

October 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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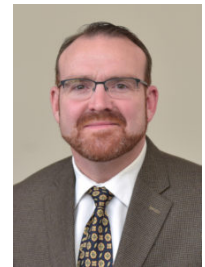
The Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation formed in 2021 from an agreement between the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Western Connecticut State University. The Center provides professional development related to all aspects of

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.

Director's Corner

Dear School Safety Partners,

It is exciting to announce that we have been awarded a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant to prevent targeted violence in K-12 schools across the state of Connecticut. Check out the news article in [Danbury's Hamlet Hub](#). This funding will help develop threat assessment teams to support districts in their violence prevention and intervention efforts using the [Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines \(CSTAG\) model](#). The grant will also provide resources to bring in [Digital Threat Assessment training](#) which empowers school safety professionals with the ability to navigate digital and social media threats.



Please reach out to your [Regional School Safety Coordinator](#) to schedule training for your district or agency.

Your partner in school safety,
Amery

Amery Bernhardt, D.M.

Director

CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation





Governor Lamont and DAS Commissioner Gilman launch HVAC Grants

Governor Ned Lamont and Department of Administrative Services (DAS) Commissioner Michelle Gilman today announced the opening of applications for \$244 million toward the second round of grant funding dedicated to supporting upgrades for heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems in Connecticut public schools. Applications are open effective immediately, and the deadline to apply is **December 31, 2023**.

Read
More

**Meetings - Please look for meetings in
your Region.**



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 consists of community stakeholders working toward raising awareness and developing prevention and treatment capacity in the region. We host gambling awareness trainings and webinars. The team meets quarterly to review gambling trends, needs, gaps, and access to treatment.

- *When:* 2nd Tuesday of the month, Quarterly; from 2:30-4pm (10/10/23 Teams Meeting, 1/9/24 Teams Meeting, March no meeting to celebrate PGAM, 4/9/24 Teams Meeting, 6/11/24 In person at The Burroughs Community Center)
- *Where:* Virtually
- *Who Should Attend:* Meetings are open to all.
- *RSVP to Dena Miccinello* by emailing Dmiccinello@ryasap.org for the meeting link and with any questions or comments.

The DEMHS Region 2 School Safety & Security Group Meeting

- *When:* TBD
- *Where:* TBD
- *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.
- 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:* 12/14 from 1-2:30pm (12/14, 3/28)
- *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 Claudia Nardi* at Cnardi@cantonschools.org or call 860-693-7704 if you plan on attending or sending a representative.

The DEMHS Region 4 (Eastern CT) School Safety Subcommittee

- *When:* 10/25 from 9:30-11:00am
- *Where:* Hybrid on Zoom and In-Person at **LEARN**, 44 Hatchetts Hill Rd., Old Lyme, CT 06371
- *Who Should Attend:* For those organizations within Region 4's territory: Ashford, Bozrah, Brooklyn, Canterbury, Chaplin, Colchester, Columbia, Coventry, Eastford, East Lyme, 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, Thompson, Union, Voluntown, Waterford, Willington, Windham, Woodstock. 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:* pls. send an email with your interest to **Julie C. Wilson** at jwilson@eastlymepolice.org 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: **10/25/23 (LEARN)**, **11/29/23 (EASTCONN)**. Dates for 2024 to be distributed prior to end of the year.

The DEMHS Region 5 School Safety and Security Working Group

- *When:* 10/26 from 11am-12pm
- *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.
- *Please save the dates* for future School Safety and Security Working Group Meetings: 11/23/23, 12/28/23.

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

- *When:* 10/17 from 8:30am-10:30am
- For our 10/17 meeting **FCA** is giving a presentation on **Forensic Interviewing and Child Advocacy**.
- *Where:* Virtually via Zoom
- *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 laconot@wcsu.edu.
- Please save the dates for future Regional Crisis Team Meetings: 11/14/23, 12/12/23, 1/23/24, 2/13/24, 3/12/23, 4/23/24, 5/14/24, 6/4/24 - Planning Meeting.

