

March 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 want to take a moment to recognize the Western Regional Crisis Team who experienced two deployments in February. I am always humbled and filled with admiration for their unwavering support to help each other in times of need. They are an inspiration and model for crisis support.



I also want to make sure that each region of the state has the capacity to successfully respond to crises and that they have the network necessary to provide mutual aid. One of our key goals is to help build this type of comradery in the other Regional Crisis Teams throughout the state. If your school needs crisis response training, such as the National Association of School Psychologist's PREPaRE course, please reach out to our Regional School Safety Coordinators:

- **Sadie Witherspoon**, M.S.-South Central Region of CT, in Partnership with ACES. Phone: 203-733-9439. Email: Witherspoons@wcsu.edu
- **Kimberly Myers**, Ed.D.-North Central Capital Region of CT, in Partnership with CREC. Phone: 203-456-5347. Email: Myersk@wcsu.edu
- **Kiley Young**, LCSW.-Eastern Region of CT, in Partnership with LEARN and EASTCONN. Phone: 203-240-4867. Email: Youngki@wcsu.edu
- **Tanya Iacono**, DSW, LCSW.-Western Region of CT, in Partnership with EdAdvance and CES. Phone: 203-456-5337. Email: Iaconot@wcsu.edu

Finally, I am excited to introduce our intern, **Ryan Fata**. He has been diligently working on building a social media presence for the Center (please see the section of the newsletter introducing Ryan).

Please know that the Center is here to support your district and we are stronger together!

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:

Keeping our students safe while educating them is our top priority. Reunifying the students with their family after an incident can be another challenge. Too often we've seen parents rushing to the school when social media and local news reports an incident at a school. Planning and training for this event is paramount.

The Connecticut School All-Hazards template has an annex devoted to reunification of students and family. As I review plans from across the state, I find many still have the template language, and have not addressed or tailored it to the school/district. I have seen some plans that simply say the teachers have contact numbers for family and will make calls to pick up students.

The template has a link for the "I Love U Guys" foundation. I like the foundation's plan and resources. This plan has been used and tailored to schools across the country, but you'll only know what works if you plan and train to it.

At a minimum, an effective and efficient reunification plan requires a site away from the incident, manpower, signs and forms. The site(s) should be reviewed prior to an incident with traffic and pedestrian flow considered. Will you use only school staff to operate the reunification process? Will you need volunteers? Do you have the signs to direct families where you want them and forms to record who is reunifying with whom?

A communication plan and scripted messaging should be in place to facilitate quick messaging to family and the community.

The parents will only want their child back, and if they sense chaos or disorganization at the reunification point, it will lead to frustration, anger and loss of trust.

Please look at your school/district plan. Is it operable? Have you trained to it? Are there gaps in the plan? Do you have all the resources to make it work?

The Center will be hosting a two day reunification workshop in March. Please consider sending representatives to the workshop to help with your planning efforts.

Below is a link to the "I Love U Guys" reunification plan:

<https://iloveguys.org/The-Standard-Reunification-Method.html>

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

Grant Awarded!



EdAdvance is pleased to share that we have been awarded an **\$8.7 million U.S. Department of Education grant to increase school-based mental health services in 30 K-12 schools in Northwestern CT over the next five years.**

Increasing School-Based Mental Health Services in Rural Northwestern CT (SBMHS-NW CT) is a multi-pronged approach to increase the number of credentialed school-based mental health providers and services in small rural schools in NW CT. This effort will be managed by EdAdvance staff. Participating Districts/Schools: 30 schools serving students from grades Pre-K to 12 in 20 communities throughout the northwestern corner, including:

Regional District #1:

Housatonic Valley Regional High School and elementary schools in Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, North Canaan Salisbury, Sharon

Regional District #7:

Northwestern Regional Middle & High School, and elementary schools in Barkhamsted, Norfolk, Colebrook

Regional District #12:

Shepaug Valley High School and elementary schools in Roxbury, Bridgewater, Washington

Regional District #14:

Nonnewaug High School, Woodbury Middle School and elementary schools in Bethlehem and Woodbury

Litchfield/Regional District #6 (Future Region 20):

Wamogo and Litchfield Middle/High Schools and elementary schools in Goshen, Morris, Warren and Litchfield

Winchester:

Hinsdale and Pearson schools and the Explorations Charter School

In collaboration with schools and districts, **EdAdvance** will recruit and hire 15 diverse credentialed school social workers and/or school counselors and place one 50% FTE person in every participating school for five years.

