



Tow Youth  
Justice  
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Making connections. Informing solutions.

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# Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee

March 4th, 2025

2:00-4:00 PM

Room 1E in the LOB

ZOOM Option Available

Scan to submit your attendance



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# Tow Youth Justice Institute

**About Us:** The Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI) is a university, state, and private partnership dedicated to transforming the systems that impact youth, young adults up to age 26, and their families. We additionally embrace cross-system collaborations with policymakers, practitioners, service providers, students, researchers and community members to advance justice that includes public safety, behavioral health, health, housing and education.

**Mission Statement:** Rooted in equity and respect, our mission is focused on raising the voices of youth up to age 26, families, and those with lived experience, including those who have experienced victimization, and to promote policies, practices, and programs that reduce harm, build power, and create opportunities for all. Through research, coaching, education, and cross-system collaboration, we strengthen communities and support solutions that are community-informed, evidence-driven, and we focus on wellbeing, dignity, and long-term change.

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# Meeting Facilitation

- **Mute on Zoom**
  - Participants must remain muted on Zoom unless speaking
- **Hand Raising**
  - Virtual attendees should use the Hand Raise feature on Zoom for questions and comments
- **Questions at the End**
  - Hold questions and comments until the presenters have finished speaking
- **TCB only**
  - Only TCB members may ask questions and make comments
- **Recording**
  - This meeting is being recorded

# Agenda

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Welcoming, Opening Remarks

TCB Tri Chairs: Senator Ceci Maher, Representative Tammy Exum & Claudio Gualtieri, Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary, OPM

Review and Acceptance of February Minutes

Administrative Updates

TYJI

Congregate Care Overview

Dr. Naomi Libby, Chief Medical Officer, The Children's Center of Hamden

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFS) Level - set

Dr. Steven M. Kant, Chief Medical Officer, Boys and Girls Village

PRTFS Carelon Data

Carrie Bourdon, LCSW, Chief Executive Officer, CT BHP Division at Carelon Behavioral Health CT, Jackie Cook, LPC, Regional Network Manager, Carelon Behavioral Health CT

PRTFS Facility Overview

Boys and Girls Village: Dr. Steven M. Kant, Chief Medical Officer  
The Children's Center of Hamden: Dr. Naomi Libby, Chief Medical Officer  
Albert J Solnit Children's Center: Michael Rulnick, MPA, Superintendent, DCF, Mui Mui Hin-McCormick Behavioral Health Clinical Manager, DCF  
The Village: Laine Taylor, DO and Chief Medical Officer, & Amy Samela, VP Residential Services

Complex Case Workgroup Final Report Findings and Recommendations: PRTFS

Tara Viens, OPM

PRTFS – Current Challenges

Laine Taylor, DO and Chief Medical Officer, Amy Samela, VP Residential Services, The Village

Q&A

TCB Members

Closing Remarks

TCB Tri Chairs: Senator Ceci Maher, Representative Tammy Exum & Claudio Gualtieri, Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary, OPM

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# TCB's Mission Statement

## Mission Statement:

The TCB Committee exists to strengthen and align Connecticut's system of care through **legislative recommendations and strategic reforms aimed at improving access to high quality services and promoting children's behavioral health and well-being through a sustainable continuum of care.**

As a bridgebuilder, TCB will engage **system-wide stakeholders, use data to assess gaps and system inefficiencies, identify cross-system alignment, and make recommendations that address and overcome the root obstacles in order to promote the well-being and resilience of all children and families.**

We define success as achieving a behavioral health system that is accessible to all children and provides appropriate, affordable, high-quality behavioral health services at the right time and place to ensure the most positive outcomes so that Connecticut's children can thrive well into the future.

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# Purpose:

The Transforming Children’s Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee (“TCB”) was established in 2023 by Public Act 23-90 and mandated to evaluate the availability and effectiveness of prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for children's behavioral health, substance use disorders, and general well-being of children aged from birth to eighteen. Through targeted recommendations to the General Assembly and executive agencies, the TCB may propose necessary actions to improve:

- ❖ **(1) developmental and behavioral health outcomes for children, (2) facilitate transparency and accountability across state agencies, community-based organizations, and institutional providers, and (3) promote policies to advance data sharing and reporting between state agencies and state-funded programs.**

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## The law further directs the committee to assess and identify:

1. Statutory and Budgetary changes to improve the children's behavioral health system.
2. **Service Delivery Gaps and other missed opportunities to advance the State's ability to offer families a set of streamlined, accessible, and responsive solutions.**
3. Strengths and Barriers that either support or hinder children's behavioral health care.
4. School-Based Behavioral Health Efforts that collaboratively support efforts to improve behavioral health outcomes for children.
5. Disproportionate Behavioral Health Access and Outcomes for children of color and those in underserved communities such as rural parts of the state.
6. **Disproportionate access and outcomes across the behavioral health care system for children with developmental and intellectual disabilities.**
7. Quality Assurance framework(s) **to maintain timely data analytics to improve both private and publicly operated behavioral health services, facilities, and programs capacity to streamline and centralize processes and operations with accountability and agility.**
8. Governance Structure to align state public policy and healthcare goals to ensure that all children and families, in urban, rural, and all other areas of the state, can access high-quality behavioral health care regardless of their ability to pay.
9. Sustainable Workforce Needs to support the evolving behavioral health needs of children. While the enacting legislation sets out a comprehensive agenda, the TCB builds on the substantial progress made by statewide children's behavioral health initiatives over the years.

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# TCB Administrative Updates

# Workgroup Upcoming Meeting Dates/Focus Areas

Workgroup:	Meeting Date:	Focus Area:
<b>System Infrastructure</b>	March 17th, 2026 3:00 – 4:30 PM (ZOOM)  *tentative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The System Infrastructure workgroup has developed a plan to work in two subgroups; the System of Care Subgroup, and the Data Infrastructure Workgroup.</li> <li>In April, the Systems of Care Subgroup will meet in person at the Carelon offices to begin developing a project plan to further look into state examples of SOC, and further evaluate what Connecticut has in place. The goal of this subgroup will be to host informative workshops, and present their findings to the TCB in the summer of 2026. There will be an initial planning meeting with DCF to discuss their TA partnership with the Innovations Institute, at the UConn School of Social Work through either their CONNECT grant or the Annie E Casey Family grant.</li> </ul>
<b>Services</b>	<i>To be scheduled once updates within the subgroups can be brought forth to the larger workgroup.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Services workgroup will re-convene when there are updates from the subgroup to be presented at the larger workgroup.</li> </ul>
<b>School Based</b>	April 6th, 2026 3:00-4:00PM (ZOOM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The workgroup met this past Monday, where we split into two breakout rooms to have a working meeting. One of the breakout rooms focused on the School Medicaid Billing effort – identified in HB 5001. The second breakout room focused on the Comprehensive Mental Health Infographic</li> </ul>
<b>Prevention</b>	March 19th, 2025 3:00 – 4:30 PM (ZOOM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Prevention workgroup will be having a presentation from the <i>Community of Concern</i>, and will be having a working session to map out goals identified within the workplan and individuals needed to complete the efforts listed in the medium-term goals.</li> </ul>

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# Upcoming Events and Information

- In Collaboration with the Commission on Women, Seniors, Children, Equity and Opportunity , A Disordered Eating Public Forum will be held on **March 25th from 10:00AM-12:00PM** in room 1D of the LOB. The forum will consist of panel discussions from subject matter experts, and individuals with lived experience.
- Updated TCB Orientation Manuals as well as the Draft 2026 Annual Agenda have been updated in the OneDrive folder.
- Please be on the lookout for Legislative Updates from TYJI – The TCB bill is set to have a public hearing tentatively scheduled for March 12th. Please stay tuned for more information

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# Congregate Care Overview

Dr. Naomi Libby, Chief Medical Officer, The Children's Center of Hamden

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# Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFS) Level-Set

Dr. Steven M. Kant, Chief Medical Officer, Boys and Girls Village

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# CT BHP Data Reporting -Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs)

Carrie Bourdon, LCSW, Chief Executive Officer, CT BHP Division at Carelon Behavioral Health CT  
Jackie Cook, LPC, Regional Network Manager, Carelon Behavioral Health CT

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# PRTF Facilities Overview

**Boys and Girls Village:** Dr. Steven M. Kant, Chief Medical Officer, Boys and Girls Village

**The Children's Center of Hamden:** Dr. Naomi Libby, Chief Medical Officer, The Children's Center of Hamden

**Albert J Solnit Children's Center:** Michael Rulnick, MPA, Superintendent, DCF, MUI MUI HIN-MCCORMICK Behavioral Health Clinical Manager, DCF

**The Village:** Laine Taylor, DO and Chief Medical Officer, The Village & Amy Samela, VP Residential Services, The Village

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# Complex Case Workgroup Final Report Findings and Recommendations: PRTFS

Tara Viens, OPM

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# Q&A



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## **Next Meeting:**

**April 1st, 2026**

**2:00 – 4:00 PM**