The ACES Regional Crisis Team Meeting

- *When:* 10/19 from 9am-10:30am
- For our 10/19 meeting our presenter is **Captain Daniel Papoosha**, from the **Connecticut Department of Corrections, Security Risk Group/Gang Management Unit**. His presentation will be on **Gang Violence**.
- *Who Should Attend:* These meetings are geared towards the mental health professionals servicing our K-12 students.
- *Where:* Virtually via Zoom
- *For more information or to join the Team:* please email **Sadie Witherspoon** at Witherspoons@wcsu.edu.
- Please save the dates for future Regional Crisis Team Meetings: 11/16/23, 12/21/23, 1/18/24, 2/15/24, 3/21/24, 4/18/24, 5/16/24.

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

- *When:* 10/11 from 9am-10:30am
- At this Virtual meeting, **Amy Samela, VP of Residential Services at the Village**, will be joining us to discuss the **Urgent Crisis Care Center (UCC)** for our Region and to discuss the mental health resources available for youth.
- *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.
- Please save the dates for future Regional Crisis Team Meetings: 11/15/23, 12/13/23.

The Northeastern Regional Crisis Team Meetings (EASTCONN RESC region)

- *This team will meet jointly with the Southeastern Regional Crisis team.*
- *When:* 10/11 from 9am-10:30am
- At this meeting, **Mark Irons from SERAC** will be presenting on **SERAC** and the **work of the Region 3 Suicide Advisory Board**.
- *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
- Please save the dates for future Regional Crisis Team Meetings: 11/8/23, 12/13/23, 1/10/24, 2/14/24, 3/13/24, 4/17/24, 5/8/24, June planning meeting date TBD.

The Southeastern Regional Crisis Team Meetings (LEARN RESC region)

- *This team will meet jointly with the Northeastern Regional Crisis team.*
- *When:* 10/11 from 9:00-10:30am
- At this meeting, **Mark Irons from SERAC** will be presenting on **SERAC** and the **work of the Region 3 Suicide Advisory Board**.
- *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
- Please save the dates for future Regional Crisis Team Meetings: 11/8/23, 12/13/23, 1/10/24,

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.

- **10/2 - [Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines Training](#)** - presented by **Talisha Bond, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist (bio)**. This **FREE** training will be held at Southern Connecticut State University. This is a one-day workshop on The Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG). CSTAG is an evidence--based model that teaches interdisciplinary school-based teams to respond to student threats of violence by assessing the seriousness of the threat and creating an intervention plan that addresses the underlying problem that led to the threat. CSTAG is currently the only evidence-based school threat assessment model used in more than 3,000 schools in 41 states. Schools that employ CSTAG have lower rates of long-term suspensions, fewer alternative school transfers, fewer bullying incidents, more students engaged in school counseling services and more positive perceptions of school climate. It is appropriate for anyone involved in school safety including but not limited to educators, administrators, mental health professionals, security, facility managers, and school resource officers.
- **10/2, 10/3, 10/4 Train-the-Trainer Program for the [Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines](#)** - presented by **Talisha Bond, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist (bio)**. This training will be held at Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT. For more information, cost, and to register for this 3-day training program, please contact **Dr. Amery Bernhardt, D.M.**, at Bernhardta@wcsu.edu.
- **10/13 [School Reunification Workshop & Tabletop Exercise](#)** presented by **Daniel Rector, M.S., C.E.M. (bio)** This **FREE** Training will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Theater of Performing Arts, 359 Washington St. (Corner of Vernon St.) Hartford, CT. This workshop will allow school security and safety teams the opportunity to practice and refine their reunification plans. It is appropriate for anyone involved in school safety including but not limited to educators, administrators, mental health professionals, security, facility managers, and school resource officers.
- **10/24 [Swatting Panel Discussion](#)** This **FREE** Training will be Virtual and will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Swatting is not a new threat, and it has evolved over the last decade. Many techniques and tactics are used to create false public alarm and divert law enforcement resources to hoax threats. The Center is bringing together a panel of experts to discuss this topic and provide guidance to schools on prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery from swatting incidents. It is appropriate for anyone involved in school safety including but not limited to educators, administrators, mental health professionals, security, facility managers, and school resource officers.

