will be the close of the coalition meeting and will move into the board meeting - Board meeting is reserved for the voting members who are appointed members by the Commissioners of DCF and DMHAS - The board meeting is open to anyone who wants to attend; however, only voting members can participate in any voting at the meeting - During today's board meeting, the board will officially vote on the bylaws - Meeting rotation schedule: https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Customer-Content/www/files/PDFs/CTSAB_Agenda_Content_Structure-FINAL.pdf - Any questions, concerns, ideas, or suggestions for the coalition meeting structure, contact the tri-chairs - Ann D to be officially added to the board after bylaws approved - New Meeting Structure is not being implemented <p>Stephanie Bozak provided a high-level overview of bylaws to be voted on at the board meeting after the coalition meeting:</p> <p>Legislative Public Act 22-58 CGS Chapter 319 17a-52 which directs The CT Department of Children and Families to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase public awareness of the existence of suicide and means of prevention - Recommendations for statewide training in suicide prevention - Develop a strategic suicide prevention plan - Recommend interagency policies and procedures for coordination of services - Implement suicide prevention procedures in schools and communities - Establish a coordinated system for data collection and utilization - Make recommendations concerning the integration of suicide prevention and intervention strategies into prevention and intervention programs - Periodically offer within available appropriations suicide prevention training for health care workers, etc. 	

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	<p>Vision - Network of diverse advocates, educators, leaders concerned with addressing the problem of suicide with a focus on prevention, intervention, and repression, while also promoting health and wellness.</p> <p>Coalition - Governed by the CTSAB is the single statewide coalition that addresses suicide prevention, intervention and response across the lifespan.</p> <p>Membership - Diverse collaborative network of multiple agencies and hundreds of people representing state and local agencies, profit and non-profit, community and faith-based organization, hospitals, military and schools.</p> <p>Partnerships with contracted providers United Way and Wheeler Clinic’s Connecticut Clearinghouse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stephanie thanked Jeanette Baker and Heather Clinger for their behind-the-scenes work leading up to, during and after the monthly meetings <p>Board Membership and Coalition Membership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An application must be completed for board voting membership. Documentation of CTSAB involvement to be considered - Applicants will be considered on the basis of the person's history of service on committees, personal and/or professional experience. - The board membership is the voting members that the Commissioner has to appoint - The voting board shall consist of no less than 18 members and a maximum of 35 members - For voting to occur, a quorum is needed - Quorum is a simple majority, 51% - If a voting board member cannot attend a board meeting, they can send a representative in their place for listening purposes only, not voting - 2-year board voting membership with the opportunity to be reappointed - Aiming to strive for not less than 25% lived experience on the board - Coalition membership is the CTSAB--anyone who registers for listserv, open to public - Committees of CTSAB - each committee should have at least two chairpersons, at least one is an appointed member of the CTSAB - While only a simple majority is needed for a meeting to occur for regular board business, where there is a vote to be taken, ask that 75% of voting membership is present - If there will be a vote, voting membership will be given 30 days’ notice 	

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<p>Susan Logan Supervising Epidemiologist Injury & Violence Surveillance Department of Public Health susan.logan@ct.gov</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance structure advisory model, enforcing accountability for our goals/objectives <p>Infrastructure Standing Committees include: Armed Forces Governor’s Challenge, Attempt Survivor/Lived Experience, Data to Action, Education & Advocacy, Intervention/Postvention Response, Reducing Access to Lethal Means, Zero Suicide Learning Community</p> <p>Regional Suicide Advisory Boards - 5 regional coalitions that represent various areas in the state: Southwest, South Central, North Central, Eastern, Central and Western</p> <p><u>Suicide-related Grant Initiative Update: Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Grant, CT Department of Public Health</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comprehensive Suicide Prevention Grant (2020 - August 2025) - Available data sources used: CT Violent Death Reporting System; EpiCenter syndromic surveillance; Connecticut Hospital Association hospital discharge records; and statewide surveys Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) and Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) - Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System data comes from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer and police reports - Data abstractors who are retired police officers reach out to the police departments to get that data - Epicenter surveillance