

CT Suicide Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: November 14, 2024

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Present: Erica Aldieri, Natasha Austin (VA CT), Gerry Baird (Clifford Beers), Jeanette Baker (United Way CT), Scott Barton (SPRC), Madison Beach, Rebekah Behan (CHDI), Amery Bernhardt (CT Ctr for School Safety), Rob Bibbiani (TriTown Youth Svcs), Jessica Bloomberg (Fairfield PD), Kevin Borrup (CT’s Children), Chelsea Bourn (Brian Dagle Foundation), Bill Brassard (NSSF), Haley Brown (DMHAS), Brendan Burke (OCA), Jessie Casella (VA CT), Bridget Cepalia, Kathleen Chapman (CT Psychological Assn), Heather Clinger (Wheeler), Carrigan Costello (Wolcott CASA), Ann Irr Dagle (Brian Dagle Foundation), Alice Demeo (DCF), Anastasiya Domnich-Kovalevsky (Torrington Area Health District), Andrea Duarte (DMHAS), Erika Echevarria (DMHAS), Kelley Edwards (DMHAS), Jennifer Esposito (Judicial Branch), Arianna Flagg (Town of Somers), Joseph Gerstein, Lisa Girard (DCF), Grace Grinnell (NAMI Farmington Valley), Stephanie Hamed Borowy (CT Behavioral Health), Kayla Hendrickson (Newington Human Svcs), Eric Hudson (CT Judicial Branch/CSSD), Russ Iger (Coventry PD), Angela Jimenez (DPH), Robert Kanehl (CT Poison Control), Kelly Leppard, Gabriel Lomas (CT Ctr for School Safety), Jodi Lott (Gaggle), Cathy Ludlum (Second Thoughts CT), Steve MacHattie (Charter Oak Family Ctr), Mike Makowski (DPH), Lesly Mara (CSCU), Michelle McCarty (CTNG), Krystal Medley (United Way CT), R. Miller (Western Human Services), Michael Monterosso, Lucy Orellano (OCA), Johnathan Perleo (CCAGV), Michelle Peters (AFSP-CT), Erica Previti (DPH), Nicole Shea (Veterans Health Administration), Richard Siddall (SMART Recovery), Cathy Sisco (Wheeler), Aubrey Skelskey (DMHAS intern), Taylor Tantaquidgeon (OCA Intern), Paul Tieger, Susan Tobenkin (CTARNG), Nadine Tulloch (DPH), Kristen Volz (CT Children’s), Sara Wakai (UConn), Jennifer Waldo (Windsor Health Dept), Marissa White (CHQIS), and LoriBeth Williams (DSS).

| AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC | SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION | OUTCOME/ACTION /RESPONSIBLE |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| I. Welcome and Introductions | Stephanie Bozak, Andrea Duarte, and Ann Irr Dagle welcomed attendees | |
| Review of Minutes | October minutes approved | |
| II. Presentation <i>Veteran Suicide Prevention and COMPACT Act</i> Nicole Shea, LICSW Community Engagement and Partnership Coordinator VA Connecticut Healthcare System Annex 200 Edison Road Orange, CT 06477 | VA’s Public Health Approach to Suicide Prevention <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - VA structure includes multiple administrations under umbrella: Veterans Benefit Administration, Veterans Health Administration, and the National Cemetery Administration - VHA Connecticut Healthcare System health care branch includes clinicians for primary care, VA Medical Center West Haven (Community Resource and Referral Center and Orange Annex/Errera Center in Orange; Newington Campus, Community-based Outpatient Clinics in Danbury, New London, Stamford, Waterbury, Willimantic, and Winsted; and Vet Centers in Danbury, Hartford, New Haven, and Norwich - No emergency department function | |

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| Office: 203-508-7819 Mobile: 203-648-1278 Email: Nicole.Shea@va.gov | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COMPACT Act (2020): Veterans Comprehensive Prevention, Access to Care and Treatment - Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) to directly furnish, pay for, or reimburse for emergent suicide care (to include associated transportation costs) at VA and non-VA facilities for eligible individuals in acute suicide crisis at no cost - Community hospitals know how to report when a veteran is in their care - Providers, veterans and their representatives can report emergency services through an online portal, phone, or VA in person - Veteran Crisis Line/Chat/Texting https://www.veteranscrisisline.net/ - Connecting with the VA: 1-800-MyVA411 - Welcome Kit: https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/ - Enrollment in VA Health Care: in person, by phone, online or via mail - va.gov - Online resources of Veterans telling their stories overcoming mental health challenges: https://www.maketheconnection.net/conditions/suicide - srmconsult@va.gov Suicide Risk Management Consultation program https://www.mirecc.va.gov/visn19/consult/ <p>To view the presentation: https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Customer-Content/www/files/PDFs/Final_CTSAB_COMPACT_Presentation_11_14_24.pdf</p> <p>Additional handouts: https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Customer-Content/www/files/PDFs/COMPACT_-_Provider_Fact_Sheet_-_Emergency_Suicide_Care_and_Treatment.pdf</p> <p>https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Customer-Content/www/files/PDFs/COMPACT_-_Information_for_Veterans_-_Community_Emergency_Treatment.pdf</p> <p>https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Customer-Content/www/files/PDFs/COMPACT_-_General_Fact_Sheet_-_Emergency_Suicide_Care_and_Treatment.pdf</p> | |
| III. CTSAB Business Reports | <p><u>CTSAB Board and New Meeting Structure for 2025</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Beginning in January 2025, committees/foundations to share activities since the last time reported out and what is coming forward in the future | |

