

March 2024 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

Director's Corner

Dear School Safety Partners,

First, please consider completing our [Needs Assessment Survey](#) and sharing it with your colleagues. It is essential that we get your input so we can better serve you. Even if you already entered your thoughts, please log in and help rate some of the new thoughts provided. I want to take a moment to thank all of the members of our Swatting Working group!



We are releasing our [Swatting Considerations for School Districts](#) checklist this month. Please take a few minutes to review it and let us know if you have any questions or want to receive any training in your district on swatting.

We also want to remind everyone that we have a DHS grant to bring the [Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines](#) (CSTAG) training **free of charge** to your district. Please reach out to your [Regional School Safety Coordinator](#) to schedule the training.

Your partner in school safety,

Amery

Amery Bernhardt, D.M.

Director

CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation



Swatting Checklist

Swatting Considerations for School Districts



Prevention/Protection

- Do you have a mechanism to screen out potential swatting phone calls? For example, a firewall for your phone system.
- Do you have a system to screen out swatting emails? For example, a district-wide filter.
- Are you signed up with the [Connecticut Intelligence Center \(CTIC\)](#) For Official Use Only (FOUO) email notifications of swatting and other safety alerts?
- Does your local law enforcement agency have a mechanism to communicate with your district regarding swatting and other safety alerts? For example, via a school resource officer or a law enforcement liaison.
- Did you update your Communications and Warning Annex to include a public information plan and do the key stakeholders know how to effectively activate it?
- Have you sent out notifications to students and families regarding the criminal and economic liability of swatting? For example, the [cost of swatting to taxpayers](#).
- Did you educate your school community (staff, students, parents, local law enforcement, etc.) regarding communicating during a crisis. For example, text messaging, posting on social media, etc.
- Have you trained key personnel with [PREPaRE training](#) which is ideal for schools to improve and strengthen their school safety and crisis management plans and emergency response?

Mitigation/Response

- Did you call 9-1-1 in the event of a reported emergency or threat of violence and clearly indicate if there is suspicion of swatting?
- Did you update your Violent Behaviors Response Annexes in your All-hazards Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) to include guidance on suspected swatting?
- Did you work out a system with your local law enforcement agency regarding notification protocols, specifically if swatting is suspected? Consider that the phone call may come to the police department, the school district, or both.
- Did you train your call takers on swatting? For example, they are familiar with the most recent [Swatting Guidance](#).
- Did your call takers have the [CISA bomb threat checklists](#) near each phone and did they use it to capture critical information?
- Did your call taker notify their co-workers that they were handling a threatening call? For example, they hold up a bright colored threat checklist to signal others in the office.
- Did IT get notified to help with call information/recording?
- Did you discuss your district's response with first responders to balance under responding and over responding? For example, using secure school vs. lockdown. Or, using a shelter-in-place vs. evacuation.

- Did you activate your Communications and Warning Annex?
- Did you identify your Public Information Officer (PIO) and coordinate your messaging with the law enforcement PIO? For example, aligning the messaging without compromising a law enforcement investigation.
- Did you remind your school community (staff, students, parents, local law enforcement, etc.) regarding communicating during a crisis. For example, text messaging, posting on social media, etc.
- Did you appoint a Mental Health Officer to your Command Staff in your Incident Command System (ICS)?
- Did you or your local law enforcement agency report the incident to the Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC)? Please use this link to [report swatting incidents](#).

Recovery

- Did you consult with your Mental Health Officer to help guide a trauma informed recovery process? (For example, [talking with students](#), [providing mental health resources](#), engaging the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), etc.).
- Did you debrief the incident with your staff? For example, a strength-based approach ([Debriefing Template](#)).
- Did you create an [after action report \(AAR\)](#) with input from the responding agencies to help you update your Emergency Operation Plan (EOP)?
- Did you share the lessons learned with your [Regional School Safety Coordinator](#) from the CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation? Sharing with the Center allows for guidance and available resources to be updated.

Thank you to the following organizations who provided representatives on our working group to develop this checklist: Amity Public Schools, CT Association of School Psychologists (CASP), CT Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, CT Intelligence Center, CT School Counselor Association (CSCA), CT State Dept. of Education, CT State Police, CT State's Attorney's Office, Dept. of Homeland Security, Fairfield University, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Hamden Public Schools, Milford Public Schools, Monroe Public Schools, Region 13 School District, Ridgefield Public Schools, Southington Public Schools, Stonington Public Schools, TDR Technology Solutions, University of Hartford Dept. of Public Safety, and Western Connecticut State University Police Department.