system data system: preliminary/ suspected overdose-related Emergency Department records and 45 urgent care center records are feeding data to DPH - Connecticut Hospital Association provides hospital discharge records (chime data), which includes ED visits and inpatient stays - Centralized medical examiner data in CT but not every state is set up the same way - There will be a ‘Violence Dashboard’ created by CDC, which would include suicide and homicide data that will be available on the CDC website 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Waiting for legal approval to be used for non-fatal suicide attempt data with chime data - Monthly reports provide descriptive statistics and maps of suicide, ideation and suicide attempts - 9 county equivalent planning regions as a new way for the state to provide data analysis on a county level. - New Haven County, which encompasses Waterbury and New Haven, is now two separate county equivalent planning regions <p>WISQARS National Violent Death Reporting System Suicide and Self Inflicted Injury Prevention Program</p>	
	<p><u>Statewide Announcements of Upcoming Events/Trainings from Regional Suicide Advisory Boards (RSABs), Committees and Foundations</u></p> <p>Brian Dagle Foundation https://brianshealinghearts.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Understanding the Six Needs of Mourning” is four weeks for helping people understand grief and loss and what they can expect - February 21, 2025, offering a 3-hour workshop on grief training for mental health providers - All day conference scheduled for September 30, 2025, with Dr. Alan Wolfelt from the Center for Loss - Kelley Edwards was thanked for the photos taken at the Jingle 5K - Email: Ann@brianshealinghearts.org - Email: Chelsea@brianshealinghearts.org <p>Attempt Survivor/Lived Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will be presenting “Why We Didn’t Tell You” 1/15/2025 at the DCF Training Academy for community partners and at the Veteran Summit in Oregon - Discussing goal #2 at January’s committee meeting <p>Lethal Means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - QPR for firearm owners with Master Trainer David Denino; co-hosted by the Connecticut Clearinghouse and Joe Porto, who is a committee member, of the Golden Eye Training Academy 	

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<p>III. Review of Activities since last report out</p>	<p>Save the Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CT Suicide Prevention Conference: May 8, 2025 - CT Prevention Summit: September 9, 2025 - Information will be released on listserv - May is Mental Health month and prevention week <p><u>Committees</u></p> <p>Armed Forces-Governor’s Challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quarterly advisory meeting on December 3, 2025 - A national conference is coming up for the Governor's challenge members in May in Austin, Texas. - Planning a regional meeting. (northeast rather than New England area) - A reminder to committees that may not have their own page, please create a page for your committee. Also, those who have them please, maintain existing ones - New Governor's Challenge logo - connection to the Federal and State initiatives. - Priority Area 1 includes updating the Learning Management System Training to align with the requirements in the state legislation for clinicians - For veteran education, will be able to share the file with other state agencies that may be interested in using it for their learning management systems with a general presentation - To engage people serving this population to ask the question, have you or family members served in the military (not just if you're a veteran) and then how to connect them with the resources that they're interested in and eligible for - Priority Area 2 includes engaging the population itself and letting them know about the resources - Priority Area 3 includes the lethal means safety and safety planning based on NY Lethal Means training - Counseling on access to lethal means and safety planning and identifying what the purpose for engaging this population - Service members, veterans and their family members can create a plan for proactive safety measures 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veterans Crisis Line under 988 is available by pressing 1 and then 2 - 211 and Connecticut Veterans Affairs websites have both been updated - The Sergeant Fox Grant that Rally Point received is underway; this is a one-year grant. Priorities include outreach and connection bridging services, medication management, transition to VA services, elimination of barriers and using digital navigation services and training for service members, veterans and their families - Suicide mortality review for recommendations given by a panel for the state is still underway <p>https://www.211ct.org/topic_pages/veterans Connecticut Veterans Affairs (DVA) CT.gov Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention CT Suicide Advisory Board</p> <p>Data to Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next meeting will focus on the state plan and CT Children’s will be presenting about mental health and suicide screening - Working on the dashboard for suicide mortality review panel - ‘Inspiring Hope Conference’ will be May 8th - Location confirmed for the Prevention Summit on September 9th - Videos at the last conference I am working on some edits to the email announcing the campaign. (The plan is to release about 4 or 5 per month to generate awareness until the conference) - Next meeting: NA 	
