

November 2023 Newsletter



The Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation at Western Connecticut State University is funded from appropriations through the CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Office of Higher Education.



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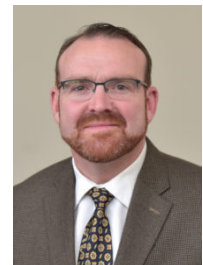


The Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation formed in 2021 from an agreement between the Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Western Connecticut State University. The Center provides professional development related to all aspects of school safety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

I would like to take a moment to thank our [Regional School Safety Coordinators](#) for their efforts in coordinating training across their regions, as well as within the Regional Crisis Teams. We have activated the Regional Crisis Teams four (4) times this school year, and I am humbled and grateful for the expertise demonstrated by our Coordinators and our state and local partners during these difficult times.



I also want to remind our school districts that we have been using the [National Association of School Psychologists' PREPaRE curriculum](#) as our framework for response. PREPaRE training is ideal for schools committed to improving and strengthening their school safety and crisis management plans and emergency response. Please reach out to your [Regional School Safety Coordinator](#) to schedule training for your district or agency.

Finally, I want to highlight the work of our multiagency and multidisciplinary working group that helped create the [Swatting Guidance](#) that we released last Spring. We also recently hosted the Swatting Panel Discussion, and we are currently developing more concise guidance focused on safely navigating the tumultuous nature of these swatting incidents. If you would like to participate in our working group, please email me at Bernhardta@wcsu.edu.

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.

Swatting Incidents:

Based on recent events it appears we will continue to experience Swatting calls to our schools and other institutions.

We've recently seen bomb threats to airports, schools, houses of worship, museums, and special events. We may not be able to stop these events, but we do have some control over how we respond and a responsibility to not create additional anxiety.

I know that some folks think the School All-Hazards Plan Template is too large. I have heard several times that the plan is "too big", it's 500, 600 pages (large districts), "it's a huge binder". It may be large, but the information contained is invaluable.

The plan serves as a reference, a guide, and a starting point for any Incident Commander to use during an event. Anyone should be able to pick up the plan and manage an incident. Principals are not always in the school when an incident occurs. They get sick, have family obligations, vacation time and offsite meetings. In the principal's absence, someone else will need to step up and handle any situation that arises.

The current Connecticut School Template does not specifically address Swatting calls. The next edition will have an annex for swatting, but until then, it should be addressed in your plan.

Some school districts may have already addressed Swatting in their plan, but I know many have not. I know everyone has been asked to do more with less, but now is the time to add this annex to your plan. This annex cannot be developed in a vacuum by just the school. It requires interaction, collaboration, planning, and training with your police, fire, emergency manager and emergency medical services.

I highly recommend all Key Decision Makers in those disciplines take part in a Swatting Response Webinar, such as the webinar presented by the **Boston FBI Office and Supervisory Special Agent Brian LeBlanc**. This webinar is extremely informative and will assist district leadership and first responders in developing policies and procedures for dealing with Swatting calls. Meet as a group and discuss the response that makes sense for your district.

Using the Bomb Threat Annex, add Swatting. Use the [Swatting Checklist](#) developed by the CT Center for School Safety to this annex. Keep the checklist handy for principals and other key decision makers in the school.

Working with your Emergency Manager, conduct a tabletop exercise, testing your Swatting annex

against a scenario. The DEMHS Training Unit can help in composing and facilitating this exercise.

Action steps:

1. Contact your local Emergency manager. Explain the need.
2. Conduct research and participate in webinars regarding response to Swatting incidents.
3. Share the information and webinar links with leaders of first responder entities.
4. Collaborate and plan as a team.
5. Test your plan.

Thank you and please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions.

Your partner in school safety,
Bill Turley

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Help Wanted - Part-time Research Position Opening at the CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation at WCSU

The School of Professional Studies and the Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation at Western Connecticut State University is seeking an Adjunct for a part-time non-teaching research position.

WCSU is committed to enhancing our diverse university community by actively encouraging people with disabilities, members of LGBTQIA and BIPOC communities, veterans, and women to apply. We take pride in our pluralistic community and continue to seek excellence through diversity and inclusion.

The Center of School Safety and Crisis Preparation is located at Western Connecticut State University at the Middtown Campus. For more information about this position and to apply, please click [HERE](#).