Additional Trainings

- **10/3 [Responding to and Investigating Bomb Threats and Swatting Hoaxes](#)** Virtual Training presented and hosted by FBI Boston. This one-hour training provides an overview of the realities of bomb threats and swatting hoaxes. Intended for Public Safety Dispatchers, Law Enforcement Personnel, School Administrators and Decision Makers. This training will be held at 10 a.m., Virtually through Microsoft Teams. A link will be emailed the morning of the training. For more information, please see [Flyer](#).



Responding to and Investigating Bomb Threats and Swatting Hoaxes

Presented and Hosted by:
FBI Boston

For: Public Safety Dispatchers, Law Enforcement Personnel, School Administrators and Decision Makers

When: Tuesday, October 3rd, 2023 at 10:00 AM (EST)

Where: Virtually through Microsoft Teams. A link will be e-mailed the morning of the training.

To Register for the 10AM EST Session [Click Here](#):

This one-hour training provides attendees an overview of the realities of bomb threats and swatting hoaxes and includes a detailed review of statistics and current trends seen across the country. The training will also cover the characteristics of hoax calls, law enforcement best practices for assessment and response, and the decision-making process for evacuation or sheltering in place.

- **10/3 [Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\) Webinar](#)** sponsored by the **The Hub**. This webinar is from 9:00 am-10:30 am. In this 1.5 hour suicide gatekeeping training you will learn how to get help for yourself, learn more about preventing suicide, common causes of suicidal behavior, warning signs of suicide & how to get help for someone in crisis.
- **10/4 [Naloxone Training Webinar](#)** sponsored by **The Hub**. This Free webinar is from 3 pm - 4 pm. You will learn how to respond to an overdose. Upon completion, attendees will receive a Free Narcan kit.



- **10/5 [12th Annual Conference](#)** hosted by the **University of Buffalo Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention**. Through our annual conference, you can gain access to timely, essential information on bullying, victimization and related issues that can be utilized in school and community settings. The conference theme this year is **Strengthening Support for the Whole School Community** and it will be held on **Thursday, October 5, 2023 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET** at **Classics V Banquet & Conference Center (2425 Niagara Falls Blvd., Amherst)**, with a livestreaming option for virtual attendees. See [Flyer](#) for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!
Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention
2023 Annual Conference

Strengthening Support for the Whole School Community

Thursday, October 5, 2023 | 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET
 Classics V Banquet Center | Amherst, NY
 (virtually online via Zoom)

Keynote Presenters:

Byron McClure, EdD
 Author, Speaker, School Psychologist and Director of Innovation, 7 Mindsets
 Presentation: *Moving From What's Wrong to What's Strong: Harnessing Strength-Based Practices for a Positive School Climate*

Stacy A. S. Williams, PhD, LP
 The Child Research and Study Center, University at Albany
 Presentation: *Self-care and Advocacy: Meal Preps for the Soul*

Rebecca Vujnovic, PhD, NCSP
 Clinical Associate Professor, University at Buffalo
 Presentation: *Strengthening Support for the Student Community*

Continental breakfast, vendors, raffles, buffet-style lunch, and afternoon mindfulness techniques demonstration!

Up to 4.5 CEs available for LMSW, LCSW, LMHCs, & licensed psychologists, and NASP Professional Development approval!

Additional information & registration details soon at ed.buffalo.edu/alberti/conference

Questions? Contact (716) 645-1532 or alberticenter@buffalo.edu

University of Buffalo
 Alberti Center for Bullying Abuse Prevention
 Graduate School of Education

- **10/16 [School Resource Officer Training](#)** sponsored by the **National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO)**. Make sure to mark your calendars 9am-4pm October 16th! Training will be held at the Newtown Police Department in

Connecticut. This training will focus on stress management and resilience and include a complimentary breakfast served at 8:30am and lunch. The target audience is school resource officers, law enforcement agencies, school emergency management and safety teams!



— SAVE THE DATE —



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER TRAINING

OCTOBER 16, 2023

NEWTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT, NEWTOWN, CT

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Lite Breakfast will be served at 8:30 AM. Lunch will be provided.



