

December 2022 Newsletter



The Center is funded through an agreement with the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Western Connecticut State University.



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The Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation formed in 2021 from an agreement between the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Western Connecticut State University. The Center provides professional development related to all aspects of school safety planning, and it conducts research on prevention, crisis, safety, and trauma related to students and schools. The Center also establishes relationships among area school districts and community stakeholders to create both formal and informal networks. Moreover, the Center provides consultation and on-site support to school districts. This newsletter provides a venue for the Center to

The Director's Corner



Dear School Safety Partners,

It has been almost one year since we started the Center, and I am excited to announce our progress:



- We hired three Regional School Safety Coordinators providing coverage in the East, North-Central, and South-Central regions. Please see the bios of our two most recent hires, Dr. Kimberly Myers and Kiley Young.
- We also added a graduate assistant to our team. Nicholas Williams-Ambrosio is enrolled in the [Homeland Security Program at WCSU](#).
- The SRO Efficacy study was completed and submitted to the Connecticut General Assembly Judiciary Committee.
- Over the next several months, the Center is collaborating with many partners to bring you training in Digital Threat Assessment, School Climate, Restorative Practices, Attitudinal Inoculation, and Parent Reunification.
- We want to highlight how proud we are of Dr. Paula Gill Lopez, our faculty affiliate of the Center, for winning the 2022 Distinguished Service Award from the Connecticut Association of School Psychologists (CASP) (for more information, please see the section on Awards in the newsletter).

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you have any school safety needs. We want to be a resource for the entire school community.

Your partner in school safety,
Amery

Amery Bernhardt, D.M.

Director

CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation

**Department of Emergency Services
and Public Protection
Division of Emergency Management
and Homeland Security**



Dear School Safety Partners,

Thank you for signing up to get this important newsletter. As always, please feel free to contact me with any school plan questions.

From the DEMHS State School Safety Program Desk:

- All-Hazards school plans were due November 1. If your district or school has not reviewed, revised and submitted your plan, please do so.
- Drill logs are due July 1. In a normal school year, a minimum of 7 fire and 3 crisis drills must be performed. Real events count towards this total. Public safety officials should be at every drill to witness and evaluate. Please document in the drill log the public safety officials present at drills.
- There are now 14 standards for school plans and a new annex to the plan. Due to Public Act 21-92, every plan must have an Emergency Action Plan for Interscholastic and Intramural Athletic Events. Currently, the template annex has no structure, it's a placeholder for dropping in your plan(s). If your school does not have these activities, leave annex in the plan and document "Not Applicable to this school".
- Check the date on your last school safety and security assessment. Every school is required to have an assessment completed every two years. A team approach is recommended for conducting these assessments. Team members should include, school safety committee member(s), school administrator, police, fire, fire marshal and emergency manager. Also consider public health and mental health representatives.

Have a great holiday and a Happy New Year!

Your partner in school safety,

Bill Turley

Region 3 Coordinator

School Safety Program Lead for the State of Connecticut

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

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Awards

CT Association of School Psychologists Honors Paula Gill Lopez, PhD

Dr. Gill Lopez was awarded the 2022 Distinguished Service Award by the Connecticut Association of School Psychologists (CASP) for her contributions to the field.



Each year the Connecticut Association of School Psychologists (CASP) honors an individual who has made an impact in the field. Director of the **School of Education and Human Development School Psychology program** Paula Gill Lopez, PhD, was honored with the 2022 CASP Distinguished Service Award for her leadership in establishing a school crisis response center in Connecticut, and for her strong advocacy for self-care among practitioners.

Dr. Gill Lopez has trained hundreds of school psychologists throughout her career, many of whom have gone into leadership roles at both the state and national level, said CASP President

Sarah Gelish MA'15. "As one of her prior students, and now president of the organization, I can firmly and gratefully say that the field of school psychology in Connecticut will always be indebted to Dr. Gill Lopez."

In addition to teaching, Dr. Gill Lopez has taken the lead in tackling issues evident in the field. In 2018 she was charged by CASP leadership to establish the Connecticut School Safety and Crisis Response committee, designed to help professionals deal with safety and mental health issues within schools. Joint efforts to institutionalize school safety and crisis mitigation into Connecticut State government paid off when the **Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation** at Western Connecticut State University, had its grand opening last August. The Center is dedicated to bringing state resources together to increase security across school districts.