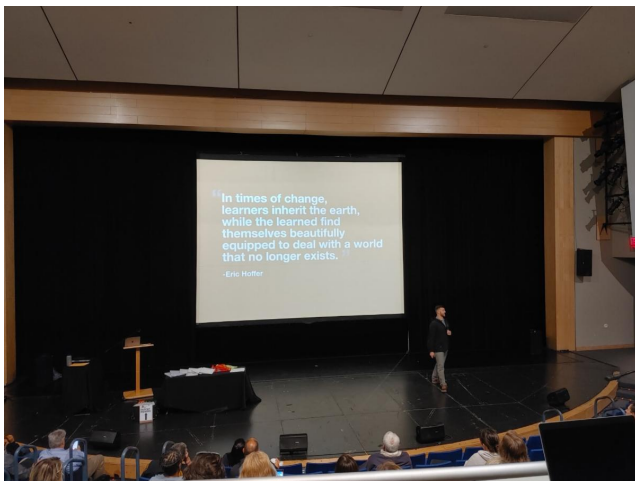
Western is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Educator/Employer

Comprehensive School Threat Assessment - Train-the-Trainer Workshop held at Southern CT State University, New Haven, CT October 2023



(L - R) Sadie Witherspoon, MS, Regional School Safety Coordinator-CT Center for School Safety, Gabriel I. Lomas, Ph.D., Founder-CT Center for School Safety, Talisha Bond, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist, CSTAG Instructor, Kiley Young, MS, Regional School Safety Coordinator-CT Center for School Safety, Tanya Iacono, DSW, LCSW, Regional School Safety Coordinator-CT Center for School Safety, Kimberly Myers, Ed.D., Regional School Safety Coordinator-CT Center for School Safety, Amery Bernhardt, D.M., Director-CT Center for School Safety

School Reunification Workshop held at the Theater of Performing Arts, Hartford, CT October 2023





RESOURCES



Resources to Help Your School Reduce Cyber Risk

All educational institutions are at risk of falling victim to a cyberattack, and in recent years, K-12 schools have been an increasingly frequent target. The adoption of advanced networking technologies by school districts, the presence of extensive personal and financial data stored on networks, and for some schools, a lack of dedicated cybersecurity resources, have led to heightened risks for cyber threats and attacks within the K-12 community. These incidents can significantly impact a school's ability to carry out its educational obligations, protect sensitive student and staff information, and provide a safe and secure learning environment for our nation's youth.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month, which occurs every October, is an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity, including for our nation's education system. K-12 school and district administrators, educators, and staff can take a number of steps to stay safe online and defend against cyber threats. To support these efforts, the federal government has developed resources, guidance, tools, and trainings that the K-12 community can use to reduce cyber risk and better protect against an evolving threat environment. For **Cybersecurity resources** that are available through [SchoolSafety.gov](https://www.schoolsafety.gov), please click [Here](#).

Social Media Cybersecurity

Now more than ever, consumers spend increasing amounts of time on the Internet. With every social media account you sign up for, every picture you post, and status you update, you are sharing information about yourself and the world. How can you be proactive to stay safe online? #BeCyberSmart and take these simple steps to connect with confidence and safely navigate the social media world. Please click [Here](#) for the Social Media Cybersecurity Flyer.

More Tips for Staying Safe Online!

Cyber Safety Video Series - CYBER.ORG and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) partnered to produce this Cyber Safety Series. We've highlighted some common potential threats you're likely to face online and what you can do to make sure you stay safe! Please click [Here](#) for more information.



Socializing Securely: Using Social Networking Services

Mindi McDowell and Damon Morda

Social Networking Serves Many Purposes

Social networking is a way for people to connect and share information with each other online. Millions of people worldwide regularly access these types of services from mobile devices, applications, and websites. According to statistics published by some of the most well-known social networking services, there are more than 500 million active users on Facebook¹, 175 million registered users on Twitter², more than 100 million users on MySpace³, and more than 80 million members on LinkedIn⁴.

People may use social networking services for different reasons: to network with new contacts, reconnect with former friends, maintain current relationships, build or promote a business or project, participate in discussions about a certain topic, or just have fun meeting and interacting with other users. Some services, such as Facebook and Twitter, have a broad range of users, while others cater to specific interests. For example, LinkedIn has positioned itself as a professional networking site—profiles include resume information, and groups are created to share questions and ideas with peers in similar fields. On the other hand, MySpace is known for its emphasis on music and other entertainment. There are also social networking services that have been designed specifically to reconnect former classmates.

