

SOUTHWESTERN CT

# THE HUB

CATCHMENT AREA COUNCIL

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# REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE FORUM



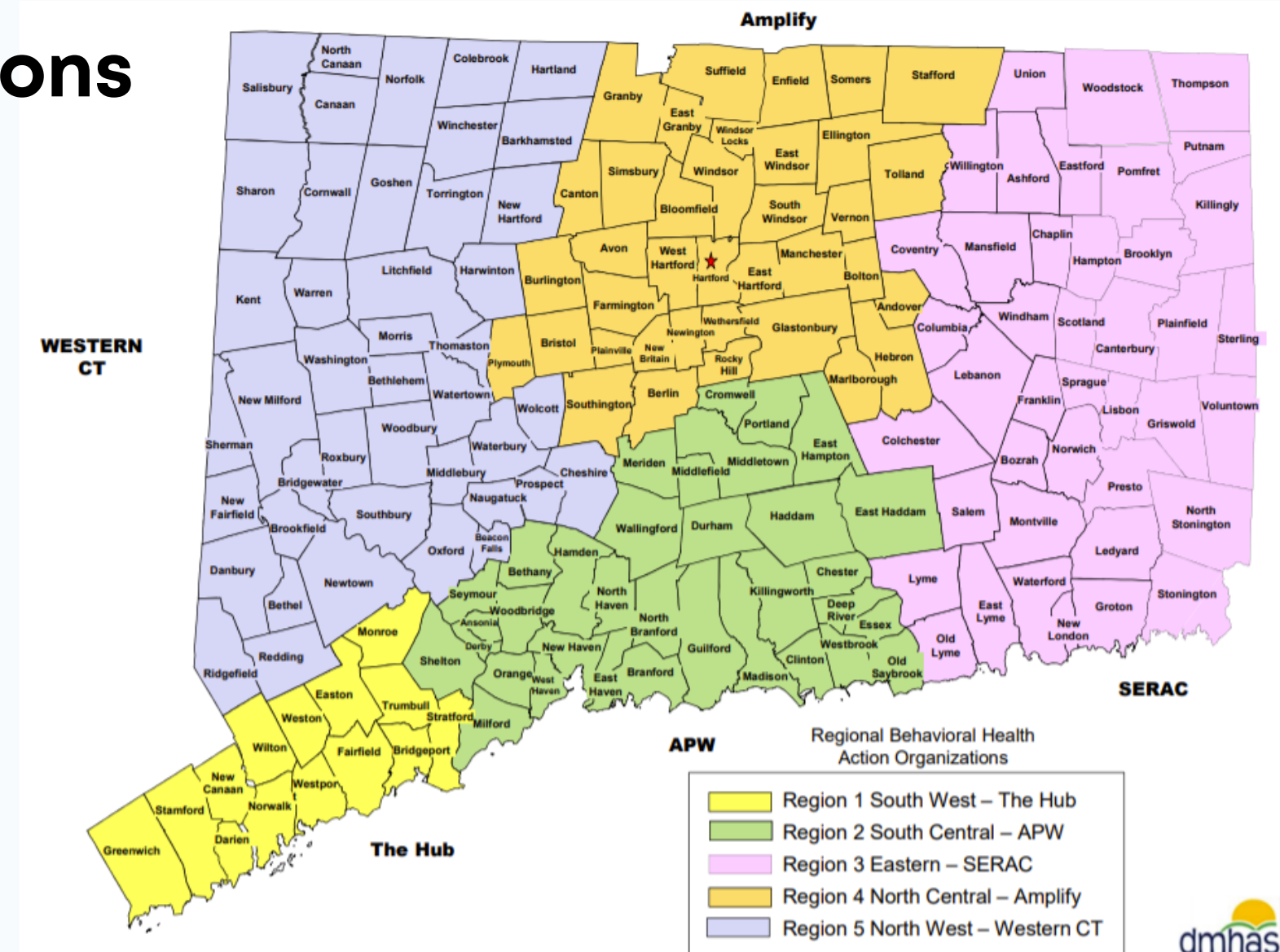
[WATCH OUR FORUM RECORDING HERE](#)

# WHAT IS AN RBHAO?

## Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations (RBHAOs)

RBHAOs serve as a strategic community partner and work across the behavioral healthcare continuum

RBHAOs are responsible for a range of planning, education, and advocacy of behavioral health needs and services for children and adults



# THE HUB

## YOUR REGIONAL RESOURCE!



**The Hub** is the state-designated RBHAO serving Southwest (Region 1) Connecticut

We are a division of the Regional Youth Adult Social Action Partnership (RYASAP)

[thehubct.org](http://thehubct.org)

[info@thehubct.org](mailto:info@thehubct.org)





**Bimonthly  
Third Thursdays  
2:30PM - 4PM**

**The CAC is an open community group. Our group includes individuals with lived experience with mental illnesses or challenges and/or substance use as well as providers, consumers, family members, friends, medical professionals, first responders, advocates and more.**

**We are focused on sharing resources, raising awareness, identifying trends, gaps, and needs, and advocating to improve the behavioral health treatment and recovery system.**

**The CAC's ability to forge partnerships in the behavioral health system is key in influencing systems and contributing to healthy communities.**

**This is an opportunity to use your voice! Share your expertise & experience and listen to others.**

***CAC Lead: Kaitlin Comet - [kaitlin@ryasap.org](mailto:kaitlin@ryasap.org)***

# REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**EARLY IDENTIFICATION & CONNECTION TO RESOURCES FOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS**

**CASE MANAGEMENT & CASE COORDINATION**

**SUSTAINABILITY FOR PSYCH BEDS & SUPPORT STAFF**

**MENTAL HEALTH IN OLDER ADULTS**

**ADDITIONAL TOPICS: HARM REDUCTION & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE  
CPN PRIORITIES**

# HARM REDUCTION & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

## Harm Reduction

An evidence-based set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use.