[Read More...](#)

Resources and Information

[Keep CT Safe It's Your Job Too -- Download the App Today Flyer](#) - provided by the State of CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

[Preparing to Reunify Students with Families and Guardians Before, During, and After a School Emergency Specialized Self-Paced Training](#) from the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance Center.

[Free Vaping Prevention Resources](#), provided by **Victoria Adams, M.Ed., NCTTP**, Tobacco Program Coordinator, Health and Human Services, Southern Connecticut State University. I can provide to those working in Connecticut: Tobacco (nicotine vaping) prevention resources and provide trainings that can include alternatives to suspension programs, cessation resources, strategies to reduce vaping rates in school, posters and other informational handouts. This is offered at no cost through a grant from the CT Department of Public Health.

[Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems PowerPoint Presentation](#) covering General Information & Trends, ENDS Health Risks, Secondhand Aerosol, Cessation, and Youth Prevention Strategies - provided by **Victoria Adams, M.Ed., NCTTP**, Tobacco Program Coordinator, Health and Human Services, Southern Connecticut State University.

[Invent2Prevent \(I2P\)](#) is an experiential project that challenges high school students to create and activate their own peer-developed initiatives, products and tools to prevent targeted violence and help create safe schools and communities. Invent2Prevent is sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). All participation is free of cost.

[Fostering Family Engagement in School](#) (On-Demand) – This on-demand webinar from the National Center for School Safety addresses how schools can foster family involvement and engagement to increase student feelings of belonging and academic success.

[National Preparedness Month Activities and Resources](#)

This Ready.gov webpage shares information on National Preparedness Month and resources to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies.

[Emergency Preparedness & School Safety for K-12 Schools Infographic](#)

This infographic highlights the five mission areas of emergency preparedness and how schools can use them to take a comprehensive approach to school safety and emergency planning.

[CISA School Safety Resources for Back to School](#)

This blog post outlines CISA resources, tools, and community-wide stakeholder events to help K-12 schools and districts enhance and strengthen their safety and security.

[Shortages in School Psychology Research Guide](#)

This guide and its accompanying resources can help you advocate for addressing shortages to increase the availability of high-quality services to students, families and schools.

[Promoting Equity, Diversity, and SEL: Advocacy Toolkit](#)

This toolkit provides information and resources to help you respond to harmful legislation from state and local school boards that would negatively impact and further marginalize students.

[CDC Information and Resources on the Flu for the K-12 Community](#)

New data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) show early increases in seasonal influenza (flu) activity nationwide. Help reduce the spread of seasonal flu.

[Protect Against Ransomware, Cyber Threats This Holiday Season](#)

Find resources for K-12 schools and learn more about the simple steps school communities can take to reduce their cybersecurity risk posture in this [one-pager](#).

[Read More - School Safety Resources from SchoolSafetyGov](#)

Meetings - Please look for meetings in your region.

[E-Cigarettes & Youth Vaping: What CT Parents Need to Know in 2022 -](#)

sponsored by: [The Hub: Behavioral Health Action Organization for Southwestern CT](#)
[A Program of RYASAP](#)

- *When:* 12/6/22 at 12:00pm
- *Where:* Virtual
- [Flyer](#)

Region 1/Southwestern Regional SAB Meeting

[\(The Hub: Behavioral Health Action Organization for Southwestern CT](#)

[A Program of RYASAP\)](#)

- *When:* 12/9/22 at 12:00pm
- *Where:* 2470 Fairfield Ave., 3rd fl., Bridgeport, CT
- *Towns:* Bridgeport, Darien, Easton, Fairfield, Greenwich, Monroe, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Stratford, Trumbull, Weston, Westport, Wilton
- *For more information:* please contact **Giovanna Mozzo**, Director, or **Victoria O'Neill** at victoria@ryasap.org or info@thehubct.org

Region 2/South Central Regional Action Meeting

[\(Alliance for Prevention & Wellness / A Program of BHcare\)](#)

- *When:* 12/6/22 at 10:30am
- *Where:* 127 Washington Ave., 3rd Fl. West, North Haven, CT
- *Towns:* Ansonia, Bethany, Branford, Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Derby, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Haven, Essex, Guilford, Haddam, Hamden, Killingworth, Madison, Meriden, Middlefield, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Old Saybrook, Orange, Portland, Seymour, Shelton, Wallingford, Westbrook, West Haven, Woodbridge.