Sharing Information Presents Risks

When you share information online, you need to understand the potential risks, and you need to be wary of what you share and with whom.

Attacks and Unintended Information Disclosure

Attackers may use social networking services to spread malicious code, compromise users' computers, or access personal information about a user's identity, location, contact information,

¹ Facebook Factsheet (<http://www.facebook.com/press/info.php?factsheet>) (accessed January 3, 2011)

² About Twitter (<http://twitter.com/about>) (accessed January 3, 2011)

³ MySpace Fact Sheet (<http://www.myspace.com/pressroom/fact-sheet/>) (accessed January 3, 2011)

⁴ LinkedIn: About Us (<http://press.linkedin.com/about>) (accessed January 3, 2011)



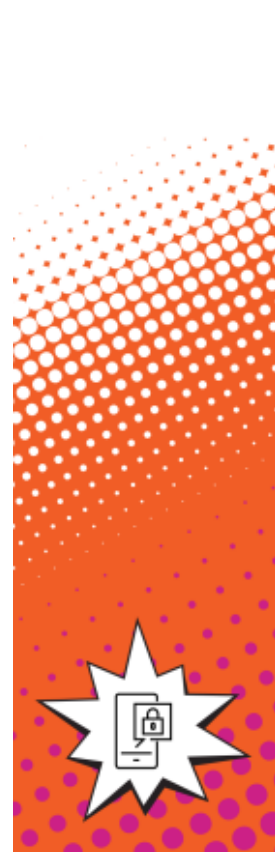
CYBERSECURITY BASICS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA Now more than ever, consumers spend an increasing amount of time on the Internet. For every social media account with which you interact, every picture you post, and status you update, you are sharing information about yourself with the world. This information is permanent in cyberspace. It is imperative to be proactive and secure your online safety. Take these steps to connect with confidence and safely navigate the social media world. **CYBER CRIMINALS AND SOCIAL MEDIA** Cybercriminals use social media to spread malware, malicious links, and malicious advertising. They can also leverage hacked credentials to refine their malware and scamming targets. In addition, they will use the “oversharing” of personal information to target online accounts. It is critical that you practice good cyber hygiene by understanding their tactics and knowing the cyber basics.

- **Never click and tell.** Limit what information you post on social media—from personal addresses to where you like to grab coffee. What many people do not realize is that these seemingly random details are all a criminal needs to know to target you, your loved ones, and your physical belongings—online and in the real world. Keep Social Security numbers, account numbers, and passwords private, as well as specific information about yourself, such as your full name, address, birthday, and even vacation plans.
- **Connect only with people you trust.** While some social networks might seem safer for connecting because of the limited personal information shared within them, keep your connections to people you know and trust. If communication from a post seems strange or odd, delete it.
- **Speak up if you’re being cyberbullied online.** Report any and all instances of cyberbullying you see or experience to the appropriate social platform
- **Report suspicious or harassing activity.** Work with your social media platform to report and possibly block harassing users. Report an incident if you have been a victim of cybercrime. Local and national authorities are ready to help you.

Please click [Here](#) for the flyer.

Follow our resources

- [CISA’s Multi-Factor Authentication Website](#)
- [Phishing Tip Sheet](#)
- [StaySafeOnline.org](#)
- [Report a Cyber Crime](#)



EducationWeek®



Please see resources below for how schools are helping students' and teachers' mental health. Click [Here](#) for the **Education Week** web page.

[Tackling The Mental Health](#)

[Crisis In Schools](#)

America's adolescents today are sadder, more anxious, and lonelier than previous generations. This report delves into the reasons why but also offers some hope.

Read about:

[Why America Has a Youth Mental Health Crisis, and How Schools Can Help](#)

[Teachers' Stress Trickles Down to Students. Here's What Schools Are Doing About It](#)

[Cellphone Bans Can Ease Students' Stress and Anxiety, Educators Say](#)

[Students Are Missing School Because They're Too Anxious to Show Up](#)

['I Definitely Struggle With My Mental Health': LGBTQ+ Students Share Their Stories](#)

[Rural Districts Get Creative Amid a Spike in Students' Mental Health Needs](#)

Don't Miss:

- [QUIZ Strategies for Improved Student Outcomes](#)
- [DOWNLOAD Spotlight on Digital Well-Being for Teens](#)
- [DOWNLOAD Spotlight on Trauma-Informed Instruction](#)
- [JOBS Nov. 9 Virtual Career Fair](#)
- [EVENT K-12 Essentials Forum Making Learning Recovery Work](#)

[Go deeper on edweek.org](#)

Bookmark the stories above, forward this report to a colleague, and then discuss what may help your schools.

