

January 2023 Newsletter



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



[Website](#)

[Subscribe to our Newsletter](#)

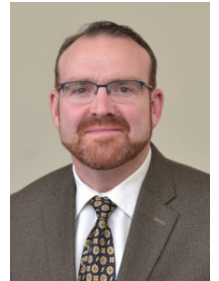
between the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Western Connecticut State University. The Center provides professional development related to all aspects of school safety planning, and it conducts research on prevention, crisis, safety, and trauma related to students 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 become a clearinghouse for school safety related trainings, meetings, research, and resources.

The Director's Corner



Dear School Safety Partners,

The Center has experienced an exciting first year! There are many accomplishments that I want to share with you.



- We hired all four Regional School Safety Coordinators. Please read the section welcoming Dr. Tanya Iacono to our team.
- The Center developed great relationships with our state and local partners to work on collaborative efforts and bring professional development to our school safety stakeholders. Please read the Training section for upcoming courses.
- The Center completed the SRO study for the General Assembly Judiciary Committee. Please see the Research section for more details on the report.
- We are building regional crisis teams throughout the state. These teams are modeled after the Western Regional Crisis Team, and they will create a network of area school districts, mobile crisis, and community partners to deploy after a crisis to a district with an overwhelming demand for mental health resources. The teams will also provide professional development and peer debriefing after a crisis.

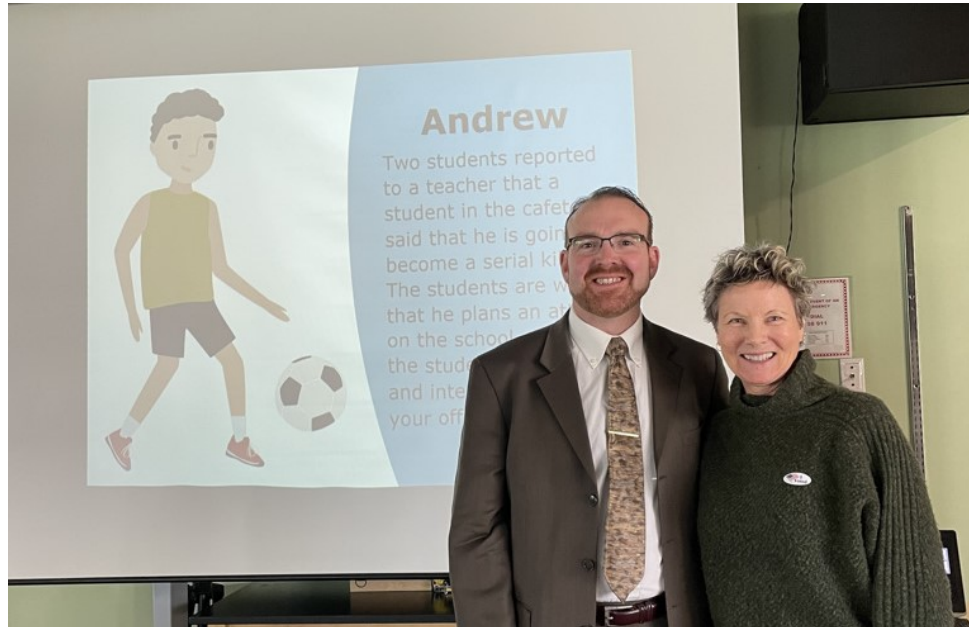
We look forward to serving the school community of Connecticut in the upcoming year. Happy Holidays!

Your partner in school safety,
Amery

Amery Bernhardt, D.M.

Director

CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation



Amery Bernhardt, D.M., Director-CT Center for School Safety and Paula Gill Lopez, Ph.D., Faculty Affiliate of the Center from Fairfield University. CSTAG Training held at Fairfield Public School - November 8, 2022

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

recommended. When 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

william.turley@ct.gov

Resources and Information

A new school safety-related grant has recently been added to the [Grants Finder Tool](#) on [School Safety.Gov](#) - see below:

[Mental Health Service Professional \(MHSP\) Demonstration Grant Program](#)

(Deadline: January 27, 2023)

The MHSP Program provides competitive grants to support and demonstrate innovative partnerships to train school-based mental health service providers for employment in schools and local educational agencies (LEAs). The goal of this program is to increase the number and diversity of high-quality, trained providers available to address the shortages of mental health service professionals in schools served by high-need LEAs.