Funding will also be used to:

- Implement JOY (*Skills21 Journey of You SEL program*) at no cost for 200 sixth grade students each year.
- Provide SBIRT training (*Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment*) for school

personnel to access students disciplined for vaping/tobacco use and/or who are at risk for substance misuse.

- Provide a series of no-cost PD workshops for relevant school staff to support SBMH services.
- Help increase the pipeline for future credentialed SBMH providers.
- Develop a Strategic Plan to ensure sustainability of SBMH services following the 5-year funding period.
- Provide software and hardware solutions for program participants.

Resources and Information

[SchoolSafety.gov](#) launched a new Child Exploitation [Topic Page](#) on the site to help address critical and emerging school safety issues and support K-12 communities with relevant resources and information. The new page features child exploitation information, resources, and guidance from government agencies as well as non-profit organizations, and outlines ways members of the K-12 school community can help identify, prevent, and respond to the victimization of students. The launch is an important expansion of the site's content to better support schools and districts in creating safe and supportive learning environments.

To support the launch of the new page, we have created the attached resource [Infographic](#), which provides a high-level overview of the issue of child exploitation and highlights a sampling of the newly added resources. Additional resources below:

Child Exploitation Resources for the K-12 Community Guides and Reports:

- [Child Sex Trafficking in America: A Guide for Parents and Guardians](#): This guide offers information for parents and guardians on child sex trafficking, including an overview on the victims and perpetrators, tips for keeping children safer, and warning signs.
- [How to Talk to Youth about Human Trafficking: A Guide for Youth Caretakers and Individuals Working with Youth](#): This guide can be used by any adult who is a caretaker of a youth or individuals who work with youth through formal or informal programming. It includes information about what human trafficking is, how to recognize it among youth, tips for talking to youth about general exploitations, information about building life skills that may help prevent youth from being trafficked, and reporting options if you suspect a youth is affected by human trafficking or being exploited.
- [Human Trafficking in America's Schools: What Schools Can Do To Prevent, Respond, and Help Students To Recover From Human Trafficking \(Second Edition\)](#): This guide is intended to provide awareness of the current prevalence of child trafficking and the forms it takes; information on risk factors and indicators of child trafficking; details about three prevention tiers and the implications for schools' role in addressing child trafficking; information on how professional development of school staff and prevention education for students and families can reduce the likelihood of trafficking; and details on how policies, protocols, and partnerships with other community sectors can help prevent trafficking.
- [Sex Trafficking of Minors: What Schools Need to Know to Recognize and Respond to the Trafficking of Students](#): This brief provides educators with an overview of the issue of minor sex trafficking and suggests specific steps that schools can take to respond to signs of trafficking among its students. It also offers suggestions for how State Coordinators for Homeless Education and local homeless education liaisons can help guide their states' and school districts' efforts to address trafficking within schools.

Fact Sheets and Tip Sheets

- [Child Sex Trafficking Overview](#): This resource provides an overview of and trends on child sex trafficking as well as the signs associated with child sex trafficking so trusted adults and professionals can recognize potential red flags or indicators.

- [Helping Schools and Communities Prevent Child Sexual Exploitation](#): This tip sheet offers steps to help schools and communities take a proactive approach to addressing child sexual exploitation.
- [Human Trafficking 101 for School Administrators and Staff](#): This resource offers a definition of human trafficking, a brief overview of who is at risk, and behavioral, physical, and social indicators of trafficking that might be observed by school personnel. It also includes the number to call to report suspected trafficking, and a reminder about the importance of engaging law enforcement in order to protect students' and staff's safety.

Resources and Programs

- [Keeping Children Safe Online](#): This webpage offers tips, videos, and resources to help parents, guardians, caregivers, and teachers help protect children from becoming victims of online child predators.
- [NetSmartz](#): NetSmartz is the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's online safety education program. It provides age-appropriate videos and activities to help teach children how to be safer online with the goal of helping children to become more aware of potential online risks and empowering them to help prevent victimization by making safer choices on- and offline.
- [Project iGuardian](#): Project iGuardian is focused on keeping children and teens safe from online predators through education and awareness. The project is an outreach effort to share information about the dangers of online environments, how to stay safe online, and how to report abuse and suspicious activity.

Additional Resources

[Online Abuse Prevention Program](#)

[Pursuant to Public Act No. 22-82 Section 6](#) \$500,000 was allocated to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) for the primary goal of awarding grants for the programming or service that prevents online abuse, through the Online Abuse Prevention Program.