- *For more information:* please contact **Pamela A. Mautte** MS, MCHES, CPS-R, Director, email pmautte@bhcare.org or **Taylor Gainey**, MHA, email tgainey@bhcare.org

Region 3/Southeastern Regional Action Council Meeting ([SERAC](#))

- *When:* 1/3 at 9:00am
- *Where:* 228 West Town Street, Norwich, CT 06360
- *Towns:* Ashford, Bozrah, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, East Lyme, Eastford, Franklin, Griswold, Groton, Hampton, Killingly, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Lyme, Mansfield, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Plainfield, Pomfret, Preston, Putnam, Salem, Scotland, Sprague, Sterling, Stonington, Thomson, Union, Voluntown, Waterford, Willington, Windham, Woodstock
- *For more information:* please contact **Angela Duhaime**, Interim Executive Director, at aduhaime@seracct or **Mark Irons**, MS, at mirons@seracct.org

Region 5/Western Regional Action Council Meeting ([Western CT Coalition](#))

- *When:* 12/21 at 10:00am
- *Where:* 7 Old Sherman Turnpike, Suite 106, Danbury, CT 06810
- *Towns:* Barkhamsted, Beacon Falls, Bethel, Bethlehem, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Canaan, Cheshire, Colebrook, Cornwall, Danbury, Goshen, Hartland, Harwinton, Kent, Litchfield, Middlebury, Morris, Naugatuck, New Fairfield, New Hartford, New Milford, Newtown, Norfolk, North Canaan, Oxford, Prospect, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Salisbury, Sharon, Sherman, Southbury, Thomaston, Torrington, Warren, Washington, Waterbury, Watertown, Winchester, Winsted, Wolcott, and Woodbury.
- *For more information:* please contact **Allison A. Fulton**, CPS, Executive Director, at email afulton@WCTCoalition.org

Catchment Area Council Meetings

- *When:* Every other 3rd Thursday of month; from 2:30-4pm (1/19/23, 3/16/23, 5/18/23)
- *Where:* Virtually
- *Who Should Attend:* (Open to anyone interested): Open to all; 51%-65% of participants must be individuals with lived experience with mental illness and/or substance misuse; other participants include providers, family members, and advocates.
- Focus on sharing resources, identifying needs, and advocating to improve the behavioral health treatment and recovery system.
- **CAC 1-4** (covering Darien, Greenwich, New Canaan, Norwalk, Stamford, Weston, Westport, Wilton, Bridgeport, Easton, Fairfield, Monroe, Stratford, Trumbull)
- *For more information:* please contact Kaitlin@ryasap.org.

TBA - DEMHS Region 1 School Safety and Security Meeting

- *For more information,* please contact **Robert Kenny** at robert.kenny@ct.gov.

Region 1 Gambling Awareness Team Meetings

- *When:* 2nd Tuesday of the month, Quarterly; from 2:30-4pm (1/10/23, 4/11/23, 6/13/23)
- *Where:* Virtually
- *Who Should Attend:* (open to anyone interested): Open to anyone from Southwestern CT interested in raising awareness about problem gambling and gaming. Focus on raising awareness and developing prevention and treatment capacity in the region.
- *RSVP to* ingrid.gillespie@liberationprograms.org for meeting link.

The DEMHS Region 2 School Safety & Security Group Meeting

- *When:* 1/18/23 from 2:30-3:30pm
- *Where:* Virtually
- *For more information:* please contact **Jeff Nielsen** at jnielsen@milforded.org.

The DEMHS Region 3 Capitol Emergency Management Meeting

- *When:* 12/15/22 from 1-2:30pm
- *Where:* In-Person

- *Who should Attend:* This meeting is for Administrators, Facility Directors, Business Officials, SRO's, Security Personnel, Emergency Management Personnel, Mental Health Professionals, Technology Leaders, etc.
- *If you are interested in attending:* please email **Linda Powell** at powelll@granbyschools.org or call (860) 844-5259.

The DEMHS Region 4 School Safety and Security Working Group is coming soon!

- *If you are interested in joining,* please email **Mike Caplet** at mike.caplet@ct.gov.

The DEMHS Region 5 School Safety and Security Working Group

- *When:* Thursdays from 11am-12pm (12/22/22, 1/26/23, 2/23/23, 3/23/23, 4/27/23, 5/23/23, & 6/22/23)
- *Where:* Virtually
- The mission of this group is to provide a school safety and security network consisting of school resources who can share lessons learned and quality information pertaining to maintaining a safe and secure environment for our schools.
- *If you are interested in attending:* please email **John Field** at john.field@ct.gov.

