

January 2020

CONNECTing
Children and Families to Care

Your place for **CONNECTing** news and updates

Watch Now



Watch the video to learn more about Connecting Children and Families to Care.

plan4children.org

Our state is working with families, providers and communities to build a statewide network of care so children and families can access the care they need, when they need it. Learn more about our vision, current work and the Children's Behavioral Health Plan.

Diverting Youth from Arrest



School-Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI)

The Connecticut School-Based Diversion Initiative (SBDI) works to reduce juvenile justice involvement among youth with mental health needs.

SBDI works with local middle and high schools to:

- Provide training to help school personnel identify children with behavioral health needs
- Build connections between schools and effective community-based mental health services, as an alternative to arrest, suspension and/or expulsion
- Revise schools' policies and practices to increase capacity for responding to the mental health needs of all students

Find out more and download the toolkit on the **Child Health and Development Institute, Inc.** website or click the Visit CHDI button to the left.

Visit CHDI

Connecting to Care Website



En Español

Connecting Connecticut Families to the Help They Need

CONNECTing Children and Families to Care is about blending and integrating all child-serving systems into a network of care which will equally and effectively serve all children and families.

Find a Collaborative

WrapCT

Connecting to Care

Connecting to Care and WrapCT are launching a new enhanced website. The enhancements make it easier to locate community collaboratives, to find information about wraparound care coordination and trainings, and to help families get the care they need. Visit the new website at www.connectingtocarect.org or click on the button below.

Visit Connecting to Care

Basic Needs



Northcentral Network of Care

The North Central Network of Care (NCNC) held a Basic Needs Resource Fair on 12/11/19 at Community Renewal Team (CRT) in Hartford. Although it was a snowy morning, approximately 200 families and community providers participated. Community providers shared information about services and basic needs assistance including: housing, cash assistance, child care, legal assistance and medical & behavioral health services. The event was sponsored by Aetna, Charm Medical, CHR, CT Legal Rights Project, CONNECTing Children & Families to Care, East Hartford Youth Services, Hartford LIST, Hartford Yard Goats, Interval House and Special Education CT.



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When it
builds up,
talk it out.

TALK IT OUT LINE
1-833-258-5011

For parents and caregivers who need
someone to listen, to understand and
to talk your feelings out.

Sponsored by the State of Connecticut



The State of Connecticut has launched the **Talk it Out Line 1-833-258-5011**, to help parents and caregivers cope with the stress and increased needs resulting from caring for their children during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[View Public Service Announcement](#)



CHDI Resource List for Parents, Pediatric Providers and the Public

[General Resources](#)

[For Parents and Pediatric Providers](#)

The Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) has compiled **COVID-19 information and resources** for their partners and the public, as well as information to help **pediatric providers** support families during this crisis. The lists are updated as new information becomes available. Click the links to the left to find out more.

STEP Learning Healthcare Network to offer virtual consultation on early psychosis

Over the next three months, the program for **Specialized Treatment Early in Psychosis (STEP)** will host Zoom based consultation for clinicians of all disciplines who wish to present or participate in case discussions of individuals with new onset psychotic disorders/first episode psychosis (FEP). STEP has >10 years of experience caring for youth and young adults with new onset schizophrenia spectrum disorders within a multi-disciplinary team. Faculty include representatives from psychiatry, psychology, nursing and social work to provide a safe, informal environment for frontline clinicians to discuss challenges in caring for individuals and families who are confronting a recent onset psychotic illness. Specific workflow adjustments in the context of COVID-related restrictions on in-person visits and the use of tele-health approaches will also be encouraged.

The STEP Learning Healthcare Network aims to increase the capacity, expertise, and coordination of Connecticut based providers in the delivery of care to young people experiencing early psychosis. We plan to provide these virtual case based consultations over the next three months, as we gather interest and learn the needs of providers in Connecticut already serving or interested in working with those with FEP.

Link to the [STEP Website](#) by clicking on [Find Out More](#)
If interested in participating in the Zoom based discussions and/or learning about future opportunities to engage in the STEP Learning Healthcare Network click on [Register Here](#)
(Time and dates to be determined)

[Register Here](#)[Find Out More](#)

Please direct any questions to: *Laura Yoviene Sykes, PhD*
- *STEP Learning Healthcare Network Director, at*
Laura.Yoviene@yale.edu

Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources for School Communities.

The Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence has hosted a number of thoughtful webinars to support schools and school districts through the changing times brought about by Covid-19. To view their growing number of webinars, visit their website through the link below.

[Click to view Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence Webinars](#)

- [Managing Anxiety Around COVID-19: Tips for You & Your School Community](#)
- [Ideas for Practice & Play with Emotional Intelligence](#)
- [The "Big 7" – Evidence-based Strategies for Regulating Emotions In Uncertain Times](#)
- [Managing Emotions Through Self-Care & Building Resilience](#)
- [CASEL CARES: Strategies for Being Your Best Possible 'SEL'f with Dr. Marc Brackett](#)

10 Tips for Video Conferencing



Moving into a virtual world of meetings and conference calls has been a new experience for many of us. Here are some tips and reminders for the new virtual world in which we find ourselves.

1. Be on time.
2. Test your equipment, including audio and visual.
3. Frame the camera correctly.
4. Have the right light and background.
5. Look into the camera and pay attention.
6. Mute yourself when not speaking.
7. Speak in a normal voice and tone without rushing.
8. Find out how questions and feedback will be addressed.
9. Stay on track with the topic/agenda items.
10. Be gentle with yourself and others.

We are all in this together !



**Watch the video to learn more
about Connecting to Care.**

[Watch Now](#)

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Sent by julie.calabro@beaconhealthoptions.com

July 2020



Your place for
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Responding to Covid-19: Planning for Trauma-Informed Assessment in Schools - a Report by the UConn Collaboratory on School and Child Health

When children are exposed to a traumatic event such as COVID-19, their individual interpretation and reaction is determined by the interactions among their history of trauma exposure, environmental factors, and personal factors. For some, the impact of the pandemic may be minimal whereas it will be substantial for others. In school, reactions to COVID-19 may manifest itself in many different ways across academic, social, emotional, behavioral, and physical domains, and will vary based on developmental stage.

[Read the full UConn Collaboratory report](#)

[List of additional school mental health related resources](#)



[View full news release](#)

Trauma ScreenTIME to Improve Trauma Screening Across Child-Serving Systems

The Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) launched a five year initiative to improve child trauma screening across child-serving systems in Connecticut and nationwide. The initiative, **Trauma ScreenTIME** (Screen, Triage, Inform, Mitigate, Engage), will develop online staff training for child-serving professionals to improve early identification and support of children suffering from traumatic stress and connection to evidence-based treatment.

CONNECT Steering Team update



The CONNECT Steering Team met in both May and June to begin working on expansion and sustainability efforts of CONNECTing to Care. Members of the CONNECT Steering Team serve as statewide System of Care leadership and assist in supporting the development, implementation, and enhancement of policy and practice at local, regional, and statewide levels.

[Check out meeting notes and committee updates](#)

July is Minority Health Awareness Month!

The statewide CONNECT initiative seeks to achieve racial justice across all child- and family-serving systems. In order to achieve this goal, all services that children and families receive must be racially just and culturally and linguistically appropriate. As part of this effort, the statewide Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) workgroup and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) Racial Justice workgroup have dedicated significant time and effort to identifying and disseminating strategies to help child-serving organizations increase their organizational capacity in these areas. Their vision is to implement effective, racially just, culturally responsive, and linguistically appropriate services for populations they serve facing health disparities.



[Check out the full statement and contact info for free technical assistance](#)

[Free training for Behavioral Health Professionals](#)

[Is zip code more important than genetic code?](#)

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

The Children's Behavioral Health Advisory Committee (CBHAC) meets on the first Friday of the month, from 10am-12pm. The next meeting is September 9, 2020.

The mission of CBHAC is to promote and enhance the provision of behavioral health services for all children in the State of Connecticut. Appointed members and community guests attend the monthly meeting to address these needs of the state. This committee must submit an annual report that provides recommendations concerning behavioral health service delivery.

CBHAC is open to the public. If you are interested in attending or receiving email communications from the CBHAC, please contact your regional [Network of Care Manager](#) or [Family Systems Manager](#).

Thank you!

If you are receiving this Connecting to Care Newsletter because you Joined Our Mission – thank you! If you have not yet Joined Our Mission, please consider doing it now:

[Join Our Mission](#)



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