

# February 2023 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,

I am excited to share with you some of the great collaborations and other accomplishments that we have experienced in our first year of operation:



- Hired all four Regional School Safety Coordinators
- Partnered with the RESC Alliance
- Have over 1100 subscribers to our Newsletter
- Provided Professional Development to over [700 participants](#)
- Conducted [Research on CT School Safety Needs](#) and [SROs](#)
- Worked Collaboratively on Several School Safety Projects
  - [Terminology Video](#)
    - Preventing Targeted Violence in CT Schools Working Group
  - Completed an Interview on [All Things Considered](#) about school safety
  - Provided Information to [News-Times](#) about our progress and future

Please take a few moments to reach out to the [Regional School Safety Coordinator](#) that covers your school and see how the Center can collaborate to meet your school safety needs.

Your partner in school safety,  
Amery

**Amery Bernhardt, D.M.**

Director

CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation



CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation "Meeting of the Delegates" – Jan. 27, 2023  
(Left to Right) Dr. Paul Beran, President–WCSU, Rep. Martin Foncello, Rep. Rachel Chaleski, Rep. Patrick Callahan, Amery Bernhardt, D.M., Director–CT Center for School Safety, Sen. Julie Kushner, Rep. Bob Godfrey, Gabriel I. Lomas, Ph.D., Founder–CT Center for School Safety & Crisis Preparation. Dr. Missy Alexander, Provost and VP–WCSU Academic Affairs

## 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.

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](mailto:william.turley@ct.gov)

## Resources and Information

**Doug Casey | Executive Director**

**Connecticut Commission for Educational Technology**

**Department of Administrative Services**

### Cybersecurity Resources for K-12 Schools

On January 24, 2023, the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) released its "[Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats](#)" report with a supporting [toolkit](#). The report provides recommendations and resources to help K-12 schools and school districts effectively reduce their risk in the evolving, disrupting, and damaging cybersecurity threat landscape. It also provides insight into the current threat landscape and the K-12 community's capacity to prevent and mitigate cyberattacks, offering simple steps school leaders can take to strengthen their cybersecurity efforts.

### Understanding and Reducing Cybersecurity Risks

Cyber incidents continue to blanket our news feeds, with plenty of local examples to raise concerns among Connecticut education leaders. If the national trends and totals seem concerning, consider that reported data generally underestimate the real impact of cyber incidents. For example, the oft-cited K – 12 Cybersecurity Resource Center points to 1,180 incidents since 2016, a five-year span. To put this low-ball number in perspective, the Connecticut Education Network has mitigated more than 800 denial-of-service attacks — just one type of incident in one of the smallest states in the nation — in this school year alone.

### What You Can Do

The starting point for many districts in reducing exposure to online vulnerabilities has often been cyber insurance, but even that marketplace is undergoing shifts. For example, the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) recently announced it would no longer include cyber insurance as part of its core coverage. More broadly, just to become eligible for cyber insurance, schools and towns need to prove due diligence in preventing attacks and reducing vulnerabilities through training and investments in third-party intrusion detection and prevention systems. The new emphasis from incident response to prevention reduces risk for carriers and customers alike.

If your school system does not have updated incident prevention and response plans — in the same way you would prepare for natural disasters or school safety incidents — today would be a good time to start! Become familiar with frameworks from the National Institute of Standards



and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework ([www.nist.gov/cyberframework](http://www.nist.gov/cyberframework)) and the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) ([us-cert.cisa.gov](http://us-cert.cisa.gov)). Excellent resources from CISA (see [www.bit.ly/CISA-20](http://www.bit.ly/CISA-20)) and the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN, [www.cosn.org](http://www.cosn.org)) help district leaders identify and mitigate against cyber risks specific to schools. Other state, regional, and national organizations can help protect your schools. The State's education network, CEN ([www.ctedunet.net](http://www.ctedunet.net)) identifies and mitigates attacks that would normally grind school and town networks to a halt for days. Districts can also take advantage of low-cost solutions that protect student devices and school firewalls through CEN's volume pricing agreements.