To access additional information on this grant as well as find a full list of funding opportunities

with upcoming application deadlines, **please [click here](#)**. You can also navigate the Grants Finder Tool's [various features](#) to search for additional grants related to school safety. If you have any questions, please contact our team at SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov.

[The Hub: Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization \(RBHAO\) for Southwestern CT A program of the Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership \(RYASAP\)](#)

- The Hub's website offers many resources (resources on all tabs), trainings, and information on behavioral health. [Resource Guides](#) for finding mental health and substance use treatment and recovery options as well as our [Free Peer Support Group Guides](#) are available. We have resources for teachers, schools, parents and youth.
- [Virtual events](#) on an array of different topics are available.
- Free and virtual Naloxone (Narcan) trainings and Questions, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Gatekeeping trainings are listed [here](#).
- If you are struggling to find more inclusive mental & behavioral health services or providers, here is a [list](#) of where you can start your search.
- [CT's Crisis Supports - 24/7 hotlines for when you need help now](#).
- [The Hub Monthly Trainings](#) - All Trainings are free & open to the community. Group trainings are offered. For more information, please contact us at info@thehubct.org.

[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. For more information, please contact me at Adamsv2@southernct.edu.

[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.

[Shortages in School Psychology Resource 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](#).

Meetings - Please look for meetings in your region.

Region 1/Southwestern Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization [\(The Hub: Behavioral Health Action Organization for Southwestern CT](#) [A Program of RYASAP\)](#)

- *When:* 1/12 at 9am
- *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 Behavioral Health Action Organization

(Alliance for Prevention & Wellness / A Program of BHcare)

- *When:* 2/7 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 at pmautte@bhcare.org or **Taylor Gainey**, MHA at tgainey@bhcare.org

Region 3/Southeastern Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization

(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.org or **Mark Irons**, MS, at mirons@seracct.org.

Region 4/North Central Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization

(Amplify)

- *When:* 2/16 at 1:30pm
- *Where:* 178 Oakwood Drive, Glastonbury, CT 06033
- *Towns:* Andover, Avon, Berlin, Bloomfield, Bolton, Bristol, Burlington, Canton, East Granby, East Hartford, East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Hartford, Hebron, Kensington, Manchester, Marlborough, New Britain, Newington, Plainville, Plymouth, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Southington, Stafford, Suffield, Tolland, Vernon, West Hartford, Wethersfield, Windsor, Windsor Locks
- *For more information:* please contact **Adele Cyr**, CAC, Program Manager at acyr@amplifyct.org.

Region 5/Western Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization

(Western CT Coalition)

- *When:* TBD
- *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 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

- *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:* 3/30 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.
- *RSVP to* **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 (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 (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 witerspoons@wcsu.edu.

Research

Research:

The Role and Impact of School Resource Officers in Connecticut:

Purpose:

This [report](#) fulfills [Section 3 of Public Act 22-114](#), which was passed by the Connecticut General Assembly and signed by the Governor of Connecticut in May of 2022, and addressed these questions:



1. Determine how many school resource officers are employed in this state and the number of such officers in each school district;
2. Detail the funding mechanisms each district uses to employ school resource officers;
3. Develop metrics for assessing the efficacy of school resource officers, particularly in the context of interactions with students with disabilities;
4. Determine the chain of command structure when students with disabilities experience crises in school, including who responds and when;
5. Determine what the process is for entering into memoranda of understanding between school districts, boards of education and school resource officers, and public accessibility to such process;
6. Explore other issues that the public institution of higher education conducting the study deems relevant to such study.

Methods:

A research team from the Center conducted a mixed methods study including a survey which included superintendents, directors of special education, SROs, and law enforcement officials. The survey queried the number of SROs and the funding mechanisms (questions 1 and 2). Additionally, the survey results identified a list of desired metrics to assess the role of the SRO (question 3). The researchers compared the results with existing literature and created 25 draft matrices. These were shared with focus group members of diverse backgrounds, including SROs, administrators, school mental health professionals, directors of student services, and a parent of a child with a disability. The researchers also inquired about the process of entering into an MOU (question 5) and training priorities (question 6).

