

May 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

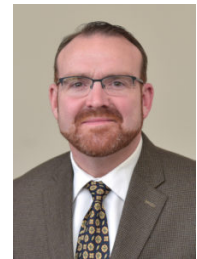
school safety planning, and it conducts research on prevention, crisis, safety, and trauma related to students and schools. The Center also establishes relationships among area school districts and community stakeholders to create both formal and informal networks. Moreover, the Center provides consultation and on-site support to school districts. This newsletter provides a venue for the Center to become a clearinghouse for school safety related trainings, meetings, research, and resources.

The Director's Corner



Hello School Safety Partners,

We are excited to announce that we now have five Regional Crisis Teams (RCT) that provide statewide coverage. These teams provide mental health crisis support to school districts that are overwhelmed with a traumatic incident. I am impressed and humbled by the newly formed team in the East led by Kiley Young. This team just formed and has already been deployed to help a school district. If you are already on a team, I am so grateful for your commitment. If you are a school mental health professional and you would like to join or need more information, please reach out to the Regional School Safety Coordinator for your Region as listed below:



ACES Region: ACES Regional Crisis Team
Contact: **Sadie Witherspoon, M.S.**
Email: Witherspoons@wcsu.edu

CREC Region: North Central Regional Crisis Team
Contact: **Kimberly Myers, Ed.D.**
Email: Myersk@wcsu.edu

LEARN and EASTCONN Regions: Northeastern Regional Crisis Team and
Southeastern Regional Crisis Team
Contact: **Kiley Young, LCSW**
Email: Youngki@wcsu.edu

EdAdvance and CES Regions: Western Regional Crisis Team
Contact: **Tanya Iacono, DSW, LCSW**
Email: Iaconot@wcsu.edu

In addition, our Preventing Targeted Violence in CT Schools Working Group finalized the [Swatting Guidance Document](#). Please take a few minutes to read through it and share with your school safety teams.

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



From the DEMHS State School Safety Program Desk:

Dear School Safety Partners,

I'd like to thank you for signing up to get this important newsletter. As always, please feel free to contact me with any school plan questions.

I've shared a recent experience below involving a school drill and how it demonstrated areas needing improvement.

Communications for Drills and Real Events:

Every real event, drill or exercise I have been involved in, relied on good communications. In almost every after-action report, a break down or lack of communications was listed as an improvement item.

I received a call the other day from an individual who was looking for information on school communications for drills, and real events. Their school had just experienced a crisis drill in which there was little to no communication or alert to the drill. The school has several buildings on a large campus.

Some people received a garbled message, some received no message at all, and others received the full message. The notification platform being used has been their notification system for a couple years and utilizes a single mode of notification (phone call with a scripted message). Was this drill a failure? NO. The purpose of every drill is to test, but you must find a solution to improve the response.

Every school needs a reliable alerting system using multiple modes of notification. There are several platforms available with multiple options and price ranges. Please consider joining your regional school safety workgroup and discuss what platforms are in use and their effectiveness.

Your partner in school safety,
Bill Turley

Manager Training and Exercise

School Safety Program Lead
State of Connecticut
Department of Emergency
Services & Public Protection
Division of Emergency Management
and Homeland Security
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PreventionResourceFinder.gov Launches to Provide Easier Access to Resources to Prevent Targeted Violence and Terrorism

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships**

PreventionResourceFinder.gov Launches to Provide Easier Access to Resources to Prevent Targeted Violence and Terrorism

WASHINGTON – Today, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its federal partners launched [PreventionResourceFinder.gov](https://www.preventionresourcefinder.gov), a new website that will help prevent targeted violence and terrorism by giving the public easier access to available grants, research, training opportunities, and other resources across 17 federal agencies. PreventionResourceFinder.gov builds upon the Biden-Harris Administration’s National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism, released in June 2021, and last year’s United We Stand Summit. Nearly 100 federal resources are featured on PreventionResourceFinder.gov at initial launch. The site will be continuously updated with new and refined content to support communities nationwide. “Targeted violence and terrorism are grave threats to our homeland security and it will take all of us, working together, to keep our communities safe,” **said Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas**. “The website we are launching today equips our partners throughout the country with helpful resources to better prevent, prepare for, and respond to acts of violence. From first responders to non-profit organizations, a whole-of-society approach is needed to keep our communities safe and secure. We will continue to provide additional resources, including grant funds and critical information and intelligence, to strengthen community efforts to prevent terrorism and targeted violence.” PreventionResourceFinder.gov is organized into five searchable categories:

- Community Support Resources
- Information-Sharing Platforms
- Grant Funding Opportunities
- Evidence-Based Research
- Training Opportunities

Each category is further organized by the audience it is intended to reach including community partners, faith-based organizations, educators, behavioral health providers, and others. DHS recently released Notices of Funding Opportunity for the Fiscal Year 2023 [Preparedness Grants](#), including the Nonprofit Security Grant Program, and for the [Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program](#). These grant programs are focused on strengthening our national

preparedness by focusing on terrorism prevention activities and on providing support to local projects that seek to prevent targeted violence and terrorism. The site offers a wide array of resources including educational materials, trainings, and information on grant funding. Visitors will be able to access multimedia content such as testimonials and videos. Visitors can filter content by federal agency, intended audience, keyword, department, or office. Some of the federal partners who contributed to the development of PreventionResourceFinder.gov include:

- Department of Education (ED)
- Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
 - Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
 - Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
 - Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC)
 - United States Secret Service (USSS)
- Department of Justice (DOJ)
 - Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- Department of Labor (DOL)
- Department of State (DOS)
- Department of the Treasury (USDT)
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC)
- U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

For more information, please visit www.PreventionResourceFinder.gov or email preventionresourcefinder@hq.dhs.gov.



School safety-related funding opportunities have been added to the [Grants Finder Tool](#) on SchoolSafety.gov. In case you are interested in applying, please see below:

- **Mental Health Awareness Training Grants (*Deadline: May 1*)** - (as noted in last month's newsletter) the purpose of this program is to: (1) train individuals (e.g., school personnel and emergency services personnel including fire department and law enforcement personnel, veterans, armed services members and their families, etc.) to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental disorders and how to safely de-escalate crisis situations involving individuals with a mental illness and (2) provide education on resources available in the community for individuals with a mental illness and other relevant resources, including how to establish linkages with school and/or community-based mental health agencies.
- **Enhancing School Capacity to Address Youth Violence (*Deadline: May 3*)** - this solicitation seeks to support targeted efforts to address youth violence through implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention efforts in a school-based setting (K–12th grade only). The goals of the program are to (1) reduce the incidence of school violence through improved school safety and climate and (2) prevent youth

violence, delinquency, and victimization in the targeted community.

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.

School & Community Safety Grants Available:

The COPS Office is pleased to announce that the following grant funding opportunities are now open and accepting applications:

- **School Violence Prevention Program (SVPP)** - The 2023 COPS Office School Violence Prevention Program is a competitive program that provides funding directly to States, units of local government, Indian tribes, and their public agencies to be used to improve security at schools and on school grounds in the jurisdiction of the grantee through evidence-based school safety programs. Up to \$73 million is available for this program.
- **Applications are due by May 17, 2023 at 4:59 PM ET**. Please click [here](#) for more information on the 2023 School Violence Prevention Program.

Community Policing Development (CPD) – Accreditation:

CPD is a competitive grant program designed to advance the practice of community policing by providing guidance on promising practices through the development and testing of innovative strategies; building knowledge about effective practices and outcomes; and supporting new, creative approaches to preventing crime and promoting safe communities. The CPD – Accreditation program will encompass four separate solicitations for the following purposes:

- Support for law enforcement agencies seeking accreditation
- Support and enhancement of existing law enforcement accreditation bodies to facilitate the ability of agencies to become accredited
- Establishment of accreditation entities in states that do not have an accreditation body (***opens March 17, 2023***)
- Development of a national marketing program and provision of technical assistance to law enforcement agencies receiving COPS Office accreditation grant funding
- Approximately \$8.5 million is available for this program.
- **Applications are due by May 15, 2023 at 4:59 PM ET**. Please click [here](#) for more information on the 2023 CPD – Accreditation program.