- Respect for individuals who use drugs
  - Safer/managed use
  - Personable & individualized care
- Person-first approach
- Drug use is a complex, multi-faceted experience that encompasses a continuum of behaviors
- Non-Judgemental, empathetic & compassionate
- Empowerment & choice

**Jean M. Brown, GBAPP**

## Trauma-Informed Care

**NOT: What is wrong with you?**

**It Is: "What happened to you?"**

Understanding the impact of trauma on individuals and their different paths to recovery.

- Avoid re-traumatization (care in safety)
- Person-first approach
- Non-judgmental, empathetic & compassionate
- Empowerment & choice
- Happens on clinical & organizational levels

# EARLY IDENTIFICATION & CONNECTION TO RESOURCES FOR YOUTH & YOUNG ADULTS

## **Dana Bossio**

Regional Trauma Coordinator & School Psychologist, C.E.S.

## **Dan Smith**

Vice President, Mountainside & President, CT Alliance of Recovery Residences

### **Our Asks:**

- Support universal screening for mental health in schools & medical offices for youth and adults
- Annual suicide prevention training for school staff & youth, with reporting accountability
- Dedicated multidisciplinary team at the district or school level to support mental health promotion efforts in our districts, with participation in community-based organizations, collaboratives, etc.
- Established MHP:student staffing ratios in schools, with increased funding to support universal programming in districts

# CASE MANAGEMENT & CASE COORDINATION

## **Donna Fletcher**

Director of Co-Occurring Treatment Programs, Child & Family Guidance Center

## **Will Testani**

Admissions Coordinator, Turnbridge

### **Our Asks:**

- Sustainable funding for case managers, specifically in community-serving organizations?
- Provide support to meet the need of behavioral health services?



# SUSTAINABILITY FOR PSYCH BEDS & SUPPORT STAFF

**Dr. Raviv Berlin**

Chair of Psychiatry, Stamford Health

## **Our Ask:**

- Funding & sustainability for accessible psych beds & support staff to maintain services

# MENTAL HEALTH IN OLDER ADULTS

## **Dr. Stephanie Paulmeno**

DNP, MS, RN, NHA, CPH, CCM, CDP

### **Our Asks:**

- Increase medical, psychiatric, & long term care programs & funding for older adults in CT
- Support the "asks" of case management advocates
- Support family/visitor programs & personal assistance in LTC facilities
- Support "aging in place" options, with the social support programs needed for this

# FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

## **Giovanna Mozzo, MSW**

Director of The Hub/RYASAP

- Prevention Infrastructure
- Current funding
- Local Prevention Councils drive and purpose
  - LPC grants vary from \$2,276 to \$10,357 per year based on the size of the town. Currently these grants must target vaping in 12-18 year olds.
- Cost and savings when prevention is a priority
- Community based organizations need support too

# CONNECTICUT PREVENTION NETWORK (CPN)

The statewide coalition of five Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations (RBHAOs) focusing on prevention & wellness efforts. We promote mental health and coordinate substance misuse prevention services across all 169 communities in CT

## COMMUNITY MEMBERS TRAINED

# 11,938

On how to use Naloxone, mental health screenings, and prevention in suicide, gambling, and tobacco use

# \$1.3 million

Given directly to municipalities for local prevention activities



# 6,058

Naloxone Kits Distributed

## STAFF MEMBERS

# 19

Full-Time Equivalent



For More Information Please Contact:



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## 2023 PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

### Reinstate Funding for RBHAOs

RBHAOs are funded solely through federal grant dollars administered via the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and the Department of Children and Families. Those grants require deliverables that are critical community-oriented initiatives but don't provide for essential capacity building and general prevention work. **Yearly funding of \$200,000 per RBHAD increases state and regional capacity building, technical support for local prevention councils, and the ability to respond to local issues outside the parameters of currently restricted funding streams.**

### Marijuana/Cannabis Prevention

As the Connecticut legalization market forms, the State must prioritize education, harm reduction, and prevention, especially among our youth. **Commit 5% of Cannabis tax revenue to local prevention work.**

### Mental Health Promotion and Suicide Prevention

AA multi-tiered approach that addresses individual, family, and environmental factors will strengthen mental wellness across a person's lifespan. Community suicide prevention activities should utilize best practices and align with the goals and objectives outlined in the State Plan 2025; including postvention response planning incorporated into municipal emergency planning. **Provide consistent dollars to address issues of mental health stigma and suicide at \$100,000 per RBHAD.**

### Opioid Use and Overdose Prevention

Connecticut must consistently promote the importance of naloxone as a life-saving medication. **Establish minimum training standards and encourage pharmacists to prescribe, increasing access to naloxone and naloxone training.**

### Gambling and Problem Gambling Prevention

Gambling expansion has occurred without adequate prevention funding. Connecticut needs to provide appropriate support for gambling prevention initiatives. **Commit at least 2% of revenue from sports gambling to regional prevention work.**

### Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping Prevention

The Federal Drug Administration has failed to oversee the electronic cigarette and vaping market. Connecticut must take action to protect our youth from the dangers of smoking and tobacco use. **Ensure that Tobacco Trust and Juul settlement dollars go towards youth smoking and vaping prevention in local communities.**

# PLEASE FOLLOW UP WITH OUR INFOBRIEF

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**MENTAL HEALTH IN OLDER ADULTS**

**CONNECTICUT PREVENTION NETWORK (CPN) PRIORITIES**

**ADDITIONAL TOPICS: HARM REDUCTION & TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE**



# The Hub - SW CT Catchment Area Council

# Thank you!!!