- **10/16 Perinatal Mental Health: An Overview of Perinatal Mood and Anxiety Disorders**

sponsored by **Southeastern Regional Action Council (SERAC)**. Virtual event via Zoom held from 9am-10am. If you have any questions, please contact mirons@seracct.org. For more information, please see [Flyer](#). Topics to be discussed:

- What are PMAD's
- Who can be affected
- Recognizing systems
- How to access support
- Building community awareness

- **10/16, 10/17, 10/18 Alternatives to Suicide Group Facilitator Training - National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Connecticut**

is supporting Connecticut's expansion of the Alternatives to Suicide Network. In partnership with the **Wildflower Alliance**, NAMI CT will be hosting an Alt2Su Group Facilitator Training on **October 16-18** at the Incarnation Center in Deep River, Connecticut. The training is geared toward any adult (ages 18+) who has personally experienced suicidal thoughts/has made an attempt and has experience in leading peer-run groups. This is a **no-cost** training with lodging options available. Spots are limited; we will be prioritizing applicants available to co-facilitate weekly groups in the following towns: Bridgeport, New Haven, Manchester, Torrington, and West Hartford. For more information, please contact Valerie: vlepoutre@namict.org

Alternatives to Suicide Group Facilitator Training

The Alternatives to Suicide approach is about openly exploring the meaning behind thoughts and feelings of suicide, as well as what might be worth living for.



October 16-18, 2023

Take the first step towards becoming an Alt2Su Group Facilitator!

Learn more about this training and apply online now by visiting:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/OctAlt2Su>

The Alternatives to Suicide approach was developed by the Wildflower Alliance in 2009 as one of the only peer-to-peer groups that truly focuses on the topic of suicide. Rather than assessment and risk, these groups are based in creating a non-judgmental space in which to discuss suicide and other taboo topics. Questions? Contact Val: vlepoutre@namict.org

1 WORD VOICE LIFE

Be the **1** to start
the **conversation**
www.preventsuicidect.org
CALL 2-1-1

- **10/17-10/19 2023 Virtual National Summit on School Safety** - Celebrate #SafeSchoolsWeek with us at this year's National Summit on School Safety! Join us for 3 days of inspiring keynotes, expert panels, and deep die breakout sessions led by another incredible line-up of nat'l school safety leaders & practitioners.




2023 VIRTUAL
National Summit
On School Safety
Safe Schools. Bright Futures.


SAVE THE DATES!

OCTOBER 17-19
Free to attend the live
broadcast

- **10/24 Understanding Mental Illness: What people affected by mental illness want you to know** - sponsored by the **Southeastern Regional Action Council (SERAC)**. A Virtual seminar based on the NAMI Provider Education Program. It is from 9 am to 1 pm via Zoom. If you have any questions, please contact mirons@seracct.org. For more information, please see [Flyer](#).




National Alliance on Mental Illness

Understanding Mental Illness:
What people affected by mental illness
want you to know

October 24, 2023
9 am - 1 pm via Zoom

[Register Here](#)

<https://www.seracct.org/events/>

A seminar based on the NAMI Provider Education Program

*Enhancing collaboration between
the patient, the family and the professionals*

- **11/1 - 11/2 2023 National Summit on K-12 School Safety and Security** sponsored by the **Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA)** . This **FREE 2-day Virtual event** held from 12pm-3pm will convene school safety and experts, practitioners, and leaders from across the country to discuss current threats in school safety and explore research-informed strategies for addressing security challenges and risks in K-12 schools. For more information, please visit [here](#). If you have any questions, please contact the CISA School Safety Task Force at SchoolSafety@hq.dhs.gov.
- **11/8 Internet Safety Virtual Training for Parents, Teachers, and Child Care Workers** - Sponsored by Commonsense.org. FREE Training. This session starts at 6 p.m. Learn how to keep children safe while on the Internet, Cell Phone, and Playing Video Games.



