



Child Health and
Development Institute
of Connecticut, Inc.

Comprehensive School Mental Health Overview

Jeana Bracey, Ph.D.

Associate Vice President of School and
Community Initiatives

Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI)

TCB May 29, 2024



Child Health and Development Institute

CHDI is a bridge to better behavioral health and well-being for children.

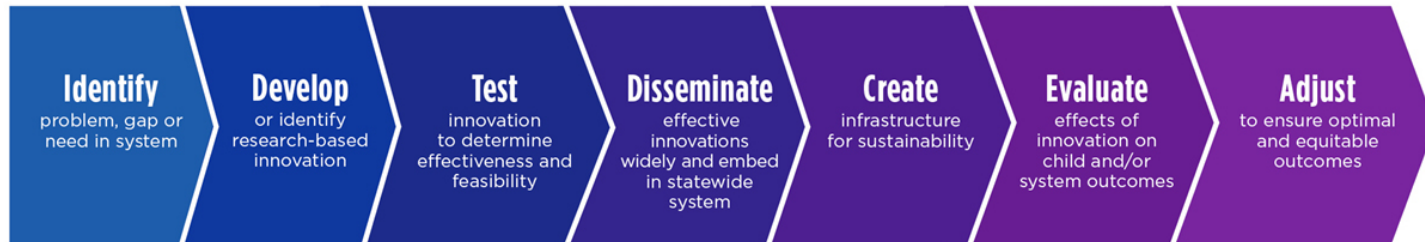
Our Vision

All children grow up healthy and thrive

Our Mission

Advance effective, integrated health and behavioral health systems, practices, and policies that result in equitable and optimal health and well-being for children, youth, and families.

Our Strategic Process Powers Systems, Practice, and Policy Improvement



CHDI Child Health and Development Institute

CHDI | BRIDGE TO BETTER™

Better Systems. Better Practice. Better Policy.

We advance effective and innovative system, practice, and policy solutions that result in equitable and optimal behavioral health and well-being for children, youth, and families in Connecticut and beyond.

A CATALYST FOR BETTER OUTCOMES

CHDI EMPOWERS POLICYMAKERS		Better data. Better evidence. Better policy. CHDI works with state agencies and other policymakers to apply data and research that informs decision-making and improves the behavioral health of children and their families.
	CHDI CHAMPIONS PROVIDERS	Better treatments. Better training. Better care. CHDI helps providers, educators, and other child-serving professionals expand and enhance care by disseminating prevention programs, evidence-based treatments, and best practices that improve access, quality, equity, and outcomes.
CHDI SPARKS PARTNERSHIPS		Better collaboration. Better connection. Better together. CHDI fuels collaboration across governmental, provider, school, community, research, and family partners to advance solutions and improve behavioral health care for children and families.

CHDI Area of Expertise

Our Behavioral Health Work: **COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH**

CHDI helps schools build a comprehensive and sustainable system to promote healthy development and identify and treat behavioral health concerns so students can reach their full potential.

Schools play an important role in identifying youth in need of help and linking them to school- and community-based services. CHDI applies research-based strategies and practices to guide schools in effectively and equitably addressing the trauma and behavioral health needs of students.