Stay current on Student Well-Being by clicking the FOLLOW TOPIC button to save interests to your account.

Education Week delivers deep insights and actionable resources, so you can create a stronger tomorrow for all students. **Thank you for your support!**

Not a subscriber? [Access every day PD and then empower your team.](#)

Connecticut Human Antitrafficking Response Team (HART) has listed available resources for families coping with child sexual abuse

(CSAM) exposure, please see [flyer](#).

CASBHC's MAPPING TOOL

[Connecticut Association of School Based Health Centers \(CASBHC\)](#) has developed an online mapping tool for all School Based Health Centers (SBHC) and resources. This tool will allow people to enter a town, a school, or a service and find a SBHC location. The location will indicate what services are provided, hours of operations, contact information. See CASBHC's Mapping Tool [Here](#) (Mapme.com).

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. Please email **Victoria Adams**, M.Ed, NCTTP, at Adamsv2@southernct.edu for additional information.

Free trainings

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

Meetings - Please look for meetings in your Region.



TBA - DEMHS Region 1 School Safety and Security Meeting

- For more information, please contact **Christopher Bernier** at Christopher.bernier@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 (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:* 12/20 from 2:30-3:30pm
- *Where:* Virtual

- *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:* 11/29 (EASTCONN) from 9:30-11:00am
- *Where:* Hybrid on Zoom and In-Person at EASTCONN, 376 Hartford Turnpike, Hampton, CT
- *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: **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:* 11/23 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: 12/28/23.

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

- *When:* 11/14 from 8:30am-10:30am
- At this meeting, our guest speakers will be **Christine Montgomery** from Clifford Beers and **Brian Paquarell** from the State DBHRN team.
- *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: 12/12/23, 1/23/24, 2/13/24, 3/12/24, 4/23/24, 5/14/24, 6/4/24 - Planning Meeting.

The ACES Regional Crisis Team Meeting

- *When:* 11/16 from 9am-10:30am
- At this meeting, **Gerry Baird**, the Director of Mobile Crisis Intervention Services from Clifford Beers will be discussing Mobile Crisis Intervention Services.
- *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 **Sadie Witherspoon** at Witherspoons@wcsu.edu.
- Please save the dates for future Regional Crisis Team Meetings: 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: 11/15 from 9am-10:30am
- At this Virtual meeting, Our guest speaker will be one of awesome RCT members **Dr. Diana Perry**. **Dr. Perry** will be discussing her background and her current role as a Trauma Coordinator, presenting an overview of the UPLIFT Trauma Informed Care Program for schools and also sharing out about our Regional Crisis Team Deployment from the summer with regard to Crisis Response and Intervention.
- 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: 12/13/23.

The Northeastern Regional Crisis Team Meetings (EASTCONN RESC region)

- This team will meet jointly with the Southeastern Regional Crisis team.
- When: 11/08 from 9am-10:30am
- At this meeting, **Erin Dunn, Senior Educational and Behavioral Consultant** at EASTCONN will be coming to speak with the group about a multi-tiered approach to preventing and responding to school avoidance and chronic absenteeism.
- 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: 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: 11/08 from 9:00-10:30am
- At this meeting, **Erin Dunn, Senior Educational and Behavioral Consultant** at EASTCONN, will be coming to speak with the group about a multi-tiered approach to preventing and responding to school avoidance and chronic absenteeism.
- 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: 12/13/23, 1/10/24, 2/14/24, 3/13/24, 4/17/24, 5/8/24, June planning meeting date TBD.

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.