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.

In previous months, we've mentioned and discussed various annexes to the All-Hazards School Safety Template. The template and standards have been in place for 10 years now. As I look at plans from across the state, I find annexes with the template language which offered suggestions to the safety committees on what items to consider and address. This month, we'll discuss the Recovery and Continuity of Operations Annex. This annex should address the following:

Academic Continuity and Recovery:

- When should the school be closed and reopened, and who has the authority to do so;
- What temporary space(s) may the school use if school buildings cannot be immediately reopened;
- How to provide alternate educational programming in the event that students cannot physically reconvene quickly;
- Coordinate efforts with the State Department of Education for reporting of lost school days and action steps to lessen impact.

Physical Recovery:

- How to document school assets in case of damage;
- Which personnel have knowledge of the assets and how and where will they access records after the emergency;
- How the school will work with utility and insurance companies before an emergency to support a quick recovery.

Fiscal Recovery:

- How to work with district leadership (e.g., superintendent, chief business officer, personnel director, risk manager)
- How staff will receive timely and accurate information on returning to work;
- What sources the school may access for emergency relief funding.

Psychological Recovery:

- Who will serve as team leader;
- Where will counseling and psychological first aid be provided;
- How will teachers provide calm, supportive environment for students, identify those students or staff who may need immediate crisis counseling;
- Who will provide trained counselors;
- How to address memorial activities, and balance between honoring loss, resuming routines, and maintaining hope for the future.

COVID taught us a great deal about continuing the education process, equipment needed, training, making the facility safe, and recovering from an incident. Our schools are still in the recovery phase from COVID in many areas. Many schools have not addressed these items in their plans. Currently the State of Connecticut is requiring state agencies to review and revise their Continuity of Operations and Recovery plans. The multi discipline, District Safety committee should have the subject matter experts, to engage and develop a robust annex.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

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
1111 Country Club Rd.
Middletown CT 06457
Office 860-685-8556
Cell 860-250-6158
William.turley@ct.gov

NEW GRANTS

New school safety-related grants have recently been added to the [Grants Finder Tool](#) on SchoolSafety.gov.

Grant Funding to Improve Adolescent Health and Well-Being Through School-Based Surveillance and the What Works in Schools Program *(Deadline: April 1)*

This solicitation provides funding to support the implementation of activities at multiple levels of the public education system to achieve health goals, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) What Works in Schools program and building the capacity of agencies to assist local education agencies (districts and schools). The CDC's What Works in Schools program is a primary prevention approach that supports school districts in implementing three key strategies: providing quality health education, connecting youth to health services, and creating safe and supportive learning environments.

Community Programs for Outreach and Intervention with Youth and Young Adults at Clinical High Risk for Psychosis *(Deadline: April 8)*

This program provides trauma-informed, evidence-based interventions to youth and young adults (up to 25 years of age) who are at a clinical high risk for psychosis. Recipients will be expected to use evidence-based interventions to improve symptomatic and behavioral functioning; enable individuals to resume age-appropriate social, academic, and/or vocational activities; delay or prevent the onset of psychosis; and minimize the duration of untreated psychosis for those who develop psychotic symptoms.

Statewide Family Network Program *(Deadline: April 8)*

This program provides resources to enhance the capacity of statewide mental health family-controlled organizations to engage with family members/primary caregivers who are raising children, youth, and young adults with serious emotional disturbance and/or co-occurring disorders.

Targeted Violence and Terrorism Prevention Grant Program

(Anticipated Deadline: May 2)

This program provides funding for state, local, tribal, and territorial governments; nonprofits; and institutions of higher education with funds to establish or enhance

capabilities to prevent targeted violence and terrorism. It provides financial assistance to develop sustainable, multidisciplinary prevention capabilities in local communities, pilot innovative prevention approaches, and identify prevention best practices that can be replicated in communities across the country. *Please note: This is a grants forecast as timing of the application window may be as little as 60 days when the program is announced. Prospective applicants are encouraged to use this forecast to identify necessary steps your organization(s) may need to take prior to the opening of the application window. Please see the [access link](#) for more information.*

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.

RESOURCES

Resources provided by Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

[K-12 Bystander Reporting Toolkit](#)

This toolkit provides strategies K-12 institutions can use to implement and enhance safety reporting programs and encourage bystander reporting among students and school community members.

[SchoolSafety.gov](#)

This site provides a one-stop access point for information, resources, guidance, and evidence-based practices on a range of school safety topics and threats.