Your information technology (IT) team can stay up to date on current threats by subscribing to updates from the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center ([www.cisecurity.org/ms-isac/](http://www.cisecurity.org/ms-isac/)). Finally, become familiar with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Internet Crime Complaint Center ([www.IC3.gov](http://www.IC3.gov)) with supports before and after a cyber incident. Summer is a perfect time for your school technology team to learn more about cybersecurity. The Federal Virtual Training Environment ([fedvte.usalearning.gov](http://fedvte.usalearning.gov)) and SANS Institute ([www.sans.org](http://www.sans.org)) provide free training for state and municipal employees, as does CEN with input from Connecticut subject-matter experts serving on its advisory councils ([www.ctedunet.net/engagement-events/](http://www.ctedunet.net/engagement-events/)). A number of cybersecurity courses are starting soon from CoSN (see [www.cosn.org/cybersecurity](http://www.cosn.org/cybersecurity)).

Depending on the skill level of your IT staff, you may want to seek outside assistance from a trusted third party in identifying the vulnerabilities of your network, devices, and systems. Consultants can also help develop a reasonable cyber security plan and recommend solutions that will help protect against vulnerabilities to your district.

Merely protecting against the "enemies at the gate" shortchanges the holistic approach to cyber security you should take. Schools today depend heavily, if not almost entirely, on hosted solutions to manage their instructional and operational systems. For that reason, school leaders should make staff training on data and systems protections a priority. Consider investing in third-party systems to test employee responses to the types of human engineering campaigns we face every day. "Safe" phishing emails through these solutions will help identify who is likely to share data or download viruses with bad actors so that you can address and correct this behavior in a collegial, low-stakes way.

Building a collective understanding of risks and best-practice approaches to reducing exposure will help your district in the long run. Start a conversation today, informed by the resources above, to stay ahead of the cyber threats to your district's teaching, learning, and operations.

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## Additional Resources and Information

[CISA Office for Bombing Prevention \(OBP\)](#) has provided guidance for addressing bomb threats in the links below:

- [Mass Bomb Threats](#)
- [Bomb Threat Guidance Quad Fold](#)
- [Bomb Threat Stand-off Card](#)

[Appreciative Inquiry \(AI\)](#) is an energizing and inclusive process that fosters creativity through the art of positive inquiry. AI invites change through the creation of shared meaning, vision and purpose by building upon the core values and strengths of participants - resulting in strategic initiatives, actionable items, commitment, and sustainability. Articles related to School Safety are in the links below:

- [Exceeding Expectations: An Anthology of Appreciative Inquiry Stories in Education from Around the World](#)
- [Signs of Safety Child Protection Practice Framework](#)

[Healthy Children.org](#) is part of the American Academy of Pediatrics website and offers great articles about physical and emotional health for children and adolescents.

[Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design \(CPTED\) School Assessment \(CSA\)](#) is used to rate the physical parts of the school which may impact youth fear and aggressive behavior. This rating scale is based upon page 32 of the School CPTED Principles.

[The Hub](#) Behavioral Health Action Organization (RBHAO) for Southwestern CT. The Hub is a division of the Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP) and offers many resources such as trainings, and information on behavioral health:

- [Resource Guides](#) for finding mental health and substance use treatment and recovery options as well as [Free Peer Support Group Guides](#).
- Resources are available for teachers, schools, parents and youth.
- [Virtual events](#) on an array of different topics.
- Free and Virtual [Naloxone \(Narcan\) trainings](#).
- Questions, Persuade, Refer ([QPR](#)) [Suicide Gatekeeping trainings](#).
- 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](#) are free & open to the community. Group trainings are offered. For more information, please contact [info@thehubct.org](mailto:info@thehubct.org).

[School Safety.Gov](#) has introduced a [Grants Finder Tool](#). For 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](mailto:SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov).

### [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.

## 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:* TBD
- *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](mailto:victoria@ryasap.org) or [info@thehubct.org](mailto: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](mailto:pmautte@bhcare.org) or **Taylor Gainey**, MHA at [tgainey@bhcare.org](mailto:tgainey@bhcare.org)

## Region 3/Southeastern Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization

### (SERAC)

- *When:* TBD
- *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](mailto:aduhaime@seracct.org) or **Mark Irons**, MS, at [miron@s@seracct.org](mailto:miron@s@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](mailto: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](mailto:afulton@WCTCoalition.org)

## Catchment Area Council Meetings

- *When:* Every other 3rd Thursday of month; from 2:30-4pm (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](mailto:Kaitlin@ryasap.org).

### **TBA - DEMHS Region 1 School Safety and Security Meeting**

- *For more information,* please contact **Robert Kenny** at [robert.kenny@ct.gov](mailto:robert.kenny@ct.gov).

### **Region 1 Gambling Awareness Team Meetings**

- *When:* 2nd Tuesday of the month, Quarterly; from 2:30-4pm (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](mailto:ingrid.gillespie@liberationprograms.org) for meeting link.