COPS Hiring Program (CHP)

The 2023 COPS Hiring Program is a competitive grant program designed to provide funds directly to law enforcement agencies to hire new or rehire existing career law enforcement officers to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. All local, state, territorial, and tribal law enforcement agencies that have primary law enforcement authority are eligible to apply. Up to \$224.5 million is available for this program.

- **Applications are due by May 11, 2023 at 4:59 PM ET**. Please click [here](#) for more information on the 2023 COPS Hiring Program.

Community Policing Development (CPD) – Implementing Crisis Intervention Teams (CIT)

CPD is a competitive grant program designed to advance the practice of community policing by providing guidance on promising practices through the development and testing of innovative strategies; building knowledge about effective practices and outcomes; and supporting new, creative approaches to preventing crime and promoting safe communities. The CPD – Implementing Crisis Intervention Teams solicitation will provide grants directly to state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies for the creation or expansion of crisis intervention teams and to embed mental and behavioral health services with law enforcement agencies so they can better respond to individuals in crisis in the community. Approximately \$11.5 million is available for this program.

- **Applications are due by May 8, 2023 at 4:59 PM ET**. Please click [here](#) for more information on the 2023 CPD – Implementing Crisis Intervention Teams program.

Community Policing Development (CPD) – Microgrants

CPD is a competitive grant program designed to advance the practice of community policing by providing guidance on promising practices through the development and testing of innovative strategies; building knowledge about effective practices and outcomes; and supporting new, creative approaches to preventing crime and promoting safe communities. Under the CPD – Microgrants solicitation, local, state, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies may propose demonstration or pilot projects that offer creative ideas to advance crime fighting, community engagement, problem solving, or organizational changes to support community policing in one of the following areas: officer recruitment, retention, and workforce diversification; underserved populations; building trust and legitimacy with the community; hate crimes and domestic terrorism; and community violence intervention. Approximately \$5 million is available for this program.

- **Applications are due by May 8, 2023 at 4:59 PM ET**. Please click [here](#) for more information on the 2023 CPD – Microgrants program.

For Assistance with grant related training, school safety assessments, or purchasing, please contact the School Safety Advocacy Council at admin@schoolsafety911.org

School Safety Funding Available Through STOP School Violence Program

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has several school safety and security funding opportunities currently available, with application periods open until various dates in May. Solicitations include the [STOP School Violence Program](#), which provides funding to prevent and reduce violence in K-12 school settings through strategies that increase school safety; the [School Violence Prevention Program](#), which provides awards to improve security at schools and on school grounds through evidence-based school safety programs and technology; and, the [Enhancing School Capacity to Address Youth Violence](#) program, which supports targeted efforts to address youth violence through evidence-based prevention and intervention efforts in a school-based setting.

Find additional details and application deadlines for these and other DOJ funding opportunities [here](#).

Students, Teachers and Officers Preventing (STOP) School Violence (Deadline: May 8)

This program provides funding to support and assist county, local, territorial, and tribal jurisdictions in improving efforts to reduce violent crime in and around schools. It is designed to improve K-12 school security by providing students and teachers with the tools they need to recognize, respond to, and help prevent acts of violence and ensure a positive school climate.

School Violence Prevention Program (Deadline: May 10)

This grant program provides awards to improve security at schools and on school grounds through the implementation of evidence-based school safety programs and technology.

- [Mental Health Awareness Training](#) (**Application Deadline: May 1**)
- [Enhancing School Capacity to Address Youth Violence](#) (**Application Deadline: May 3**)
- [COPS Hiring Program](#) (**Application Deadline: May 4**)
- [Cooperative Agreements for School-Based Trauma-Informed Support Services and Mental Health Care for Children and Youth](#) (**Application Deadline: May 8**)
- [Research and Evaluation on School Safety](#) (**Application Deadline: May 8**)
- [STOP School Violence Program](#) (**Application Deadline: May 8**)
- [School Violence Prevention Program](#) (**Application Deadline: May 10**)
- [Community Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiative](#) (**Application Deadline: May 18**)
- [Nonprofit Security Grant Program](#) (**Application Deadline: May 18**)
- [Homeland Security Grant Program](#) (**Application Deadline: May 18**)
- [Project SERV](#) (**Application Deadline: Ongoing**)

Informational Webinars on Funding Opportunities:

- [Nonprofit Security Grant Program Technical Assistance Webinar Series \(May 4\)](#)
- [STOP School Violence Program Solicitation \(On-Demand\)](#)

To access additional information on these grants 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. Thank you for your continued engagement with [SchoolSafety.gov](#). If you have any questions, please contact our team at SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' [Project Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education \(AWARE\)](#), which provides funding to implement school-based mental health programs and services through collaborative partnerships, and the **[National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative – Category III, Community Treatment and Service Centers](#)**, which aims to increase access to effective trauma- and grief-focused treatment and service systems for children, adolescents, and their families who experience traumatic events. The U.S. Department of Education's on-going **[School Emergency Response to Violence \(Project SERV\)](#)** program, which funds short-term education-related services for local educational agencies and institutions of higher education to help them recover from a violent or traumatic event in which the learning environment has been disrupted.



[The Connecticut Council of Family Service Agencies \(CCFSA\) - Victims of Crime Act \(VOCA\)](#) is dedicated to providing victims of crime with individualized support and resources to help on the journey from victim to survivor. Referrals can be made 24/7 using this link: or call (800) 505-9000 Monday through Friday 8am-4pm. A police report is not needed for services. Please see resources below:

- [Presentation](#) - provided by **Krystal Ambrozaitis**, VOCA Regional Coordinator
- [Brochure](#) - CCFSA - The Victims of Crime Act VOCA Case Management Program

[The Hub: Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization \(RBHAO\) for Southwestern CT](#) **[A program of the Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership \(RYASAP\)](#)** - see our website - www.thehubct.org and [The Hub's Resource Guide](#), for a list of nonprofit & public-sector services for crisis, mental health and substance use disorders, & support programs, including a list of [free peer support groups](#) – in the Southwestern CT area. Additional resources below:

- [Gun Violence Resource Flyer](#) - this flyer provides resources specific to victims and survivors of gun violence.
- CDC's [Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary & Trends Report: 2011-2021](#) provides surveillance data from 2021, as well as 10-year trends from 2011 through 2021, on behaviors and experiences among high school students in the United States related to health and well-being.
- CDC's [What Works In Schools](#) is an approach to school-based health that has been shown to improve health behaviors and experiences, support mental health and reduce suicidality in schools that implement the program. The program works by improving health education, connecting young people to the health services they need, and making school environments safer and more supportive.
- [School connectedness](#) has long-lasting effects on health and well-being. Youth who feel connected at school are significantly less likely to experience health risks related to sexual health, substance use, violence, and mental health in adulthood.
- Schools can help address the adolescent mental health crisis by implementing [policies and practices that support LGBTQ youth](#). CDC research shows that inclusive practices benefit LGBTQ students and heterosexual students, with heterosexual students seeing greater benefit in some risk categories. The reverse is also true. Restrictive LGBTQ policies

and practices negatively impact heterosexual students as well.

- CDC's [LGBTQ Inclusivity in Schools: A Self-Assessment Tool](#) aims to help school and district staff understand current policies, programs, and practices that may contribute to safe, inclusive environments where all youth can be successful.
- [StopBullying.gov](#) provides information from various government agencies on how to respond and prevent bullying, including cyberbullying and how to promote digital wellbeing.
- CDC's [Preventing Bullying - Fact Sheet](#) shares information on bullying and prevention strategies.
- CDC's [Bullying Surveillance Among Youths](#) shares uniform definitions for public health and recommended data element.
- CDC's [Electronic Aggression Tip Sheet](#) provides tips to protect children from electronic aggression, or online harassment or bullying.
- [Community Guide: School-based Anti-Bullying Interventions](#) includes interventions related to cyberbullying, impact on reduction of bullying experiences and improve mental health outcomes.
- CDC's [Technical Packages for Violence Prevention](#) includes a suite of resources for communities and states outlining the strategies and approaches with the best available evidence to prevent violence and suicide. Some of these strategies can be applied to online settings.
- CDC's [Dating Matters®: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships](#) is comprehensive teen dating violence prevention model developed to stop teen dating violence before it starts, including dating violence that occurs online. Evaluation research supports its effectiveness in also preventing other forms of violence among youth, including cyberbullying.
- CDC's [Suicide Prevention Resource for Action](#) details the strategies with the best available evidence to reduce suicide
- [988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline](#) provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources.
- CDC's [Measuring Bullying, Victimization, Perpetration, and Bystander Experiences: A Compendium of Assessment Tools](#) includes resources such as the Cyberbullying and Online Aggression Survey and the Cyber-Harassment Student Survey.
- CDC's [Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System \(YRBSS\)](#) is a school-based survey for adolescents and young adults that includes items focusing on cyberbullying, sexual and dating violence, and suicide.
- [Best Practices and Recommendations for Reporting on Suicide](#) includes recommendations for online content.
- [SAMHSA's - Preventing Suicide: A Toolkit for High Schools](#) is intended to help high schools, school districts, and their partners design and implement strategies to prevent suicide and promote behavioral health among their students.