[K-12 School Security Guide Product Suite](#)

These products are designed to provide K-12 districts and campuses with resources, tools, and strategies to improve school physical security.

[Partnering to Safeguard K-12 Organizations](#)

Reports on cybersecurity risks facing elementary and secondary schools and provides recommendations that include cybersecurity guidelines designed to help schools face these risks.

[Social Media Threat Guidance for School Staff and Authorities Infographic](#)

Actionable considerations for reporting and responding to social media threats directed at school districts.

[Bombing Prevention Assistance for K-12 Schools](#)

This product provides K-12 schools and districts with products, tools, and Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) strategies to protect, prevent, mitigate, and respond to bombing threats.

Meetings - Please look for meetings in your Region.



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: 4/9/24 from 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.*
- *Where: Virtually via Teams*
- *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.
- Please save the dates for future Region 1 Gambling Awareness Team meetings: Meetings held the 2nd Tuesday of the month, Quarterly; from 2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m., March - no meeting to celebrate PGAM, 4/9/24 - Virtual Teams Meeting, 6/11/24 - In-Person at The Burroughs Community Center.

Region 2 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: 4/18/24 at 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*
- *Where: Virtually via Zoom.*
- *Who Should Attend: Meetings are open to all.*
- RSVP at **[Zoom Link](#)**
- For additional info, contact **Brailee Whan** at **Bwhan@bhcare.org**

The DEMHS Region 2 School Safety & Security Group Meeting

- *When: 4/17/24 from 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.*
- *Where: Virtually*
- *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.*
- As always, we ask others to share this great networking opportunity with all of their school safety partners. Please share my contact information as well.
- 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.

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

Regional Suicide Advisory Board (RSAB) Meetings

- *When: 4/2/24 at 10:30 a.m.*
- *Where: Virtually*
- Region 2 RSAB supports the overall vision of the statewide CT Suicide Advisory Board, the goals and objectives of the CT Suicide Prevention Plan, and provides the local and regional infrastructure for activities.
- *Who Should Attend: For those within Region 2's territory: Ansonia, Bethany, Branford, Chester, Clinton, Cromwell, Deep River, Derby, Durham, East Haddam, East Hampton, East Haven, Essex, Guilford, Haddam, Hamden, Killingworth, Lyme, Madison, Meriden, Middlefield, Middletown, Milford, New Haven, North Branford, North Haven, Old Lyme, Old Saybrook, Orange, Portland, Seymour, Shelton, Wallingford, Westbrook, West Haven, Woodbridge.*
- For more information, please contact **Taylor Gainey , MHA**, at **Tgainey@bhcare.org**.
- Please save the dates for future RSAB meetings. All meetings will be held on the first Tuesday, bi-monthly. Meetings: 6/4, 8/6, 10/1, 12/3

The DEMHS Region 3 Capitol Emergency Management Meeting

- *When: 3/28/24 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.*
- *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 ESF-5 School Safety Sub-Committee

- *When: 3/6/24 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.*
- *Where: Hybrid (Both Zoom and In-Person) In-Person held at East Lyme Public Safety Complex located at 277 West Main Street, Niantic, 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: Please 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 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and will be Hybrid on Zoom and In-Person. Meetings: 4/3/24, 5/1/24, 6/5/24, 8/7/24, 9/4/24, 10/2/24, 11/6/24, 12/4/24.

Newly formed - DEMHS School Reunification Planning Committee (Note: meets (Hybrid) immediately after the Region 4 ESF-5 School Safety Sub-Committee Meeting)

- *When: 3/6/24 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*
- *Where: Hybrid (Both Zoom and In-Person) In-Person held at East Lyme Public Safety Complex located at 277 West Main Street, Niantic, 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: Please 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 Reunification Planning Committee Meetings . All meetings will be held 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and will be Hybrid on Zoom and In-Person. Meetings: 4/3/24, 5/1/24, 6/5/24.*

The DEMHS Region 5 School Safety and Security Working Group

- *When: 3/28/24 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.*
- *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: 4/25/24, 5/23/24, 6/27/24, 7/25/24, 8/22/24, 9/26/24, 10/24/24, 11/28/24, 12/28/24.*

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

- *When: 3/12/24 from 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.*
- *Where: TBD*
- *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**.*
- *Please save the dates for future Regional Crisis Team Meetings: 4/23/24, 5/14/24, 6/4/24 - Planning Meeting.*

The ACES Regional Crisis Team Meeting (covering the RESC South Central Region)