### **The DEMHS Region 2 School Safety & Security Group Meeting**

- *When:* TBD
- *Where:* Virtually
- *For more information:* please contact **Jeff Nielsen** at [jnielsen@milforded.org](mailto: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](mailto:powelll@granbyschools.org) or call (860) 844-5259.

### **The DEMHS Region 4 (Eastern CT) Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT) Steering Committee approved the creation of a new School Safety Subcommittee at its January, 2023 meeting.**

For those organizations within Region 4's territory (<https://portal.ct.gov/DEMHS/Emergency-Management/Resources-For-Officials/Regional-Offices/Region-4>), attendance/membership for this group could include, but not be limited to:

- Any school staff who are responsible for school safety planning in their districts
- SROs
- Emergency Managers
- Public Safety Chiefs/Department Heads
- Public Health Officials
- Any others with vested interest

The first meeting of the subcommittee is scheduled **Wednesday, February 22nd** at 9:00 AM at LEARN at 44 Hatchetts Hill Rd. in Old Lyme, CT in the large conference room, and will also be offered to attendees over Zoom. To be added to the meeting email distribution list and to get the Zoom meeting information, please send an email with your interest to [mike.caplet@ct.gov](mailto:mike.caplet@ct.gov).

### **The DEMHS Region 5 School Safety and Security Working Group**

- *When:* Thursdays from 11am-12pm (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](mailto:john.field@ct.gov).



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

- *When:* Tuesdays from 8:30-10:30am (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](mailto:lomasg@wcsu.edu).

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

Pathways to Violence and Conducting Threat Assessments will be presented by SA **Marc LaFrance**, Behavioral Analysis Coordinator and Threat Management Coordinator for the FBI in Connecticut.

- *When:* Tuesday, February 28th from 9:00-11:00am
- *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](mailto:witerspoons@wcsu.edu).

# Research

## Research:

### The Effectiveness of the Say-Something Anonymous Reporting System in Preventing School Violence: A Cluster Randomized Control Trial in 19 Middle Schools. Volume 21 Issue 4.

In August of 2022, the Journal of School Violence published a study conducted by the following: **Hsing-Fang Hsieh, Daniel B Leeb, Marc A. Zimmermana, Naomi Pomerantz, Mary C. Cunningham, Elizabeth Messman, Sarah A. Stoddard, Alison R.**

**Grodzinskia, and Justin E. Heinzea** affiliated with the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Institute for Firearm Injury Prevention, University of Michigan, Michigan Medicine, University of Michigan, School of Education, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, Department of Systems, Populations and Leadership, University of Michigan School of Nursing.

The full report can be accessed [here](#).

## Purpose:

The purpose of this study was to examine the effectiveness of the *Say Something Anonymous Reporting System (SS-ARS)* program in improving school connectedness, trust, safety, and preventing school violence. The SS-ARS is developed and implemented by the Sandy Hook Promise (SHP) Foundation, which emphasizes youth engagement and trains youth to recognize warning signs of possible harmful behaviors and to safely report potential threats. In addition, Anonymous Reporting Systems (ARS) are prevention-focused and have the potential to improve school safety by facilitating reporting of early signs of trouble. Three features of ARS may be particularly important to help manage immediate threats of violence and ensure timely reporting (Alathari et al., 2020; Payne & Elliott, 2011). First, the availability of anonymous tip lines may remove barriers to reporting, such as the perceived social cost of being a tattle-tale, and concerns of being found out (Payne & Elliott, 2011; Schwartz et al., 2016). Second, a concomitant educational component with ARS that teaches youth how to identify risk and when to report may enhance youth's knowledge, self-efficacy, and intention to recognize and report warning signs if they observe them. Third, ARS can expect more widespread technology adoption and better program sustainability when paired with trainings addressing social norms around school



safety (Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, 2016). Notably, ARSs are mandated in 26 states across the U.S. Lastly, the Say Something program has been implemented in numerous schools in the U.S. and they have trained over 12 million students (Sandy Hook Promise Foundation).

### **Methods/Participants:**

The method used to obtain data was a cluster randomized control trial among over 700 students in 19 middle schools in the Miami Dade County Public Schools. The study participants were 6th graders so that students were not expected to transition out of middle school during the study period. The analysis focused on pre and posttest surveys completed by students at 3 months and 9 months.