- 11/15 [Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines Model Training](#) - In partnership

with the **CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation, CES (Cooperative Educational Services)** is pleased to offer a **Free** 1-day training in CSTAG. If you have any questions about CSTAG or other professional development offerings at CES, please contact **Luke Forshaw, Ed.D., Director of Professional Development Services**, at email at forshawl@cestrumbull.org. This **FREE** Training will be held at the CES Professional Development Services, 40 Lindeman Drive, Trumbull, CT, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Instructors: Dr. Amery Bernhardt and Dr. Tanya Iacono. Course Description: This session will provide Level 1 and 2 Training in the use of the CSTAG model. Additionally, there will be time for regional conversation around implementation of CSTAG in Fairfield County schools. CES and the CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation are able to support implementation with school / district training along with coaching and case study should you plan to apply CSTAG further in your districts. This training 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. Register [HERE](#)

- [**12/15 PREPaRE Workshop 1 - Comprehensive School Safety Planning: Prevention Through Recovery \(3rd Ed.\)**](#) - Training provided by PREPaRE Trainer, **Kiley Young**, LCSW, held at EASTCONN from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. In this 1-day workshop participants will learn how to establish and sustain comprehensive school safety efforts that attend to both physical and psychological safety. The workshop addresses critical components needed to develop, exercise, and evaluate safety and crisis teams and plans and conduct building vulnerability assessments. The model also integrates school personnel and community provider roles in providing school-based crisis preparedness and response activities. After this workshop, participants will be better prepared to improve their school's climate, student resilience, and crisis response capabilities of school personnel. **Pre-Work Required.** CPD CREDITS - This 1-day workshop offers 7 credit hours of document NASP- Approved CPD. The time required to watch the mandatory pre-workshop video is included in the CPD hours. Cost is \$45 NASP fee (& small registration processing fee). This training is appropriate for all school personnel who need to understand how the comprehensive school crisis team is organized and functions. This can include but is not limited to school mental health professionals, administrators, front office staff, transportation directors, and before and after school activities coordinators.

Additional Trainings and Events

- [**11/1 Language Access and Equity**](#)- Sponsored by CPAC (CT Parent Advocacy Center) Virtually at 9-11am for **Free!** Is language access a barrier to you understanding your child's educational program and opportunities? Are you a parent or guardian who does not dominate the English language? Are you a professional who needs to better understand the importance of language access or how to provide it? This training will be a virtual presentation where they will discuss language access and equity in the educational setting. This presentation will help individuals: The importance of language access How language access impacts education and equal educational opportunities. [Register here.](#)
- [**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.
- [**11/1 Introduction to Human Trafficking for EMS**](#)- sponsored by **Connecticut H.A.R.T** this training will be held **November 1st from 2pm to 4pm virtually on zoom** All participants must work in EMS. This curriculum is designed to enhance an individual's understanding of Child Trafficking. The training assists participants in identifying victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST) as well as receiving tips on how to best respond and support identified trafficking victims. It is geared for emergency medical services personnel (Paramedics, EMT's, and First Responders). EMS specific information and resources are included to assist EMS with identifying

victims of human trafficking during emergency responses in the community.