- The purpose of this grant program is to provide educational and training opportunities with the desired outcome of preventing on-line abuse and informing individuals about identifying, reporting, responding to, and avoiding online abuse. The population being served is an "eligible entity" as defined as a:
 - school district;
 - historical society;
 - tax-exempt entity;
 - higher education unit;
 - public library; or,
 - any other entity operating under another entity already mentioned.

The goals of the Online Abuse Prevention Grant Program, as defined by Public Act 22-82 Sec. 6 are "to provide educational and training opportunities with the goal of preventing online abuse and informing individuals about identifying, reporting, responding to, and avoiding online abuse." Additionally, this includes goals that particularity serve historically undeserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups within Connecticut. Efforts to spread awareness of this grant program will include outreach to historically undeserved, marginalized, or adversely affected residents and businesses. Grant requirements are accessible and scalable thus resulting in less disparities in ability to complete applications, meet eligibility and reporting requirements. Intended outcomes of this grant program are focused on closing gaps or reaching universal levels of service across Connecticut communities.

To apply for this program, please visit the Grant Process page or inquire to the DESPP.OnlineAbuseGrant@ct.gov email.

[Ultimate School Administrators Guide](#) provided by the **International Center for Digital Threat Assessment (ICDTA) and Safer Schools Together**. The goal of this administrator's guide is to introduce the most common social media platforms, video games, and relevant trends that are being used by your students. Becoming more familiar with these platforms allows you to navigate through them quickly when you have to address digital threats and other concerning behavior.

[How You Can Prevent Firearm Suicide with a Risk Protection Order](#) - Brochure covering important information for healthcare professionals regarding Connecticut's Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO).

Governor Lamont Launches New Round of Security Grants



Applications Due to the State by March 31, 2023, at 3PM

(HARTFORD, CT) – Governor Ned Lamont today announced that his administration is now accepting applications for new rounds of funding under two competitive state grant programs that help with the costs associated with implementing needed security infrastructure improvements and upgrades to emergency communication systems at schools throughout Connecticut.

The programs include the **School Security Competitive Grant Program** and the **Multi-Media Interoperable Communications System Program**. They are jointly administered by the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection's Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Additional information and instructions on how to apply can be found on the [School Security Grant Program website](#).

Meetings - Please look for meetings in your region.



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

Regional Suicide Advisory Board Meeting

- *When:* 4/4 at 10:30am
- *Where:* [Zoom Link](#)
- *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.
- *Who Should Attend:* All are welcome to join.
- *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

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.

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 (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:* 3/15 from 2:30-3:30pm
- *Where:* Virtually via Google Meets
- *Who Should Attend:* Those who are interested in being part of our group are encouraged to email their contact information to **Jeff Nielsen** at Jnielsen@milforded.org. Group membership includes receiving correspondence related to meeting announcements and information related to school safety/security.

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 Powell@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 next meeting for the School Safety Subcommittee is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29th, 2023, from 9:00 a.m. through 10:30 a.m. at the Council Chambers, Mansfield Town Offices, 4 S. Eagleville Road, Storrs, CT. 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.

The DEMHS Region 5 School Safety and Security Working Group

- *When:* Thursdays from 11am-12pm (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 (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 **Tanya Iacono** at Iaconot@wcsu.edu.

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

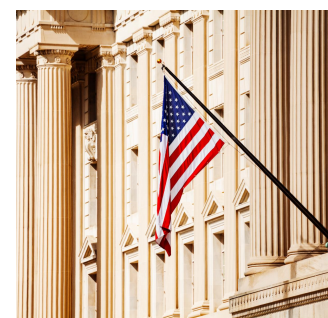
Pathways to Violence and Conducting Threat Assessments will be presented by **SA Marc LaFrance**, Behavioral Analysis Coordinator and Threat Management Coordinator for the FBI in Connecticut.

- *When:* Thursday, March 23rd 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 Witherspoons@wcsu.edu.

Research

The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) Examines for the First Time - Five Years of Mass Violence Data. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) released [Mass Attacks in Public Spaces: 2016 - 2020](#), a comprehensive report examining 173 incidents of targeted violence and highlighting the observable commonalities among the attackers. The report's release coincides with a webinar presentation



tailored to community leaders and stakeholders. The press release can be accessed [here](#).

Over 20,000 participants have registered for the event, including government officials, police, school officials, workplace security managers, mental health professionals, and faith-based leaders. The registrants represent all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and multiple countries.

"The prevention of mass violence in America remains as critical as ever. Far too often, communities and families have been devastated by the impact of these tragedies, and public safety professionals continue to work toward preventing future attacks," said U.S. Secret Service Director **Kimberly Cheatle** of the report. "The information revealed in this report is intended to guide those prevention efforts. NTAC's exploration of each attacker's background, motivation, and pre-attack behavior will assist the Secret Service and our partners in our shared violence prevention efforts. We encourage our public safety partners to review the information within this report and apply it to their own practices for providing a safe environment in communities across the country."