CHDI Comprehensive School Mental Health Resources

Assessment and Planning: The SHAPE System

System Building: Comprehensive School Mental Health; CONNECTing to Care

Trauma Screening: Trauma Screen TIME Schools Course

Trauma Treatment: CBITS and Bounce Back

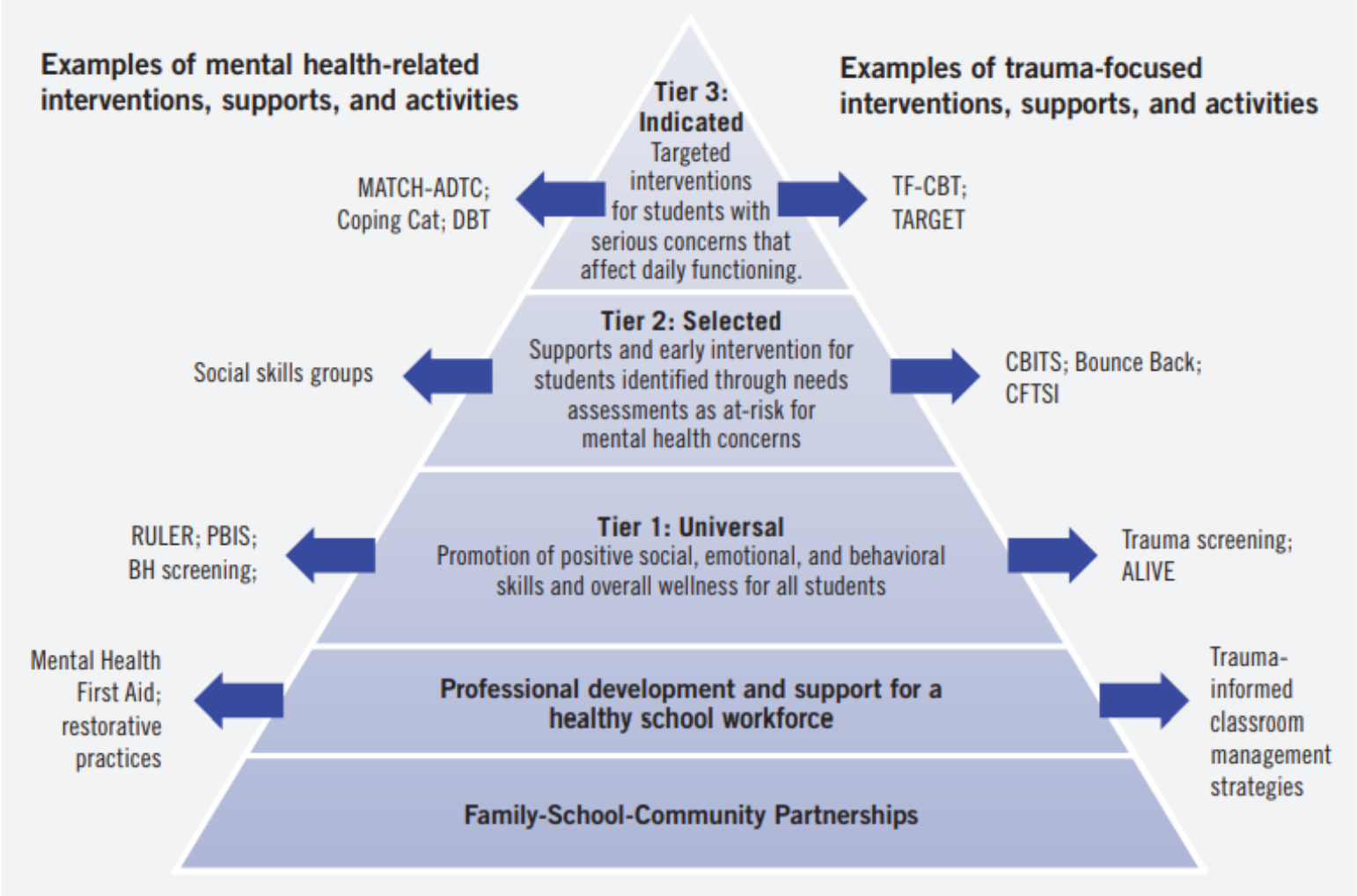
Diversion of Arrests: School-Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI and SBDI-E)

Peer to Peer Support for Students: Peer Support Pilot Program

Professional Development for School Staff: Educate-SMART

Comprehensive School Mental Health

Figure 1: Trauma-Informed Multi-Tiered System of Supports for School Mental Health



Source: Hoover, S., Bracey, J., Lever, N., Lang, J., Vanderploeg, J. (2018)



Goals of CONNECT



Strengthen **integration** between school- and community-based behavioral health network of care



Increase staff and family **knowledge** of behavioral health and available services