- *When: 3/21/24 from 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.*
- *Where: Virtually via Zoom*
- *Topics/Presenters: At this Virtual meeting, our guest speaker will be **Amanda Pickett** from CT State Department of Education will be conducting a Discussion of the Restorative Practices Response Policy for the school year commencing July 1, 2025, and each school year thereafter, Section 74 of Public Act 23-167 requires each board of education to adopt a restorative practices response policy to be implemented by school employees for incidents of challenging behavior or student conflict that is nonviolent and does not constitute a crime. In addition, she will also be talking about addressing*

- challenging behaviors and crisis response.
- *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: 4/18/24, 5/16/24, June planning meeting date TBD.*

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

- *When: 3/13/24 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.*
- *Where: **Zoom Link**, Meeting ID: 870 9664 2732, Passcode: 856200*
- *Topic/Presenters: Our Speaker this month will be **TFC James White, D.A.R.E** Coordinator with the CT State Police. TFC White has particular expertise in internet safety and social media trends. He will be joining us to talk about how students are using social media and the internet, what it means for our schools, strategies we can employ to promote internet safety, and also provide some guidance for parents.*
- *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**.*

The Northeastern Regional Crisis Team Meetings (covering the EASTCONN RESC region)

- This team will meet jointly with the Southeastern Regional Crisis team.
- *When: 3/13/24 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.*
- *Where: Virtually via Zoom*
- *Topic/Presenters: **Amery Bernhardt, D.M., C.E.M.**, Director of the CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation will be presenting on the results of the Center's recent weapons study, and will be sharing information about Behavioral Threat Assessment and the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) Model, including ways schools throughout the state have implemented this model.*
- *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 : 4/17/24, 5/8/24, June planning meeting date TBD.*

The Southeastern Regional Crisis Team Meetings (covering the LEARN RESC region)

- This team will meet jointly with the Northeastern Regional Crisis team.
- *When: 3/13/24 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.*
- *Where: Virtually via Zoom*
- *Topic/Presenters: **Amery Bernhardt, D.M., C.E.M.**, Director of the CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation will be presenting on the results of the Center's recent weapons study, and will be sharing information about Behavioral Threat Assessment and the Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) Model, including*

ways schools throughout the state have implemented this model.owns: 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: 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.

- **March 14, 2024** | [Digital and Social Media - Navigating Fake Social Media Accounts](#) Virtual Training from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. *Presented by TFC James White, CT State Police and CT Statewide D.A.R.E. Coordinator ([bio](#))*. This is the third of our **Free** quarterly training sessions and it will focus on navigating fake social media accounts and other trends. There will also be an opportunity for networking with federal, state, and local partners to help build the digital / social media knowledge base and plan for information sharing across the state of CT. Intended Audience: This training is appropriate for anyone involved in school safety including but not limited to educators, administrators, mental health professionals, law enforcement officers, security, facility managers and school resource officers. [Register Soon for this Free Training!](#)
- **May 2-3, 2024** | [PREPaRE Workshop 2: Mental Health Crisis Interventions: Responding to an Acute Traumatic Stressor in Schools, 3rd ed.](#) - *Hosted by: PREPaRE Trainers, Dr. Kimberly Myers and Dr. Diana Perry*. This 2-day workshop develops the knowledge and skill required to provide immediate mental health crisis interventions to the students, staff, and school community members who have been simultaneously exposed to an acute traumatic stressor. The knowledge and skill developed within this session also help to build a bridge to the psychotherapeutic and trauma informed mental health response sometimes required to address challenges associated with trauma exposure. *PREPaRE Workshop 1 is not a prerequisite for taking PREPaRE Workshop 2.* Intended Audience: Mental Health Professionals who provide mental health crisis intervention services. This workshop will be held at the Capitol Region Council Central Office (CREC) in Hartford from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost: \$55 and Pre-Work is Required. Please see [Flyer](#) for additional information.