### **Key Findings:**

- The results support the hypotheses that SS-ARS improved both cognitive and behavioral outcomes, and overall school violence compared to schools that did not receive SS-ARS.
- The findings suggest that SS-ARS is a promising strategy for inducing reporting of early signs of violence among students.
- These results are particularly encouraging because due to the program effects on cognitive changes were sustained up to 9 months after the intervention. The results are also consistent with theories of behavior change.
- The effects of SS-ARS on connectedness, safety, and violence were found at 9 months, but not 3 months. This is conceptually reasonable, however, because it is difficult to change norms and behaviors quickly.
- Reporting concerns (i.e. telling, snitching, and ratting out) and fear of getting a friend or peer in trouble were notable student barriers and may take time to change.
- The anonymity afforded by SS-ARS, combined with student-engaged components to ensure students feel more empowered to take action, enhanced perceptions that reports will be handled fairly and equitably by an unbiased communications officer and may be effective in positively changing the norms over time.
- The comparison of the 3-month posttest reports of students' self-efficacy and intention to report warning signs and 9-month posttest perceptions of school and exposure to school violence in treatment versus control school yielded results showing that SS-ARS improved both 3-month and 9-month self-efficacy and intention to report.
- The intervention also promotes perceptions of school safety and reduced violence exposure at the 9-month posttest. · School safety interventions may require culture change in a school which takes time to achieve.
- The findings in this study provide evidence that the SS-ARS intervention is an effective approach to improving perceptions of school safety, increasing reporting of early signs of violence, and reducing overall school violence.

## **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.



Amery Bernhardt & Sadie Witherspoon delivering Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) Training at Troup School in New Haven – Jan. 12, 2023

- **[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](mailto:Bernhardta@wcsu.edu) to schedule a session or for more information.
- 2/14: **[Beyond Compliance Workshop- School Threat Assessment and Behavioral Analysis Threat Assessment](#)** - This workshop is for Members of your School Security and Safety Committee or Members of your Threat Assessment / Behavioral Analysis Team. (Please register with as many members of your team as possible because there will be a breakout session for your team to discuss the scenario and apply your protocols. This training is Virtual (Zoom) and offered at **no cost**. The focus of the workshop will be on working through a Threat Assessment and a Behavioral Analysis Threat Assessment Process with **Marc LaFrance** from the FBI. During the tabletop exercise, your school/district will be in a breakout room to discuss the scenario and test your plan. The *Registration Deadline* is 2/10.
- 2/24: **[Digital Threat Assessment®](#)** - Provided by **Safer Schools Together**. This training is available at **no cost**. 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.
- 3/22: **[Advanced Digital Threat Assessment®](#)** - Provided by **Safer Schools Together**. Non-negotiable prerequisite: SST Digital Threat Assessment® training (completed within the past 2 years). This training is available at **no cost**. 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 [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 [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

- 2/7 & 2/21: [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](mailto:info@thehubct.org).
- 2/8: [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.
- 2/20: [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](mailto:tgainey@bhcare.org).
- 2/20: [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.
- 2/28: [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](mailto:awood@wctcoalition.org).
- 3/2: [Connecticut School Safety Symposium](#) - presented by **Mutualink** in cooperation with the CT Police Chiefs Association & the Dr. Henry C. Lee Institute of Forensic Science, University of New Haven. This free event is an educational symposium for law enforcement and school administrators on school safety including the psychology/profile behind mass violence. Save the date, more details to follow.
- 3/2-3/3 & 3/16: [Resilience Reset Virtual Series](#) - sponsored by the **Center for Appreciative Inquiry**. Free workshop to hone your resilience practice. Join Joan McArthur-



Blair and Jeanie Cockell every week for Resilience Reset, a highly interactive conversation about resilience in our complex world. Jeanie and Joan will curate topics from their work in resilience and/or uplift topics from the participants that arrive. Resilience Reset is an opportunity to focus on the strengths we bring to creating an appreciative resilience practice.

- 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.
- 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27: [Conversations Worth Having](#) - free training sponsored by the [Center for Appreciative Inquiry](#). Turn stress and challenges into conversations worth having. These 4-weekly Zoom sessions serve as an opportunity for you to practice generative questions and positive framing on issues and concerns you are currently experiencing. You do not need to attend all 4 sessions to benefit from this Virtual series. We encourage you to invite your friends, families, and colleagues who may benefit -- all are welcome to participate. Free downloadable toolkits offered.
- 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](#)

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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](mailto:pupazzonim@wcsu.edu) no later than the 15th of the month prior.

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