<p>Regional Suicide Advisory Boards (RSABs)</p>	<p>Region 1: Southwestern, Catalyst The Hub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A ‘Suicide Prevention & Clinical Practice’ event on February 11, 7:30pm-9:30pm - February 5: all five RBHAOs will be attending Healthy Outcomes from Positive Experiences facilitated by Abby Wood Maldonado and Emma Hollis - Next meeting: February 20 <p>Region 2: South Central, Alliance for Prevention & Wellness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Michaela Hall from Carelon gave a presentation on the legislative process - Kara Sepulveda-Fonseca is now a RSAB co-chair 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - January 29 and February 26 virtual QPR Training at 11:00 am - Two-day Connect Postvention training with Albertus Magnus College - Partnership with Western CT Coalition to bring postvention to the Valley - Currently supporting the East Shore District Health Department as they receive that CSP Grant to support suicide prevention - Continuing our partnership with the city of New Haven and New Haven Health Department to support training needs, address gaps in community needs using the data from DPH and ED. - Next meeting: February 4 	
<p>Updates from Awareness Campaign/Website/Outreach Efforts</p>	<p>Awareness Campaign Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steve MacHattie and Grace Grinnell on Great Day CT in December - American Legion signs in discussion - Voting Members names will be posted on website to distinguish - DPH Comprehensive Suicide Prevention grant funded 988 bus campaign in the interior of buses on the ceilings (Stamford, New Haven, New Britain, and Hartford) - 50 Hartford buses, 25 New Haven buses, 10 Stamford buses and 10 New Britain buses - Working with Bristol-Burlington Health District and Uncas Health District with a video at the DMV - December: over 7,400 website views with the top pages being 988, About Suicide, Training and Resources for Postvention <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kmrnl20W1tM&list=PLXMmTC1bDV4ecvpqivY7YhuSCOw7aORz0&index=23</p> <p>https://www.preventsuicidect.org/get-materials/mental-health-videos/social-media-video-content/</p>	

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V. Close of Coalition Meeting	Coalition meeting ended at 10:46am																																																																
VI. Board Meeting	<p>Board meeting began at 10:49am with the following voting members in attendance:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 33%;">Scott</td> <td style="width: 33%;">Barton</td> <td style="width: 33%;">SPRC</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dana</td> <td>Bossio</td> <td>CES</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rebekah</td> <td>Behan</td> <td>CHDI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kevin</td> <td>Borrap</td> <td>CT Children's</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Stephanie</td> <td>Bozak</td> <td>DCF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bill</td> <td>Brassard</td> <td>NSSF</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kevin</td> <td>Burns</td> <td>CT DOT</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>DMHAS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amy</td> <td>Evison</td> <td>CHR</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Russ</td> <td>Iger</td> <td>Coventry Police Department</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Valerie</td> <td>Lepoutre</td> <td>NAMI CT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Susan</td> <td>Logan</td> <td>DPH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cathy</td> <td>Ludlum</td> <td>Second Thoughts Connecticut</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>CSCU</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Allyson</td> <td>Nadeau</td> <td>Amplify</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Steve</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>DSS</td> </tr> </table>	Scott	Barton	SPRC	Dana	Bossio	CES	Rebekah	Behan	CHDI	Kevin	Borrap	CT Children's	Stephanie	Bozak	DCF	Bill	Brassard	NSSF	Kevin	Burns	CT DOT	Ann Irr	Dagle	The Brian Dagle Foundation	Andrea	Duarte	DMHAS	Amy	Evison	CHR	Russ	Iger	Coventry Police Department	Valerie	Lepoutre	NAMI CT	Susan	Logan	DPH	Cathy	Ludlum	Second Thoughts Connecticut	Steve	MacHattie	Charter Oak Family Center	Abby Wood	Maldonado	Western CT Coalition	Lesley	Mara	CSCU	Allyson	Nadeau	Amplify	Steve	Rogers	CT Children's	Sara	Wakai	UConn Health	LoriBeth	Young	DSS	
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	<p>Coalition members in attendance (non-voting):</p> <p>Alyeska Tilly, United Way</p>	
	<p>Kevin Borrup moved to accept the bylaws with changes that were discussed. Allyson Nadeau seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Valerie Lepoutre moved to approve Ann Irr Dagle as a CTSAB Tri-Chair. Steve MacHattie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.</p> <p>Board meeting adjourned at 11:00am.</p>	
<p>2025 Meeting Schedule</p> <p>Meetings are the second Thursday of the month Coalition meeting: 9:00am—10:30am Board meeting: 10:30am-11:00am</p> <p>Meetings are currently scheduled virtually. Please refer to the monthly meeting announcement for meeting information.</p>	<p><u>2025 Meeting Dates/Presentations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2/13 - 3/13 - 4/10 - 5/8: state conference - 6/12 - 7/10 - 8/14 - 9/11: State Plan release - 10/9 - 11/13 - 12/11 <p>Subcommittee meetings are listed in the monthly meeting announcement sent on the CTSAB listserv.</p>	