For more information, please see [Flyer](#) and research article - "[The Common Sense Census: Media Use by Tweens and Teens 2021](#)"

- [Incident Command System \(ICS\) in Schools An Overview of ICS for Connecticut School Systems](#) - sponsored by the State of CT Department of Emergency Services & Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security. This program is designed to introduce you or re-introduce the concepts of ICS and how they apply to school systems in Connecticut. The program will also cover several resources available to schools. The course is generally delivered as a **2-hour in-person program**. For more information, please contact DEMHS Training Points of Contact: **Michael Paradis**, Trainer, POC, email: [**Michael.Paradis@CT.Gov**](mailto:Michael.Paradis@CT.Gov)



The research found 8- to 12-year-olds spend an average of five and a half hours a day on screens and consuming media. That rate climbs to over eight and a half hours a day for teens. The Common Sense Census: Media Use by Teens and Young Adults Report

INTERNET SAFETY TRAINING FOR PARENTS, TEACHERS, & CHILD WORKERS

LEARN HOW TO KEEP CHILDREN SAFE WHILE ON THE INTERNET, CELL PHONE, AND PLAYING VIDEO GAMES

Available in NO credit

Tuesday, September 26th, 6pm to 7:30pm via Zoom [Register for September 26th Press Ctrl and Click Here](#)
Or
Wednesday, November 8th, 6pm to 7:30pm via Zoom [Register for November 8th Press Ctrl and Click Here](#)

Provided by U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Connecticut and Connecticut Department of Children & Families



Fake Pills

Fake pills often contain fentanyl and are more **lethal than ever before**. The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Lab testing reveals that 6 out of every 10 pills with fentanyl contain a potentially lethal dose. For more information and additional resources published by the DEA, click [here](#) and also see the [Fake Pills Fact Sheet](#).

School Safety Resources from CISA

Back-to-school season represents a time

SCSU'S Tobacco Program

SCSU's Tobacco Program Coordinator, Victoria Adams, 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. Email **Victoria Adams**, M.Ed, NCTTP, at [**Adamsv2@southernct.edu**](mailto:Adamsv2@southernct.edu) for additional information.

Free trainings

- Tobacco Treatment Specialist training in December for those interested in supporting youth and

of excitement and anticipation for the entire school community but is also a great time for schools to develop or enhance existing safety plans.

CISA—the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](#)—is focused on reducing the risk of a disruption to the services that Americans depend on every day, specifically the K-12 community and education facilities. As states prepare for the upcoming school year, CISA is highlighting the no-cost resources that are available to help protect your school districts.

Cybersecurity is a growing concern for education and technology leaders in K-12 communities. To address these concerns, CISA released a K-12 cybersecurity report with an accompanying [toolkit](#) to provide schools targeted resources to improve their cybersecurity. These resources identify specific actions schools can take to drastically reduce their cybersecurity risk and we strongly encourage you to review these actions ahead of the start of the school year.

In addition to cybersecurity, CISA also provides information and expertise on the physical security of educational institutions. CISA offers a K-12 School Security Guide [Product Suite](#) to provide school districts and campuses with resources, tools, and strategies to improve physical security. With these products, school districts can identify the steps necessary to assess vulnerabilities, strengthen security, and better protect K-12 communities.

Finally, CISA maintains security professionals with expertise in protective security and cybersecurity in all 50 states who are ready to support your community's specific needs—we encourage you to get in touch.

adults quit tobacco (including nicotine vaping)

- Trainings on the risks of nicotine vaping, youth vaping cessation, alternative to suspension programs, and other tobacco related training
- Print materials on tobacco prevention and cessation (posters, brochures, etc.)

Especially Safe Program by Safe and Sound Schools

Introducing our newest program **Especially Safe!** We created this program to help safety planning teams address the safety and security needs of all members of the community. Learn more about the program and how you can plan and prepare, and teach and train to meet the special needs of students, staff, and visitors in your school community - from developmental disabilities to communication challenges, medical needs to mobility challenges and more.

The HUB

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

Our web page is www.thehubct.org and please scroll down to subscribe to our weekly newsletter, and check out [The Hub's Resource Guide](#), a thorough list of nonprofit & public-sector services for crisis, mental health and substance use disorders, and support programs, including a listing of [Free Peer Support Groups](#) – all in the Southwestern CT area.