The Western Regional Crisis Team Meetings (covering RESC regions of EdAdvance & CES)

- *When:* Tuesdays from 8:30-10:30am (12/20/22, 1/31/23, 2/28/23, 3/28/23, 4/25/23, 5/23/23, & 6/06/23)
- *Where:* In-person and Virtually
- *Who Should Attend:* These meetings are geared towards the mental health professionals servicing our K-12 students.
- *For more information or to join the Team:* please email **Gabe Lomas** at lomasg@wcsu.edu.

CT School Safety and Crisis Response Committee/ACES Regional Crisis Team Meeting

- *When:* 1/18/23, from 9-11am
- *Who Should Attend:* These meetings are geared towards the mental health professionals servicing our K-12 students.
- *Where:* Zoom
- *For more information or to join the Team:* please email **Sadie Witherspoon** at witherspoons@wcsu.edu.

Research

Nationwide Research

In November 2022, the Center for Internet Security Inc. (CIS), Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC), Nationwide Cybersecurity Review (NCSR), CIS Security Operations Center (SOC), and threat data and analysis by the CIS Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) Team partnered to conduct a K 12 Cybersecurity Assessment of the 2021-2022 School Year. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

Purpose: The main objective of this assessment was to detail the cybersecurity challenges faced by K-12 schools along with steps they can take to improve their cyber defenses.

Methods: The 2021 Nationwide Security Review (NCSR), the MS-ISAC robust database for threat intelligence, service data, and feedback from 3500 members among K-12 schools and districts completed the data set for this report.

Key Findings:

- The respondents reported a lack of sufficient funding and that the average K-12 school



- only allocated 8% or less of its IT budget for cybersecurity.
- In addition, 18% of schools reported that they dedicated less than 1% of the IT budget to cybersecurity.
- The respondents reported an increase in the sophistication of threats and being frequent targets of cyber threats. 29% of the K-12 member organizations did report that they were victims of a cyber incident.
- A lack of documented processes was reported with 37% of K-12 members stating they did not have an incident response plan.
- The respondents reported a lack of cybersecurity strategy with 83% reporting they had cyber insurance to mitigate their cyber risk, 81% reported not having fully implemented multi-factor authentication (MFA) and lastly, 29% reported they had not implemented MFA on any systems.
- The inadequate availability of cybersecurity professionals and staffing levels was reported with 49% of K-12 schools having only one to five cyber/IT employees.
- Ransomware attacks continue to be an impactful and persistent threat facing K-12 environments and can lead to significant costs/disruption for a district.

Trainings Sponsored by CT Center for School Safety

- **[Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines \(CSTAG\) Training](#)** -The CSTAG Model is an evidence-based behavioral threat assessment and intervention model for preventing school violence. The Center can bring this training directly to your school district. Our goal is to make trainings accessible to all Connecticut schools, so our trainings are low cost. However, because we do not want cost to be a barrier, we offer scholarships for individuals and districts who are unable to afford training costs. Please contact **Dr. Amery Bernhardt** at Bernhardta@wcsu.edu to schedule a session or for more information.
- 1/11: **[Attitudinal Inoculation Workshop](#)** - Training provided by **Dr. Kurt Braddock**. Attitudinal inoculation is based on reactance theory and an individual's resistance to manipulation. When an individual believes that something or someone threatens their freedom to make choices for themselves they resist it. This workshop will review the impacts of attitudinal inoculation and explore its potential application to reduce cyberbullying in schools.
- 1/26: **[School Climate Workshop](#)** - Training provided by noted school climate expert, **Jo Ann Freiberg** of **School Climate Consultants**. This training session provides what school climate is (definition and scope), the difference between School Climate and School Culture and the role of adults in school to foster a positive school climate. This class will be a condensed version of the 2-day workshop.
- 1/27: **[Restorative Practices Workshop](#)** - Training provided by noted school climate expert, **Jo Ann Freiberg** of **School Climate Consultants**. This training session in Restorative Practices provides the necessary information for establishing the conditions and nurturing a culture based on high quality relationships among all school community members and positive community building that is trauma-free. Working restoratively is a social/relational rather than a behaviorist model. This class will be a condensed version of the 2-day workshop.
- 1/27: **[Digital Threat Assessment®](#)** - Provided by **Safer Schools Together**. By engaging with popular social media applications, you will learn how to find and document worrisome digital media content originating from your school community. This training will solidify your understanding of how to effectively use DTA® as a critical part of any

modern-day Threat Assessment. The training will be Virtual.