Key Findings:

1. There are 236 SROs working in 91 school districts in Connecticut.
2. The funding sources are varied with 40% (n=95) from law enforcement, 33% (n=77) from the school district, 22% (n=52) from town budgets, 5% (n=12) coming from a blend of funding between the school district and the law enforcement agency.
3. Researchers identified 25 matrices for evaluating SROs clustered into four categories. The first was the MOU and SRO Selection, as respondents felt it was important to have an MOU and equally important for the school district to be involved in SRO selection. The second was validation for role statements from the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO). The third was focused on training, with respondents agreeing that SROs should co-train with school mental health professionals. The last area was focused on the relationship the SRO has with students, staff, and the community. There was great emphasis on the importance of relationships between stakeholders and SROs in our focus groups.
4. Researchers gave survey participants a series of five scenarios of increasing difficulty. The scenarios were focused on a student with a disability becoming dysregulated, starting with mild dysregulation to very serious dysregulation. With each scenario, participants were asked who responds to the crisis and who is in charge of the crisis. In most cases, the staff responding included teaching staff and helping professionals. In almost all cases, participants indicated the administrator was in charge. This finding was interesting because there is no indication of training for administrators to work with SROs. Yet, the SROs identified the administrators as the people in charge.
5. 82% (n=75) of respondents indicated there is a written MOU, 6% (n=5) indicated no MOU, and 12% (n=11) indicated they did not know. Public involvement in the MOU process was controversial in the focus groups because it may lead to unnecessary public debates.
6. Researchers asked about training priorities for SROs. NASRO training was considered both a baseline and a priority. Yet, it's not required and not readily available to SROs throughout the state. Training on working with students in various eligibility categories was also assessed. Overwhelmingly, there was support for training in the areas of Emotional Disturbance and Autism.

Register NOW for Trainings Sponsored by CT Center for School Safety!

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.

- **[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 will be 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. See attached [flyer](#).
- 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 building and nurturing a restorative culture based on high quality relationships and the strategies to hold individuals accountable when harms are done to those relationships and community. See attached [flyer](#).
- 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. This 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. See attached [flyer](#).
- 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 building and nurturing a restorative culture based on high quality relationships and the strategies to hold individuals accountable when harms are done to those relationships and community. See attached [flyer](#).

- 3/20-3/21: [Parent Reunification Workshop](#) - 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. This 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

- 1/16: [Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training](#) - sponsored by [Amplify](#). As a QPR-trained Gatekeeper you will learn to recognize warning signs of suicide; know how to offer hope; and know how to get help and save a life. This Training will be held from 12:30-2pm. Monthly Trainings being offered at Amplify, 178 Oakwood Dr., Glastonbury.
- 1/17: [Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\) Training](#) - sponsored by [The Hub](#). We currently offer this training on the first and third Tuesday morning each month. To sign up or obtain additional information, please visit [The Hub/events](#) or email info@thehubct.org.
- 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.
- 1/18 & 1/25: **Postvention 2-Day Training** - hosted by the South Central Region Behavioral Health Action Organization ([Alliance for Prevention & Wellness / A Program of BH Care](#)). This Training will be In-Person from 9-11:30am and held at the Essex Town Hall. For more information, please contact **Taylor Gainey** at email tgainey@bhcare.org.
- 1/19: **Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training** - hosted by the South Central Region Behavioral Health Action Organization ([Alliance for Prevention & Wellness / A Program of BH Care](#)). This Training will be In-Person for the town of Durham, and held at Durham's Community Center from 12-1:30pm. For more information, please contact **Taylor Gainey** at email tgainey@bhcare.org.
- 1/19: [Introduction to Child Trafficking in CT Training](#) - This Training is for Congregate Care Settings.
- 1/24: [Training of Trainer \(TOT\) Introduction to Child Trafficking in CT](#) (Prerequisite: Must have participated in the Intro to Child Trafficking in CT before the TOT Date) For more information, please see attached [flyer](#). (This curriculum is for general audiences, it is not for EMS or Law Enforcement professionals)
- 1/24: [Race, Racism & Human Trafficking Training](#) - sponsored by [The Underground New England](#). Join **Yvette Young**, Licensed Professional Counselor, for a human trafficking training presentation on the intersection of race and human trafficking. This

training will be Virtual (Zoom). For more information, please see attached [flyer](#).

- 1/24: [Overdose Prevention Training Webinar](#) - sponsored by the [Western CT Coalition \(WCTC\)](#) This 75 minute webinar will include: Risk factors & prevention strategies. Trainings held on the 4th Tuesday of the month. For more information, please contact **Abby Wood** at awood@wctcoalition.org.
- 3/5-3/10: [BPAC AWR-348 Bombing Prevention Awareness Course](#) - sponsored by FEMA Center for Domestic Preparedness. This course provides an introduction to the terrorist attack cycle, an overview of IEDs, homemade explosives, and a response to suspicious behaviors and item. This basic awareness is used to enhance bombing prevention measures.
- 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.