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| | <p><u>Suicide-related Grant Initiatives</u></p> <p>988 and Crisis Service Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a 24/7, free, confidential support for people in suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress - Unied Way of Connecticut’s Contact Center handles the crisis calls that come in via 211, 988, and the ACTION Line 24 hours, 7 days a week, 365 days a year - 95% of calls answered within 15 seconds - Chat and text in CT provided 7 days a week, 8:00am-3:30pm with national back-up centers covering the remaining hours - Calls recently started to be geo-routed to the state the call is coming from, not the area code - Chat and text in CT covered 8:00am-3:30pm, 7 days a week - Contact Center staff receive training on priority populations - Youth Mobile Crisis Intervention Services expanded to 24/7 365 days a year face-to-face response in January 2023 - Youth MCIS: January 2023 through May 2024: 83% of calls during expanded hours were between 10:00pm-12:00am and on weekends, 7:00am-1:00pm; during expanded hours, 65% of calls were from youth/families and 26% from Emergency Departments - Youth MCIS annual report being finalized and will be available here: https://www.mobilecrisisempst.org/reports/ - Adult mobile crisis working to expand to 24/7 365 days a year - Adult Crisis Stabilization Unit: Rapid Evaluation, Stabilization and Treatment (REST Center), Continuum of Care, New Haven - Adult Peer respite offered at The Gloria House, New Life II, New Britain - To order 988 materials, there is a separate link on the website: https://www.mobilecrisisempst.org/reports/ <p>To view the presentation, visit: https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Customer-Content/www/files/PDFs/988_update_CTSAB_111424.pdf</p> <p><u>Committees</u> (report out in June, Aug, Nov, Jan, March)</p> <p>Armed Forces-Governor’s Challenge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority area 1: new logo to unite messaging across the three priority areas | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority area 2: launched 211 veterans website link: https://www.211ct.org/topic_pages/veterans - Priority area 3: continue to meet with other states on lethal means safety <p>Attempt Survivors/Lived Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Out of the darkness walks had a wind phone booth where someone could go into the booth and call someone they lost - Committee will have a more active role in Plan 2030 - Next meeting: December 12, 11:15am <p>Data to Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning fo the next meeting - Next meeting: December 11, 11:00am <p>Education & Advocacy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preliminary results from the survey: requesting variety of topic and same structure for future speakers; more to report once the survey closes - Next meeting: December 5, 1:00pm <p>Intervention-Postvention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed response protocols - More resources added to the website - If anyone knows of any resources, share them with Ann Dagle or Mark Irons - Next meeting: November 21, 9:00am <p>Lethal Means</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PowerPoint presentation created for firearms instructors with teaching notes to be released in January - Universal signage workgroup is looking at sign locations and for any damage to signs - Have begun planning for next calendar year - Next meeting: December 16 <p>Zero Suicide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At the next meeting will begin talking about goals related to Plan 2030 - Next meeting: November 27, 9:00am <p>Awareness Campaign https://www.preventsuicidect.org/</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More than 5500 views on the website in October - Top pages visited in October: 988, RSAB, materials page, protective factors | |
| Member updates | | |

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| | Coalition meeting adjourned 10:27am | |
| <p>2024 Meeting Schedule</p> <p>Coalition Meetings are the second Thursday of the month, 9:00am—10:30am</p> <p>Meetings are currently scheduled virtually. Please refer to the monthly meeting announcement for meeting information.</p> | <p>Dates/Presentations</p> <p><u>2024 Meeting Dates/Presentations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 12/12: Dr. David S. Shapiro, Chief Medical Officer and Vice President, Trinity Health of New England, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center <p>Subcommittee meetings are listed in the monthly meeting announcement sent on the CTSAB listserv.</p> | |