- 2/24: [Advanced Digital Threat Assessment®](#) - Provided by **Safer Schools Together**. Non-negotiable prerequisite: SST Digital Threat Assessment® training (completed within the past 2 years). Advanced DTA builds and expands significantly on the content covered during the prerequisite DTA training. Participants will gain a concrete understanding of how to select relevant digital information found in real-life School Safety / Threat Assessment data gathering scenarios. Working collaboratively through case scenarios based on real-life situations, teams navigate the social media world using familiar and new techniques. This training will be Virtual.
- 3/2: [School Climate Workshop](#) - Training provided by noted school climate expert, **Jo Ann Freiberg** of **School Climate Consultants**. This training session provides what school climate is (definition and scope), the difference between School Climate and School Culture and the role of adults in school to foster a positive school climate. This class will be a condensed version of the 2-day workshop.
- 3/3: [Restorative Practices Workshop](#) - Training provided by noted school climate expert, **Jo Ann Freiberg** of **School Climate Consultants**. This training session in Restorative Practices provides the necessary information for establishing the conditions and nurturing a culture based on high quality relationships among all school community members and positive community building that is trauma-free. Working restoratively is a social/relational rather than a behaviorist model. This class will be a condensed version of the 2-day workshop
- 3/20-3/21: [Parent Reunification](#) - Training provided by **The "I Love U Guys" Foundation**. This 2-day course offers a day in the classroom and a day in the field, going hands-on with a reunification. The functional exercise is promoted to all stakeholders and should include School, District, Public Safety, Public Health and Emergency Management.

***Save the Dates - 8/7/23 thru 8/11/23* for the 2023 CT Center for School Safety Summer Conference - (Topics and Presenters to be announced).**

Additional Trainings

- 12/1: [E-learning Series on Attendance & Engagement](#) - The CSDE is pleased to sponsor an E-Learning Series on Attendance & Engagement for school teams. An informational session for district leaders and local board members will be held Thursday, Dec. 1, from 1:30-3:30 pm. A 3-part series for school teams will begin in January. For more information, please contact kari.sullivan@ct.gov.
- 12/6: [Attending to the Dyad: Working with Parents & Young Children to Support Family Resilience](#) - hosted by the Women's Consortium, 3 CECs, Trainer: **Amy J. Myers, LCSW & Jeanette Radawich, LCSW**. In this workshop we will apply the principles of attachment theory and infant mental health to consider parents' psychological wounds, highlight resilience, and accentuate positive parent-child interactions. See [Flyer](#)
- 12/7: [Virtual is Real - Ending Online Violence Against Women and Girls Webinar](#) - hosted by [Grace Farms Foundation](#) and [The United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\)](#). Join the UNFPA and Grace Farms Foundation for a comprehensive half-day forum with leading national and international experts, advocates and survivors who will examine and assess strategies to address technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Attend either in Person at Grace Farms in New Canaan, CT or Via Zoom Webinar.

- 12/9: [Community Awareness Briefing \(CAB\): Preventing Targeted Violence and Terrorism in Your Community](#) hosted by the US Department of Homeland Security and Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships. This Virtual event will be held from 12:30 to 2:30pm. It is a Virtual event via Microsoft Teams. The Community Awareness Briefing is a training that provides a foundation for communities across the country to learn about targeted violence prevention efforts. To find out more, please email us at CABbriefingrequests@hq.dhs.gov or visit www.dhs.gov/cp3.
- 12/9: [The Connecticut Association of School Psychologists](#) in conjunction with Fairfield University will be hosting the Xan Lopez Annual School-Psychologist In-service featuring **Dr. Charles Barrett**. First 100 registrants will receive a free copy of [It's Always About the Children. Register by 12/7](#).
- 12/14: [Understanding Mental Illness - What people affected by mental illness want you to know](#) (This training seminar based on the NAMI Provider Education Program will be held on Zoom) - sponsored by the Southeastern Regional Action Council (SERAC). For more information, please contact **Mark** at mirons@seracct.org
- 12/14: [Active Shooter Preparedness Webinar](#) hosted by the The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Region 1 (CT, MASS, ME, NH, RI, VT). This two-hour Security webinar focuses on providing awareness training that supports the development of emergency action planning capabilities. For more information and resources on Active Shooter Preparedness visit cisa.gov/active-shooter-preparedness.
- 1/18: [Free QPR Suicide Prevention Webinar Training and Certification](#) - Western CT Coalition (WCTC), QPR Institute, and DMHAS. Trainings are on Zoom, and held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- 1/24: [Overdose Prevention Training Webinar](#) - Western CT Coalition (WCTC) Naloxone (Narcan) is a medication that reverses an opioid overdose. This training is on Zoom. Trainings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month. For more information, please contact **Abby Wood** at awood@wctcoalition.org.
- 6/20-6/22: [Tobacco Treatment Specialist \(TTS\) Core Training](#) - Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) is offering this \$1,300 training at no cost to participants, through a grant funded by the CT Dept. of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Please complete an [Application](#) to become a TTS. Email completed Applications to: **Victoria Adams, M.Ed., NCTTP**, Tobacco Program Coordinator, Health and Human Services, SCSU, email: Adamsv2@southernct.edu
- [Bridgeport Parent Leadership Training Institute \(PLTI\)](#) is a program of RYASAP. This Training enables parents to become leading advocates for their children. This nationally recognized curriculum is offered at no cost to you. For more information and to request an application, please contact **Sandra Carmichael**, Community Training Coordinator at sandra@ryasap.org.
- [EdAdvance](#), through its SAMHSA-funded MHAT-WCT initiative, offers no-cost Mental Health First Aid, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Teen Mental Health First Aid, and QPR Suicide Prevention training classes to adults and teens throughout Western CT. Contact is **Abby Peklo** at peklo@edadvance.org or 860.567.0863 ext. 1166.