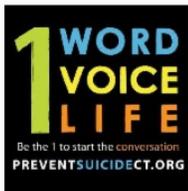
Additional Trainings and Events

- **March 1, 2024** | [Public Safety Mental Health First Aid](#) - Hosted by: SERAC. An evidence-based certificate course to learn how to respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges with statistics specific to Public Safety officials. Learn the skills needed to reach out and provide initial help and support to someone who may be developing a mental health problem or experiencing a crisis. Course consists of a 2 hour self-paced online course followed by live instructor led session. For more information, please contact **Megan Erdman** at Merdman@seracct.org.
- **March 8, 2024** | [Enhancing School Safety Using Behavioral Threat Assessment](#) - Hosted by: The U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC). 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, counselors, mental health professionals, school resource officers (SROs), law enforcement officers, and other school safety stakeholders.
- **March 11, 2024** | [Sports Betting Breakfast](#) - At the APW, we are hosting a discussion on youth sports betting and bringing in two leading experts to speak at this event. We are hoping for turnout from coaches, health and PE educators, athletic directors, and anyone with an interest in youth gambling prevention. Please contact **Brailee** at Bwhan@bhcare.org with any questions. To learn more and to register, please see [Flyer](#).
- **March 12, 2024** | [TIC in Practice Combo Workshop #1: Fostering a Sense of Safety & Prioritizing Trustworthiness & Transparency](#) - Hosted by: the CREC RESC Alliance. This workshop is part of the UPLIFT Trauma-Informed Care Practice Series. This Free In-Person Training is held at CREC Central. Participants will learn about the key components of physical and psychological safety as well as ways to strengthen these critical domains of well-being. Participants also explore how effective communication and a commitment to transparent decision-making are essential in establishing a school climate that supports all individuals (students, staff, and families). To learn more, please see [Flyer](#).
- **March 13, 2024** | [Question, Persuade, Refer \(QPR\) Suicide Prevention Training](#) - Hosted by: South Central Region Behavioral Health Action Organization (Alliance for Prevention & Wellness / A Program of BHcare). 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. For this upcoming QPR training, there are currently 21 registered out of a 40 participant Cap. **Where:** Zoom. Dates for future QPR training dates: **4/8, and 4/10**, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (Register through the same link above.) If you need additional information, please email **Taylor Gainey, MHA**, at Tgainey@bhcare.org.

- **March 14, 2024** | [Ensuring Your Digital Privacy](#) - Hosted by: *Safer Schools Together* (SST) - 9-11 a.m. *Pacific Standard Time*. This session provides an overview of privacy settings in social media applications and guidelines for how to prevent personal information from being exploited. Participants will leave this session with a better understanding of the steps to take to ensure a safe and private digital tattoo. With proper knowledge and prevention strategies, individuals can reduce the potential risk of becoming a target of doxxing, swatting, phishing scams, grooming and other online threats.
- **March 14 & 15, 2024** | [CAS Annual Leadership Conference](#) - Hosted by: *The Connecticut Association of Schools* (CAS). Annual Leadership Conference to be held at the Mystic Marriott in Groton, Connecticut on March 14-15, 2024. **The CT CENTER FOR SCHOOL SAFETY will be hosting a table at this event. Please stop by!** For more information, please call (203) 250-1111 or email: mail@casciac.org.
- **April 9, 2024** | [TIC in Practice Combo Workshop #2: Cultural Humility: Unpacking & Addressing Cultural, Historical, & Gender Issues; & Empowerment, Voice & Choice for All](#) - Hosted by: *the CREC RESC Alliance*. This workshop is part of the **UPLIFT Trauma-Informed Care Practice Series**. This Free and In-Person training is held at CREC Central. Participants will explore the impacts of educational and social inequities on students. Also included is an explanation of cultural humility and a review of Cultural Responsive Teaching strategies that foster inclusivity. To learn more, please see [Flyer](#)
- **May 1 & 2, 2024** | [WAVR-21 A Structured Guide for the Assessment of Workplace and Campus Violence Risk](#) - Hosted by: *Dr. Stephen White and Dr. Reid Meloy*. The workshop will cover the foundations and proper use of the WAVR-21, and best practices in threat assessment and management in work and campus settings. This workshop will be held in Atlanta and is available in-person or Virtually. For more information, please contact **Dr. White or Sandy Ryan** at Sryan@wavr21.com.
- **May 14, 2024** | [Taking Steps Toward Collaboration & Mutuality](#) - Hosted by: *the CREC RESC Alliance*. This Free and Virtual module is part of the **UPLIFT Trauma-Informed Care Practice Series**. In this Virtual training, participants will explore the nuances and many variables that exist when implementing collaboration strategies aimed at students, staff, caregivers, or community members. To learn more, please see [Flyer](#).
- **May 22, 2024** | [2024 Connecticut School Counselor Association \(CSCA\) Annual Conference](#) - The annual CSCA Conference is back at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT. The theme is Thrive & Grow. This premier event brings together K-12 grade school counselors from across the state, representing urban, suburban, and rural school districts. Some of the goals are to share experiences, perspectives, insights and the latest trends in the counseling and educational related field. For information regarding sponsorships, exhibitor & advertising packages, please contact **Seth Korn** at Skorn@npsct.org. **Registration will begin in mid-March.** Proposals due **3/1/24!** Please click [here](#) for more additional information.
- **June 5 & 6, 2024** | **The WAVR-21 in Europe Amsterdam - A Workplace & Campus Threat Assessment & Management Workshop** Hosted by: *Dr. Stephen White and Mr. Bran van der Meer*. This **first of-its-kind** offering will provide a European-