Key Findings:

- Most of the attackers had exhibited behavior that **elicited concern** in family members, friends, neighbors, classmates, co-workers, and others, and in many cases, those individuals **feared for the safety of themselves or others**.
- Many attackers had a history of physically aggressive or intimidating behaviors, evidenced by **prior violent criminal arrests/charges, domestic violence, or other acts of violence** toward others.
- Half of the attackers were motivated by grievances, and were **retaliating for perceived wrongs** related to personal, domestic, or workplace issues.
- Most of the attackers used **firearms**, and many of those firearms were **possessed illegally** at the time of the attack.
- One-quarter of the attackers subscribed to a **belief system involving conspiracies or hateful ideologies**, including anti-government, anti-Semitic, and misogynistic views.
- Many attackers experienced **stressful events** across various life domains, including family/romantic relationships, personal issues, employment, and legal issues. In some of these cases, attackers experienced a specific triggering event prior to perpetrating the attack.
- Over half of the attackers experienced **mental health symptoms** prior to or at the time of their attacks, including depression, psychotic symptoms, and suicidal thoughts.

On **March 14th** join the **U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)** for an encore presentation on this study. The study examines 173 mass attacks perpetrated from 2016 through 2020 in public and semi-public spaces. The report highlights commonalities in attackers' planning and behaviors and the importance of proactive and preventative approaches to mitigate the risk of mass violence in our communities. This Free Virtual event will feature presentations from NTAC researchers and special guest speakers. **Click [here](#) to register.**

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.

3/2: [School Climate Workshop](#)

Training provided by noted school climate experts, **Jo Ann Freiberg** and **Patricia A. Ciccone** 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. The cost is \$26. Also see [flyer](#).



3/3: [Restorative Practices Workshop](#)

Training provided by noted school climate experts, **Jo Ann Freiberg** and **Patricia A. Ciccone** 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. The cost is \$26. Also 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. The cost is \$26. This functional exercise is promoted to all stakeholders and should include School, District, Public Safety, Public Health and Emergency Management. **Course Description:** The Standard Reunification Method – Reunification Exercise (REx) Training is intended to show emergency response personnel what capabilities there are for handling, organizing, and re-unifying the staff and students that have experienced an emergent event that was man-made, technological, or natural. Some of the exercise material is intended for exclusive use for certain emergency response disciplines, district staff, or specific exercise players.



3/22: [Advanced Digital Threat Assessment®](#)

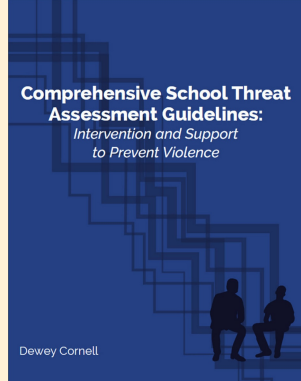
Provided by **Safer Schools Together**. Non-negotiable prerequisite: SST Digital Threat Assessment® training (completed within the past 2 years). This training will be Virtual and offered at no cost. Advanced DTA builds and expands significantly on the content covered during the prerequisite DTA training. 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 is for all school community members.



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. For more information or to schedule a session, please contact **Dr. Amery Bernhardt** at Bernhardta@wcsu.edu.