- **11/2 Commercialized Violence Against Male Youth**- This training will be held 10-11:30 AM and is brought to you by DCAC lecture series and Dallas Children's Advocacy Center. Equitably collected data continue to report high prevalence of commercialized violence against males, yet most regions are still struggling with ways to identify, engage and serve males who have been impacted, or at risk. This training aims to increase the capacity of stakeholders to respond to the exploitation of male youth. Topics of discussion include a snapshot of prevalence, prominent models of commercial sexual exploitation and forced criminality, healthcare and environmental indicators, strategies for identification and engagement, and culturally responsive service needs. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with the facilitator and other members at the conclusion of the presentation.
- **11/2, 1/9/2024, 3/8/2024 Enhancing School Safety Using Behavioral Threat Assessment** -**The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)** is pleased to offer Virtual training presentations on targeted violence prevention. Above are the dates for our **Enhancing School Safety Using Behavioral Threat Assessment**. In this virtual training event, NTAC researchers highlight the key findings and implications from our research on school violence prevention. In this training, you will learn about the background, thinking, and behavior of school attackers and how some schools discovered and stopped plots before violence occurred. This training will provide guidance on how schools may develop or improve existing violence prevention programs utilizing a behavioral threat assessment model. **Intended Audience:** School teachers, administrators, counsellors, mental health professionals, school resource officers (SROs), law enforcement officers, and other school safety stakeholders.
- **11/7 202 - Annual Conference - Promising Futures 2023** - CT Association of School Based Health Centers (**CASBHC**). Please see Flyer [Here](#). This conference will be held at the Heritage Hotel and Conference Center, 522 Heritage Road, Southbury, CT 06488. The School Based Health Center (SBHC) staff members provide primary care medical, behavioral health, and oral health services in the school setting. They address and treat a multitude of physical and mental health issues and provide care for an increasingly wide range of health issues. [CASBHC](#) organizes an annual conference to improve the quality of services provided in SBHCs. The intended audience for this meeting are Registered Nurses (RNs), Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), Physician Assistants, Medical Assistants, Social Workers, Registered Dental Hygienists, School Nurses, School District professionals, Community Partners working with Youth and Adolescents. For information on how to register for the conference & complete session credits, click [here](#).
- **11/7, 11/21 Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) Training** Sponsored by [The Hub](#) held from 9:00 AM – 10:30 AM. Tune in for this 1.5 hour suicide gatekeeping training in which you will 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.
- **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, & Playing Video Games. For more information, please see [Flyer](#) and research article "[The Common Sense Census: Media Use by Tweens and Teens 2021](#)".
- **11/9 SW CT Catchment Area Council (CAC)/ Network of care** -Sponsored by [The Hub](#) held from 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM. The CAC & NOC is an open community group that is focused on sharing resources, raising awareness, identifying trends, gaps and needs, and advocating to improve the behavioral healthcare system. This group is open to anyone interested in contributing to healthier communities. To learn more about the CAC, please visit: <https://www.thehubct.org/region1catchmentareacouncil>.
- **11/15-11/16 Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)**- **The Connecticut clearing house** is holding a workshop at the **CT Department of Veterans Affairs 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067 from 12-4pm. Mental Health First Aid (MHFA)** is an evidence-based training program with proven ability to teach individuals how to recognize and respond to the warning signs of mental illness and substance use disorders. This course uses scenarios and activities to demonstrate how to offer initial help in a mental health challenge or crisis and connect people to the appropriate professional, peer, social and self-help care. The program also allows participants to grow their knowledge of the signs, symptoms and risk factors of mental illnesses and substance use disorder and increase their confidence and likelihood to help an individual in distress. Mental Health First Aid increases the

understanding that mental illnesses are real, common and treatable. **This training is FREE and open to everyone.** For more information, see [Flyer](#).

- **11/29-12/2 National Conference on Active School Threats** sponsored by the **School Safety Advocacy Council**. As schools across the nation are trying their best to address the growing threats to both students and staff at extra-curricular activities, the School Safety Advocacy Council is pleased to announce it will feature a training session focused on this issue at both National Conferences on Active School Threats. The session will explore trends that have led up to this spike in incidents, but also focus on what schools can do to both raise the situational awareness to these events and enhance their pre-event planning process. Curtis Lavarello, Executive Director of SSAC, will serve as the lead presenter in this session. This conference will be held in Hilton North Hills, Raleigh, NC. Check out more events at www.schoolsafety911.org.
- **11/30 Introduction to Child Trafficking in Connecticut for Congregate Care** - Sponsored by CT H.A.R.T. Note Cameras must be on for duration of the Training. CEUs are available. For more information, please email dcfhart@ct.gov.
- **12/6, 2/5/2024, 4/4/2024 Preventing Mass Attacks in Our Communities-The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC)** is pleased to offer presentations on **Preventing Mass Attacks in Our Communities**. In this virtual training event, NTAC researchers discuss important findings from our research on mass attacks perpetrated in public and semi-public spaces, including businesses, restaurants, bars, retail outlets, houses of worship, schools, open spaces, and more. This training will provide guidance on how communities may develop or improve existing violence prevention programs utilizing a behavioral threat assessment model. **Intended Audience:** Law enforcement, corporate security, mental health professionals, faith-based community leaders, university faculty, threat assessment team members, and other community safety stakeholders.
- **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**. Please see [Flyer](#) for more information. If you have any questions, please contact DEMHS Training Points of Contact: **Michael Paradis**, Trainer, email: Michael.Paradis@CT.Gov

THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

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DIAL 911 FOR EMERGENCIES



Meet Eli Mancini

Meet Eli Mancini

Eli joined the CT Center for School Safety in September as a Student Intern. Eli has been helping us with our Training Announcements, Newsletter, and Facebook and Twitter platforms. Eli is currently working towards a Bachelor's degree of Business Administration in Marketing at Western Connecticut State University.



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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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