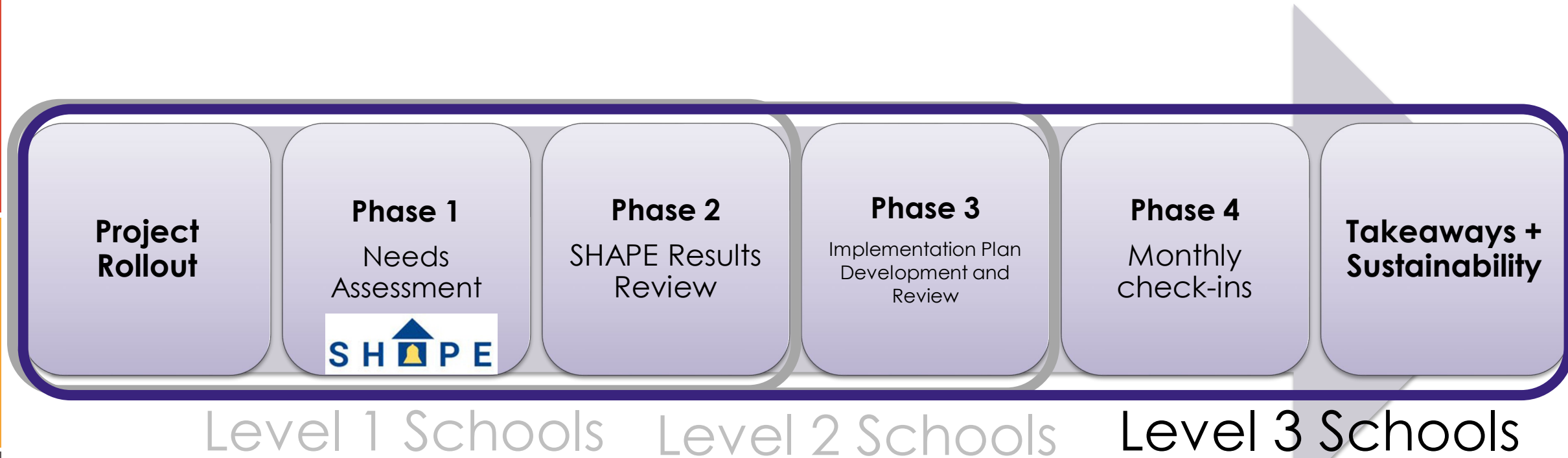


Increase **capacity** to access and utilize behavioral health resources and supports