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

Additional Trainings

- 3/2: **Youth Voice Needed!** - Sponsored by the **RESC Alliance (Connecticut Alliance of Regional Educational Service Centers)** **Calling all students age 13-18** to participate in an interactive virtual conversation to help develop a new trauma-informed training program coming to CT Schools. It will be held from 3-4 p.m. on Zoom. Session will include: Info about new training program; group chat about trauma & mental health; opportunity to share your thoughts and ideas; resources; and how to get involved. All attendees will be entered into a gift card giveaway! See [flyer](#) for additional information.
- 3/2: **Connecticut School Safety Symposium** - presented by **Mutualink** in cooperation with the **CT Police Chiefs of Police Association and 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. It is intended to enrich the understanding behind mass violence in schools and equip the audience with specialized knowledge presented by our expert panel of speakers. This event will be held at **Southern CT State University**.
- 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: **In-Person Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training**. This training course will be start at 2:00 p.m. and held at the Francis T. Maloney High School for the Mental Health Club (10th-12th graders).
- 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.
- 3/7 and 3/21: **Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training** - sponsored by **The Hub**. We currently offer this training webinar from 9-10:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday morning each month. To sign up or obtain more information, please visit **The Hub/Events** or email **Info@thehubct.org**.
- 3/7 and 3/13: **REAL Mentors are Prevention: How Mentoring Can Prevent Opioid Misuse** - sponsored by **Prevention Works CT - The Governor's Prevention Partnership**. Are you ready to make a difference in the fight against opioid epidemic? Join us for our engaging Series (Virtual) for mentors, mentees, and mentoring service providers. We will learn how to promote community wellness and prevent opioid misuse through mentoring. For additional information, please click **here**.
- 3/8: **Identify and Heal from Vicarious Trauma as a Mental Health Professional** - sponsored by **Aware Recovery Care In-Home Addiction Treatment**. This is a free CEU Webinar Series held from 9-10 a.m. Many individuals enter the mental health field because of personal experiences and/or a desire to help others. Those with their own mental health history must be mindful of reactivating their symptoms through their work. Additionally, everyone is at risk of having vicarious trauma symptoms depending on the population and acuity of the clients whom they are working with. Please join Aware Recovery Care and **Sarah Allen Benton, AADC, LPC, LMHC** at this event.
- 3/8: **Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Webinar Training and Certification** - sponsored by **Western CT Coalition (WCTC), QPR Institute, and DMHAS**. Trainings are on Zoom, and held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.
- 3/14: **The U.S. Secret Service Event - Mass Attacks in Public Spaces 2016-2020** - Join the **U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)** for an encore presentation of their latest study, **Mass Attacks in Public Spaces: 2016 - 2020**. This study examines 173 mass attacks perpetrated from 2016 through 2020 in public and semi-public spaces. The report highlights commonalities in attackers' planning and behaviors and the importance of proactive and preventative approaches to mitigate the risk of mass violence in our communities. This Free Virtual event will feature presentations from NTAC researchers and special guest speakers.
- 3/16: **In-Person Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training**. This training will start at 2:00 p.m. for Wallingford School Nurses in Wallingford.
- 3/20: **Addressing Addiction Stigma with Family, Friends, & Our Communities in CT**: Hear the facts on **Substance Use Disorder (SUD)**, get local resources, and learn how to have conversations about SUD - sponsored by **DMHAS** and **Shatter Proof**. This webinar will start at 12 p.m. Gain insight into the many ways you can support loved ones and community members with SUD. For additional information, please see **flyer**.
- 3/20: **Essential Cyber Hygiene for K-12 Schools - Getting Schooled on IG1 K-12**

Community Webinar - sponsored by **ISAC Virtual Events Team**. In Part 2 of our Webinar series on Essential Cyber Hygiene for K-12 schools, we'll discuss some additional aspects of Implementation Group 1 (IG1) of the CIS Critical Security Controls, the foundational basis to protecting your organization through application of globally-recognized security best practices. Join us as we review some new resources K-12 cybersecurity professionals can use to assist in implementation of security best practices. You'll also hear some tips on building a cybersecurity awareness program, what to do during a cyber incident, and how you can leverage the newly-released Information Security Policy Templates to help your cybersecurity program receive top marks and superior cyber preparedness.

- 3/20: **Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training** - sponsored by **Amplify**. As a Question, Persuade, Refer; 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 from 12:30-2pm. Monthly Trainings held at Amplify, 178 Oakwood Dr., Glastonbury.

MGT418: Readiness: Training Identification and Preparedness Planning (RTIPP)

Participants will learn how to create effective training plans for their agencies and jurisdictions.

Additional information is available at the **TEEX** website and at **FirstResponderTraining.gov**.

Time: 16 Hours (2 Days):

- **FEMA Mission Area(s)**: Mitigation; **Core Capability**: Community Resilience
- March 20-21: **Middletown, CT**
- March 22-23: **Torrington, CT**
- March 27-28: **Willimantic, CT**
- April 19-20: **Branford, CT**
- May 8-9: **Bridgeport, CT**

- 3/28: **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**.

- 3/28: **Free Narcan & Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training** – Virtual Training from 5 – 7:30 p.m. Sponsored by **BHCare (A Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic)**. For more information, please contact **Andrew Penna**, **Apenna@bhcare.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 the **RYASAP (Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership)**. 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 Question, Persuade, Refer (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.

Ryan Fata

Meet Ryan Fata

Ryan joined the Center last month. He is our new student intern currently working towards his Bachelor of Science degree in Finance at Western Connecticut State University. He is working diligently to create a social media platform for our Center for School Safety. Please be sure to check out our new Facebook and Twitter Accounts!



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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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