Snapchats New Measures

Below are links to some of the many no-cost resources that CISA has to offer:

Cybersecurity

- [Online Toolkit: Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations from Cybersecurity Threats | CISA](#)
- [Free Cybersecurity Services and Tools | CISA](#)
- [CISA Releases Updated Cybersecurity Performance Goals | CISA](#)

Physical Security

- [K-12 School Security Guide Product Suite | CISA](#)
- [K-12 Bystander Reporting Toolkit | CISA](#)
- [National Threat Assessment Center](#)

Raising Digitally Responsible Youth: A Parent/Caregivers Guide

Parenting is hard, and the rapid rise of technology and social media use in the lives of their kids makes it harder. To help, we're extending complimentary access to download [Raising Digitally Responsible Youth – A Parent's Guide](#) from [Safer Schools Together](#). The guide was designed to help introduce Parents and Caregivers to leading social media platforms, video games, and relevant trends that are either being used already or have the potential to be used by their children. This guide is full of tips, how-to's

According to the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO) today, Snap is announcing several new measures to better protect teens using the platform focused on protecting teens from unwanted contact, providing a more age-appropriate content experience, and cracking down on accounts that try to market in-appropriate content. As part of this effort, we're also launching:

- A [website](#) to help parents to help parents and caregivers understand how Snapchat works, the key protections we offer for teens, how to use our parental controls, and to answer common questions.
- A [YouTube series](#) to help parents understand the [basics of Snapchat](#) and also [the protections](#) we have in place to help make Snapchat safe for teens. This is meant to be an ongoing series that we'll update with topics that are top of mind for parents. Also see the [Safety Checklist for Parents](#).

2022 Report on Indicators of School Crime & Safety

Get the report on the indicators of school safety and crime [here](#).

Commonsense.org

To plan a school- or district-wide program for families, start with our [Engaging Families in Digital Citizenship implementation guide](#).

We believe in media that inspires and entertains families of all kinds. In technology that protects privacy and supports communities. In learning tools

and definitions for the most widely used apps – including TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram and more. Best of all – it's complimentary, and you can share it with every parent in your community.

Pro Tip: Share the link with parents via email, social media and more for more interactive access to the guide. Or use the 'download' icon in the toolbar to save a copy to your desktop and share the document with your community.

that prepare students and teachers for success in a connected world. Discover how we're working to make the digital world better for kids and families.

Image

- Discover our media ratings and reviews at [Common Sense Media](#)
- Find our curriculum and classroom resources at [Common Sense Education](#)
- See our most recent [research](#) on the impact of media on kids
- Explore our advocacy efforts around [digital equity](#) and [tech accountability](#)



Urgent Crisis Centers

Our partners at DCF are looking for your assistance with getting the word out to school communities about a new resource - Urgent Crisis Centers - now available to families of children who are experiencing a behavioral health crisis but do not require emergency department level of care. We also ask that school nurses and counselors consider this a resource in the work they do to serve students and their families. Please see our [UCC Joint Flyer English-Spanish](#).

Licensed and funded by DCF, the centers function as walk-in clinics, providing youths and their families with immediate access to resources while they are experiencing a behavioral health crisis, such as thoughts of suicide or self-injury, feelings of depression or anxiety, out-of-control behaviors, substance misuse, etc. Again, the centers are aimed at diverting youths and their families from making visits to emergency rooms to address behavioral health crises. Current capacity for the four centers is 72 daily slots. They are strategically located across Connecticut:

At the four walk-in **Urgent Crisis Centers (UCC)** for children and adolescents ages 18 and under, trained staff will:

- ✓ De-escalate the crisis
- ✓ Complete an evaluation
- ✓ Connect youth to services

Urgent Crisis Centers



1680 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105
(860) 297-0520
thevillage.org/UCC



255 Hempstead St, New London, CT 06320
(860) 437-4550
childandfamilyagency.org/urgent-crisis-center



141 East Main Street, Waterbury, CT 06702
(203) 580-4298
wellmore.org/urgent-crisis-center



20 York Street, New Haven, CT 06510
(203) 688-4707
ynhh.org/childrens-hospital/
services/emergency-services

Contacts



Amery Bernhardt, D.M.

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