



Tow Youth  
Justice  
Institute

Making connections. Informing solutions.

---

# Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee

May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026

2:00-4:00 PM

Virtual, ZOOM

---

# 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.

---

# 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 to address and overcome the root obstacles 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.

---

# 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.**

---

# 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

## 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 April Minutes

## Legislative Updates

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

## Administrative Updates

TYJI

## Urgent Crisis Centers (UCCs) and Crisis Continuum Marketing Campaign and Communications Updates

Katie Gallo, MS, Founder/CEO Marketing Director of Daydream Communications, Sara Nelson, MA, Senior Account Director of Daydream Communications  
Amy Casavina Hall, Senior Vice President, Partnerships, Development and Communications, Carin Buckman, Director of Communications for UnitedWay Carin Buckman, Director of Communications for UnitedWay, Jeanette Baker, Marketing Designer, PDC, UnitedWay

## Substance Use Services Array

Kris Robles, LCSW, Behavioral Health Clinical Manager, Department of Children and Families  
Kerri Lloyd, LCSW, Behavioral Health Program Manager, Department of Children and Families  
Amy Rodriguez, LCSW, Behavioral Health Program Manager, Substance Use Treatment and Recover, DCF

## Q&A / Discussion

TCB Members

## Suicide Prevention Presentation

Stephanie Bozak, PsyD, Behavioral Health Clinical Manager, Department of Children and Families  
Andrea Duarte, MSW, MPH, LCSW, Program Manager, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

---

# TCB Administrative Updates

---

# Legislative Update

The TCB Bill, HB 5447 passed both the House and Senate last week. For more information, please refer here: [AN ACT IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TRANSFORMING CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CONCERNING TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.](#)

---

# Ryan Connick, TCB Senior Project Coordinator



Ryan is the Senior Project Coordinator for the Transforming Children’s Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee (TCB). Originally from North Carolina, she holds a BA in Psychology from UNC Chapel Hill, a MS in Criminal Justice and a Graduate Certificate in Criminal Investigations from the University of New Haven and is currently a Criminal Justice PhD student at the University of New Haven. Before TCB, she worked as the Provost Assistant at the Tow Youth Justice Institute and developed the 2025 Gender Responsive Connecticut Landscape Analysis.

As part of the TCB, she will be working with the Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup, the Prevention Workgroup, the Systems Infrastructure Workgroup and will collaborate on the development of the UCC Private Insurance Review and Crisis Continuum Review Study.

# Workgroup Upcoming Meeting Dates

Workgroup:	Meeting Date:	Focus Areas/Action Steps
System Infrastructure –Systems Of Care Subgroup	June 16th, 2026 3:00 – 4:30 PM (ZOOM)	The Systems of Care subgroup within the April meeting reviewed and gave feedback on a draft policy paper created by one of its co-chairs. At the next meeting, members of the subgroup will present their findings on Connecticut's current structure and have a discussion with the subgroup.
School Based	June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2026 3:00 – 4:30 PM (ZOOM)	This past meeting, the workgroup was split into breakout rooms for School Billing and Special Education. The Special Education subgroup focused on phase 1 project updates, and the School Billing workgroup had an overview of the scope of work for the study. The TYJI has contracted with Solix to lead the school billing effort.
Prevention	May 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 3:00 4:30 PM (ZOOM)	The Prevention workgroup will have a presentation from Jill Farrell from the Innovations Institute, at the UConn School of Social Work on the data findings from the Children's Behavioral Health Provider Survey. The workgroup plans to utilize the findings of the report to inform the three subgroups of the workgroup.
Services	May 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 2:00 – 3:30 PM (ZOOM)	The Services workgroup will have a presentation from Jill Farrell from the Innovations Institute, at the UConn School of Social Work on the data findings from the Children's Behavioral Health Provider Survey. The results will be presented to the larger TCB this summer.

---

# Behavioral Health Advocate Staff Updates



**Angelica Gill**  
**Behavioral Health Program Associate**  
**Angelica.Gill@ct.gov**

Angelica is a licensed Clinical Social Worker with over 7 years of experience within the mental health field, concentrating in disordered eating treatment and outpatient care. Angelica's journey started with providing care at the IOP/PHP level for primarily adult clients, 18+, with eating disorders before transitioning into private practice as both a clinician and supervisor. Angelica is skilled in clinical supervision, client care for individuals ages 13+, practice operations, website management, and insurance and billing coordination.



**Colleen Mastroianni**  
**Assistant Behavioral Health Advocate**  
**Colleen.Mastroianni@ct.gov**

Colleen is an LPC by training and is joining BHA with over 10 years of experience in both the private non-profit and state-operated systems of care. Colleen has worked with The Lifespan in roles such as Program Manager/Director of multiple Community Support Programs, Child First, Child Outpatient, and Inpatient Substance Use Treatment Programs.

---

# Urgent Crisis Centers (UCCs) and Crisis Continuum Marketing Campaign and Communications Update

DayDream Communications: Katie Gallo, MS, Founder/CEO Marketing Director, Sara Nelson, MA, Senior Account Director

UnitedWay: Amy Casavina Hall, Senior Vice President, Partnerships, Development and Communications, Carin Buckman, Director of Communications for UnitedWay Carin Buckman, Director of Communications, Jeanette Baker, Marketing Designer, PDC

---

# Substance Use Services Array

Kris Robles, LCSW, Clinical Behavioral Health Manager for Substance Use and Intimate Partner Violence, Department of Children and Families

Kerri Lloyd, LCSW, Behavioral Health Program Manager for Substance Use Treatment and Recovery, Department of Children and Families

Amy Rodriguez, LCSW, Behavioral Health Program Manager for Substance Use Treatment and Recovery, Department of Children and Families

---

# Q&A

---

# Suicide Prevention

Stephanie Bozak, PsyD, Behavioral Health Clinical  
Manager, Department of Children and Families

Andrea Duarte, MSW, MPH, LCSW, Program Manager,  
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

---

# Q&A



Tow Youth  
Justice  
Institute

Making connections. Informing solutions.

---

## Next Meeting:

June 10th, 2026\*

2:00 – 3:30 PM

***This will be a virtual meeting***