oriented WAVR-21 training, taking into account important cultural, legal, and risk scenario differences between North America and European countries. This training will take place in The Hague, Netherlands, with an option to attend either in person or virtually. Read [more](#) about the workshop content, especially valuable for security professionals working for USA organizations and assigned to European sites and regions. For more information and to register, please email **Mr. Bram van der Meer**, at Vandermeer@dantespsychology.com

- [Recognizing Gang Activity in Schools](#) | National Gang Center (OJP.gov) - *Hosted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention*. This webinar presents formal and informal techniques to recognize signs of gang activity in a school setting. The insights shared in this session are integral to our responsibilities as School Resource Officers.
- [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.



SAVE THE DATE!

Connecticut Suicide Prevention Conference 2024

“Inspiring Hope: Coming Together for Suicide Prevention”

Thursday, May 2, 2024

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Rocky Hill, CT

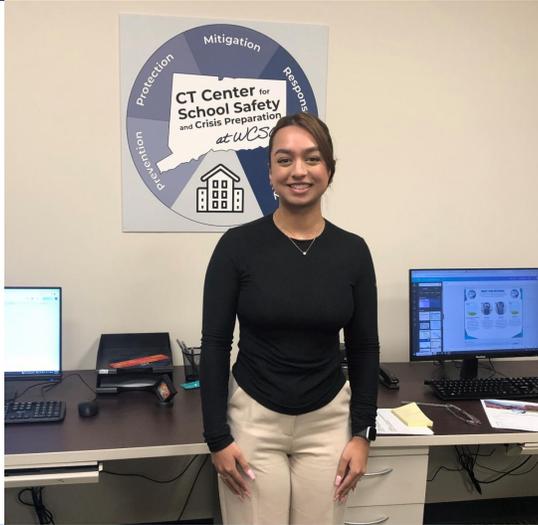
Registration coming soon



Sponsored by the CT Suicide Advisory Board (CTSAB)

Meet Rafa Hassan

Social Media Intern at the CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation



Welcome Rafa!

Rafa joined the CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation in February as a Student Intern. She has been helping the Center with our School Safety Newsletter, our social media platform and other projects.

Rafa is currently working towards a Bachelor's degree in Cybersecurity at Western Connecticut State University.

Contacts



Amery Bernhardt, D.M.

Director, CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation
(203) 837-3210
Bernhardta@wcsu.edu



Mary Pupazzoni

Secretary, CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation
(203) 837-8915
Pupazzonim@wcsu.edu



Gabriel I. Lomas, Ph.D.

Founder and Faculty Sponsor, CT Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation
(203) 837-8512
Lomasg@wcsu.edu



Sadie Witherspoon, MS

Regional School Safety Coordinator for the South Central Region of CT, in Partnership with ACES.
(203) 733-9439
Witherspoons@wcsu.edu

Kim Myers, Ed.D.

Regional School Safety Coordinator for the North Central Capitol Region



of CT, in Partnership with CREC.
(203) 456-5347
Myersk@wcsu.edu



Kiley Young, LCSW

Regional School Safety Coordinator for the Eastern Region of CT, in Partnership with LEARN and EASTCONN.
(203) 240-4867
Youngki@wcsu.edu



Tanya Iacono, DSW, LCSW

Regional School Safety Coordinator for the Western Region of CT, in Partnership with EdAdvance and CES.
(203) 456-5337
Iaconot@wcsu.edu



Paula Gill Lopez, Ph.D.

Founding Member, CT Center for School Safety & Crisis Preparation
Associate Professor & Program Director, Fairfield University
Executive Board, CT Association of School Psychology (CASP).
Pgilllopez@fairfield.edu

CONTRIBUTE to our NEWSLETTER

If you have content such as meetings, trainings, resources, and/or research to include in the next issue of our newsletter, please email **Mary Pupazzoni** at Pupazzonim@wcsu.edu no later than the 15th of the month prior.

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