FEMA Emergency Management Institute

Independent Study - Interactive Web Based Courses

- [IS-0029.a - Public Information Officer Awareness](#)
- [IS-200.C - Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200](#)
- [IS-907 - Active Shooter: What You Can Do - Emergency Management Institute](#)
- [IS-0904 - Active Shooter Prevention: You Can Make a Difference](#)
- [IS-0905 - Responding to an Active Shooter: You Can Make a Difference](#)
- [IS-0100.c - An Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS 100](#)
- [IS-0120.c - An Introduction to Exercises - Emergency Management Institute](#)
- [BTPR AWR-903 - Bomb Threat Preparedness and Response Course](#)
- [IED ASP AWR-341 - IED Awareness and Safety Procedures](#)

Meet Dr. Tanya Iacono

Meet Tanya Iacono, DSW, LCSW

Dr. Tanya Iacono is our Regional School Safety Coordinator for the Western Region of CT, in Partnership with **EdAdvance** and **CES**. Dr. Iacono is located at 16 Trowbridge Dr. in Bethel, CT. Dr. Iacono joined the Center at the beginning of 2023. Dr. Iacono is a licensed clinical social worker with nearly twenty years of experience working with youth involved with the juvenile justice system. Specifically, Dr. Iacono has worked closely with youth and their families to understand complex problems and identify the therapeutic needs to be addressed through treatment. She has specialized in assessing for acute and chronic psychiatric concerns, and how to best proceed with treatment interventions.

Dr. Iacono has also engaged families in the process of assessing treatment needs that might involve the participation of family members in the intervention process. She has worked closely with youth who have diagnoses of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD), significant cognitive and intellectual limitations, depressive mood disorder, anxiety disorders, substance use disorders and other areas of concern that might be a disruption to the clients overall functioning. In addition to a long career working with the youthful offender population, Dr. Iacono has supervised a parenting education program, collaborated with community leaders to establish substance abuse prevention initiatives, and provided in-home services for families in need of counseling. For a period of time, she also provided psychiatric assessment and counseling in an acute psychiatric setting for those presenting with significant mental health risk factors.

Outside of her evaluation and counseling roles, Dr. Iacono has been teaching at Sacred Heart University since 2004 as an adjunct psychology instructor, and has instructed courses at Southern Connecticut State University, Fordham University, and the University of Bridgeport. Dr. Iacono has taught a variety of human services courses which centered on subjects including critical thinking, substance abuse and chemical dependency, counseling approaches with special populations, and evidence-based treatment for at-risk youth. Dr. Iacono brings a powerful lens to school safety by focusing on youth mental health needs and successful interventions.

iaconot@wcsu.edu

Contacts



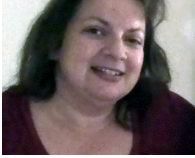
Amery Bernhardt, D.M.

Director, CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation
(203) 837-3210

bernhardta@wcsu.edu



Mary Pupazzoni



Secretary, CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation
(203) 837-8915

pupazzonim@wcsu.edu



Gabriel I. Lomas, Ph.D.

Founder and Faculty Sponsor, CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation

(203) 837-8512

lomasg@wcsu.edu



Sadie Witherspoon, MS

Regional School Safety Coordinator for the South Central Region of CT, in Partnership with ACES.

(203) 733-9439

witherspoons@wcsu.edu



Kim Myers, Ed.D.

Regional School Safety Coordinator for the North Central Capital Region of CT, in Partnership with CREC.

(203) 456-5347

myersk@wcsu.edu



Kiley Young, LCSW

Regional School Safety Coordinator for the Southeastern Region of CT, in Partnership with LEARN.

(203) 456-5316

youngki@wcsu.edu



Tanya Iacono, DSW, LCSW

Regional School Safety Coordinator for the Western Region of CT, in Partnership with EdAdvance and CES.

iaconot@wcsu.edu

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.

[Subscribe to Our Newsletter](#)

CT Center for School Safety | WCSU, 181 White Street, Danbury, CT 06810

[Unsubscribe pupazzonim@wcsu.edu](mailto:pupazzonim@wcsu.edu)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by pupazzonim@wcsu.edu in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!