More Resources:

- [Federal Agencies Offer Self-Conducted Tabletop Exercises to Assess Preparedness](#) - the **U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)** offer a range of exercises and preparedness tools to help schools prepare for emergency situations and threats. Use these resources to test your school's or district's emergency plans, protocols, and procedures and to initiate preparedness discussions within your community. Learn more by accessing the exercises from [DHS](#), [CISA](#), and [FEMA](#).
- [Norovirus](#) -this webpage provides information and resources about norovirus, including common symptoms and prevention strategies.
- [Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats](#) - this report provides recommendations and resources to help K-12 schools and school districts address systemic cybersecurity risk. It also provides insight into the current threat landscape specific to the K-12 community and offers simple steps school leaders can take to strengthen their cybersecurity efforts.
- [Targeted Violence Prevention Resources for K-12 Schools](#) -this infographic features information on targeted violence and strategies and resources available to help prevent, protect against, and mitigate targeted violence incidents in schools.
- **CDC's What Works in Schools Program - Improving Adolescent Health and Well-being Through Proven School-based Strategies.** See [Flyer](#). Learn more about What Works in Schools at www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth@CDC_DASH
- Visit [SchoolSafety.gov](#) for more resources to support school safety & security efforts

Meetings - Please look for meetings in your Region.



Region 2/South Central Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization **(Alliance for Prevention & Wellness / A Program of BHcare)**

Regional Suicide Advisory Board Meeting

- *When:* Tuesday, June 6th at 10:30am
- *Where:* Zoom
- *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:* If you would like to join, please contact **Taylor Gainey** for the **Zoom Link** at Tgainey@bhcare.org.
- *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

The Hub: Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization (RBHAO)

- *When:* Bimonthly, third Thursdays; from 2:30-4pm (5/18/23)
- *Where:* Virtually
- *Who Should Attend:* (Open to anyone interested): The Catchment Area Council (CAC) is an open community group. Our group includes individuals with lived experience with mental illnesses or challenges and/or substance use. The group also consists of providers, consumers, family members, friends, medical professionals, first responders, advocates, and more! We are a group of community members and stakeholders. We are focused on sharing resources, raising awareness, identifying trends, gaps, and needs while advocating to improve the behavioral health system for all ages and across prevention, treatment and recovery. The CAC's ability to forge partnerships in the behavioral health system and throughout our communities is key in influencing systems and contributing to healthy communities.
- **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 (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:* 5/17 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 4 (Eastern CT) School Safety Subcommittee

- *When:* Wednesday, May 24 from 9:30-11:00am
- *Where:* Hybrid and In-Person at [EASTCONN](#), 376 Hartford Turnpike, Hampton, CT
- *Who Should Attend:* 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.
- *If you are interested in attending:* please send an email with your interest to Mike.caplet@ct.gov in order to be added to the meeting email distribution list, and to receive the **Zoom Link**.
- *Please Save the Dates* for future School Safety Subcommittee meetings. All meetings will be held 9:30-11:00 and will be Hybrid on Zoom and In-Person. Location of physical meeting rotates; listed in parentheses: **6/28/23** (LEARN), **7/26/23** (EASTCONN), **8/30/23** (LEARN), **9/27/23** (EASTCONN), **10/25/23** (LEARN), **11/29/23** (EASTCONN).

The DEMHS Region 5 School Safety and Security Working Group

- *When:* Tuesday, May 23 from 11am-12pm (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:* Tuesday, May 23 from 8:30-10:30am (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.