(L-R) Mary Pupazzoni, Secretary-CT Center for School Safety, Amery Bernhardt, D.M., Director-CT Center for School Safety, Kimberly Myers, Ed.D., Regional School Safety Coordinator-CT Center for School Safety in Partnership with CREC.



(L-R) Gabriel I. Lomas, Ph.D., Founder-CT Center for School Safety, Mary Pupazzoni, Secretary-CT Center for School Safety, Nicholas Williams-Ambrosio, Graduate Assistant-CT Center for School Safety, Amery Bernhardt, D.M., Director-CT Center for School Safety, Paula Gill Lopez, Ph.D., Faculty Affiliate of the Center from Fairfield University.



(L-R) Hasan T. Arslan, Ph.D., Associate Professor- Ancell School of Business, Justice and Law Administration at WCSU, Nicholas Williams-Ambrosio, Graduate Assistant-CT Center for School Safety, Amery Bernhardt, D.M., Director-CT Center for School Safety.



We serve as a school crisis and safety resource to schools across the entire state of CT. Specifically, the mission of the Center is to conduct research, training, and offer technical assistance on student resilience, school crisis, trauma-informed schools, and other topics relevant to school safety.

Meet Kimberly Myers

Meet Kimberly Myers, Ed.D.

Dr. Myers is our Regional School Safety Coordinator for the North Central Capital Region of CT, in Partnership with [CREC](#). Dr. Myers is located at 111 Charter Oak Ave. in Hartford, CT. Dr. Myers joined the Center in the fall of 2022 to continue following her passion for school safety, active shooter training, preparedness, and threat assessment. Prior to joining the Center, Dr. Myers spent numerous years in the field of criminal justice/law enforcement and higher education serving most recently as the Director and Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and Public

Safety & Security Programs at Goodwin University. Dr. Myers was a member of the university's Threat Assessment and Student Behavioral Response Teams. She has published a dissertation focusing on preparedness and training procedures for responding to an active shooter situation on college and university campuses, journal articles, a [book chapter](#) as well as conference presentations. Dr. Myers holds a doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Hartford, a master's degree in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Public Administration from American International College, and a bachelor's degree in Criminology with a minor in Psychology from Central Connecticut State University.

(203) 456-5347

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Meet Kiley Young

Meet Kiley Young, LCSW

Kiley Young is our Regional School Safety Coordinator for the Southeastern Region of CT, in Partnership with [LEARN](#). Kiley is located at 44 Hatchetts Hill Rd. in Old Lyme, CT. Kiley joined the Center in the fall of 2022. Kiley's recent experience is as a mental health therapist and a school social worker, and she has additional experience in community mental health, juvenile justice, therapeutic foster care, and disaster relief and preparedness. Kiley joins the Center with particular interest in trauma-informed practices, school climate, and mental health. She has been trained and acted as a trainer in various frameworks related to trauma-informed care, crisis prevention and response, and mental health intervention. Kiley holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Connecticut and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

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CONTRIBUTE to our NEWSLETTER

If you have content such as meetings, trainings, resources, and/or research to include in the next issue of our newsletter, please email Mary Pupazzoni at pupazzonim@wcsu.edu no later than the 15th of the month prior.

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