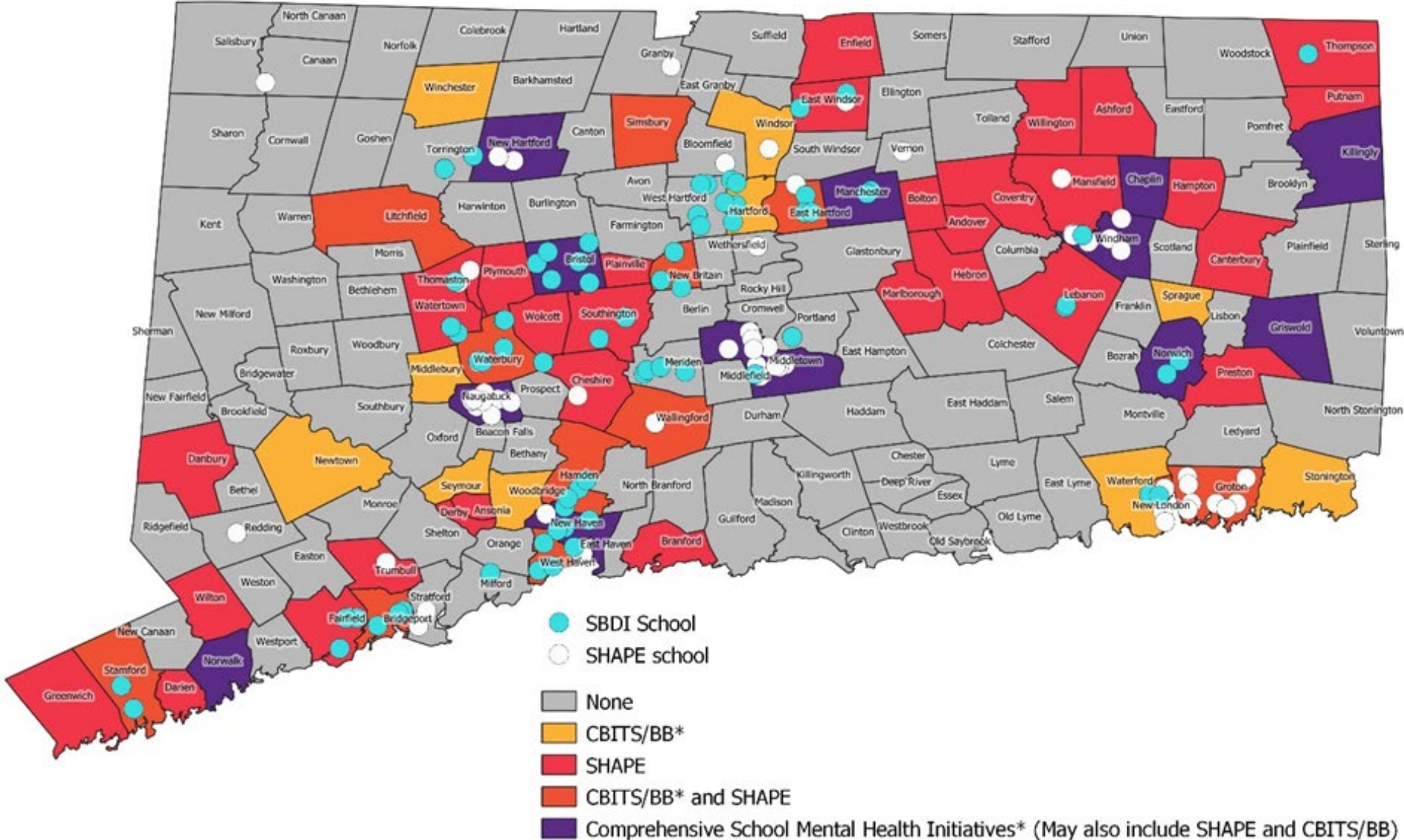


Implement equitable and comprehensive **school mental health** supports

CSMH Project Timeline

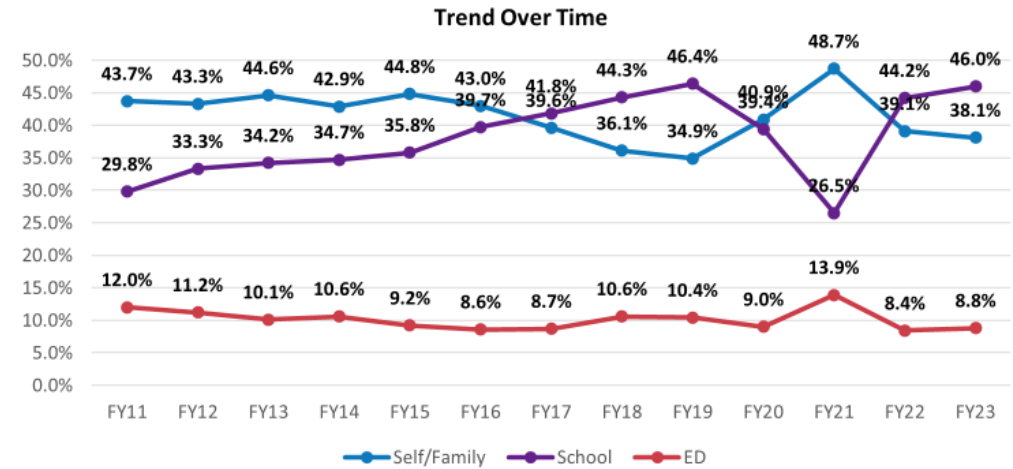
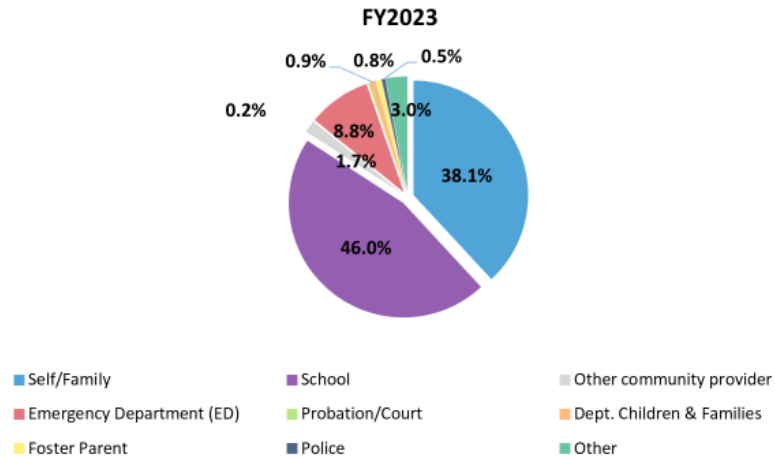


CHDI Impact



*Shaded towns may sometimes indicate participation by one or more schools in that town rather than the entire district

Statewide Referral Sources



- Schools continue to be the highest referral source again after decreasing during the height of the pandemic
- Self/family and emergency department referrals have remained fairly stable as a proportion of overall referrals

Dial 2-1-1



Landscape Analysis Overview

- Partnership with the State Department of Education (CSDE) and the Department of Children and Families (DCF)
- ARP ESSER funds through 12/31/24
- **Goal:** Conduct a **landscape analysis and report** to summarize national best practices and current CT efforts for supporting student behavioral health and well-being, including Comprehensive School Mental Health (CSMH) and other related activities, services, and programs
- Aligning the approach with the development and dissemination of the Nov 2023 Workforce Development Report ([Strengthening the Behavioral Health Workforce for Children, Youth, and Families: A Strategic Plan for Connecticut](#))

Landscape Analysis Process and Timeline



CONTENT



LITERATURE
REVIEW



STAKEHOLDER
INPUT



FINAL REPORT

Start:
March

Data Collection:
May through August

Draft Report:
September

Final Report:
December

Call to Action in School Mental Health

Inform Landscape Analysis Process and Facilitate Recommendations

Comprehensive School Mental Health System Expansion

Sustainable Funding for Infrastructure: Data, Workforce, Coordination

Integration of Crisis Supports

Family and youth engagement



Stay in touch

Please visit us at www.chdi.org and join our email list for publications and information on solutions that improve outcomes for children and their families.

Jeana Bracey, Ph.D. jbracey@chdi.org



@CHDICT



@CHDICT

LinkedIn



@CHDICT