The ACES Regional Crisis Team Meeting

- *When:* Thursday, May 18 from 9:00-11:00am (6/15/23, 7/20/23, 8/17/23, 9/21/23,10/19/23)
- *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.

The North Central Regional Crisis Team Meeting (Covering RESC Capitol Region Education Council)

- *When:* Tuesday, May 16 from 8:30-10:00am
- *Where:* [Zoom Link](#), Meeting ID: 870 9664 2732, Passcode: 856200
- *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 **Kimberly Myers** at Myersk@wcsu.edu.

Northeastern Regional Crisis Team Meetings (EASTCONN RESC region)

- *This team will meet jointly with the Southeastern Regional Crisis team for the remainder of the 2022/2023 academic year.*
- *When:* Wednesday, May 3 from 8:30-10:00am (6/1/23)
- *Where:* Virtually via Zoom
- *Towns:* Andover, Ashford, Bozrah, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, Eastford, Franklin, Griswold, Hampton, Hebron, Killingly, Lebanon, Lisbon, Mansfield, Marlborough, Plainfield, Pomfret, Putnam, Scotland, Sprague, Stafford, Sterling, Thompson, Tolland, Union, Voluntown, Woodstock, Willington, Windham
- *Who Should Attend:* These meetings are geared towards the mental health professionals supporting our K-12 students.
- For more information or to join the Team, please email **Kiley Young** at Youngki@wcsu.edu.

Southeastern Regional Crisis Team Meetings (LEARN RESC region)

- *This team will meet jointly with the Northeastern Regional Crisis team for the remainder of the 2022/2023 academic year.*
- *When:* Wednesday, May 3 from 8:30-10:00am (6/1/23)
- *Where:* Virtually via Zoom
- *Towns:* Chester, Clinton, Deep River, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Lyme, Essex, Groton, Guilford, Haddam, Killingworth, Ledyard, Lyme, Madison, Montville, New London, North Stonington, Norwich, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Preston, Salem, Stonington, Waterford, Westbrook
- *Who Should Attend:* These meetings are geared towards the mental health professionals supporting our K-12 students.
- For more information or to join the Team, please email **Kiley Young** at Youngki@wcsu.edu.

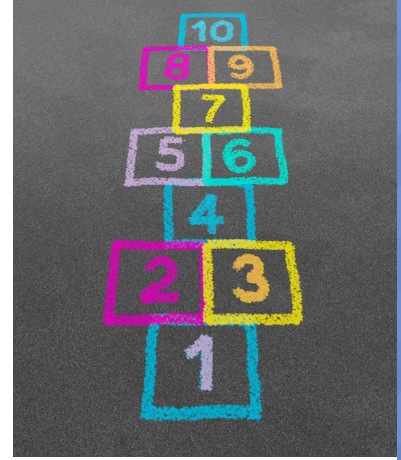
CT Center for School Safety Training

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.

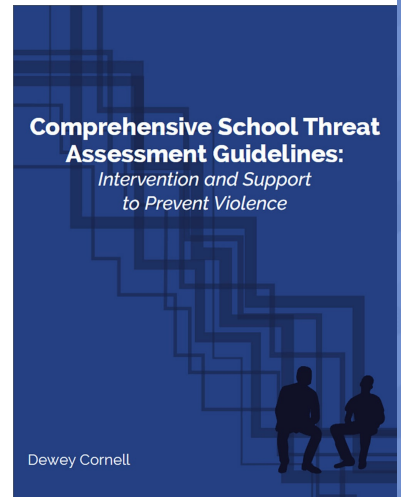


- 5/3 - [Virtual Beyond Compliance Workshop Series - Safety Planning for After School Events](#) - The focus of this workshop will be on Safety Planning for After School Events with **Bill Turley, the Manager of the DEMHS Training and**

Exercise Unit and State Training Officer and the State School Safety Program Lead. There will be a review of the state requirements, best practices, and a tabletop exercise. During the tabletop exercise, your school/district will be in a breakout room to discuss the scenario and test or build on your plan. This **Free** workshop is intended for members of your School Safety and Security Committee.



- **[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.



Trainings

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)

- 5/2: **[Internet Safety for Parents, Teachers & Child Welfare Workers](#)** - sponsored by **The US Attorney's Office**. We continue to see an alarming trend of children being groomed online. To begin to educate parents, teachers, and child welfare workers, the US Attorney's office will be presenting an online internet safety training. **Space is limited!** This Training will be Virtual and is scheduled from 6-7:30 p.m. Note: this training is not meant for children, that will be offered soon.
- 5/2 & 5/16: **[Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\) Suicide Prevention 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. For more information, please visit **The Hub/Events** or email Info@thehubct.org.
- 5/5: **[Behavioral Health Resource Fair](#)** - sponsored by the **Southwest Network of Care**. This **Free** regional event is an opportunity for all community members to come together and gain information and network on mental and behavioral health resources available within Fairfield County. **More than 20 agencies and organizations committed to serving the children and families of Southwestern CT will be there.** This event will be held at **CES**, 25 Oakview Drive, Trumbull, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

- 5/8: [“Talk. They Hear You.” Campaign Relaunch Event](#) – This virtual event will kick off [SAMHSA’s National Prevention Week](#), a national effort showcasing the work of communities and organizations dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of substance misuse prevention and positive mental health. During the event, attendees will learn about the [“Talk. They Hear You.”® Campaign \(TTHY\)](#), an initiative to reduce underage drinking and substance use, and hear from featured partners about how they have implemented TTHY in their communities. Find additional National Prevention Week events and activities [here](#).
- 5/8-9: **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 [FirstResponderTraining.gov](#).
- 5/9: [Collaboration Between School and Community Settings – Development of Meaningful and Sustainable Partnerships Between Schools and Community Partners](#) - sponsored by the [National School Center for Mental Health \(NSCMH\)](#). This webinar is a part of the Mental Health Technology Transfer Center Network School Mental Health Virtual Learning Series. For more information, see [Flyer](#).
- 5/11: **ACES Regional Resource Fair** - sponsored by the [ACES Pupil Services Department](#) This Fair will be held at [Amarante's](#), 62 Cove Street, New Haven from 2 p.m.-6 p.m. This Fair will showcase Services and Supports that are available to schools in the [ACES](#) region. We look forward to seeing you there!
- 5/13: [Social Media and Body Image Workshop](#) - sponsored by [Yale Teen Power](#). This workshop is for Teens & Parents. Learn how images are manipulated. Make your own mental health post. This workshop will be held at 184 Liberty St., in New Haven from 10am-2pm. For more information, please contact [Yale Teen Power](#).
- 5/15: [Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\) Suicide Prevention Training](#) - sponsored by [Amplify](#). This Training will be a Virtual Webinar. QPR Training gives you the skills and knowledge to intervene to possibly prevent suicide. Learn how to get help for yourself, learn more about preventing suicide, common causes of suicidal behavior, warning signs of suicide and how to get help for someone in crisis.
- 5/16, 5/18 or 5/24: [What Do You Need? Developing your Personalize Roadmap to Trauma-Informed Care - Register by May 1st!](#) This **Free** training is sponsored by the [RESC Alliance](#) (Connecticut Alliance of Regional Education Service Centers). The training is intended for school administration/leadership and mental health providers (psychologist, counselor, social worker) and open to any educators interested in becoming trauma-informed. This training opportunity will introduce the UPLIFT program A Trauma-Informed Care (TIC) Training program for Schools, as well as provide individuals/teams with a foundational understanding of implementation of a trauma-informed framework in educational settings. Please see [Flyer](#) for more information.
- 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.
- [SCSU](#) provides Free trainings, technical assistance, and materials on tobacco (vaping) prevention and cessation. This is provided at **no cost** to employees in CT from a grant from the CT DPH. For more information, please email **Victoria Adams, M.Ed, NCTTP**, at

- 7/24-28: [The 2023 National School Safety Conference](#) - **Register now for the Largest School Safety Conference in the Nation!** Sponsored by the [School Safety Advocacy Council](#). Call for Presenters and Exhibitors! The School Safety Advocacy Council has become the recognized leader in school safety services and training and it is the host of the largest conference in the nation addressing all aspects of school safety. The conference will be held at the Tropicana Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.
- [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.

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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 no later than the 15th of the month prior.

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