



CONNECTing

Transforming Children's Services in Connecticut

ISSUE: JAN 2018

- ◆ CONNECTing video
- ◆ Team Updates
- ◆ Santa's Visit
- ◆ Clothing Drive
- ◆ Community Corner

WHAT IS CONNECT?

The Connecticut Network of Care Transformation (CONNECT) is a statewide initiative to create a partnership among families, state agencies, and service providers at the local, regional and state levels to develop a "No Wrong Door" approach to the delivery of children's services within Connecticut.

CONNECTing Families to Care

Beacon Health Options worked on developing a video to share the vision of integrated care for the children and families of Connecticut. The video briefly describes how the Children's Behavioral Health Plan was developed, the plan's key components and how it interrelates to Connecticut's Network of Care Transformation. You can view the video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCuODPzo15E> or view it on the Connecticut Network of Care Transformation Facebook page. Enjoy it, like it and share, share, share it.

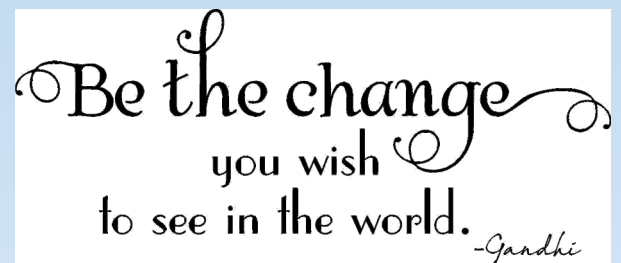


CONNECT Statewide Transformation Team Updates

CONNECT Teams: Family Engagement Action Team, Cultural and Linguistic Competency Development Team, Communication & Social Marketing, Network Analysis, Data Integration, and Workforce Development.

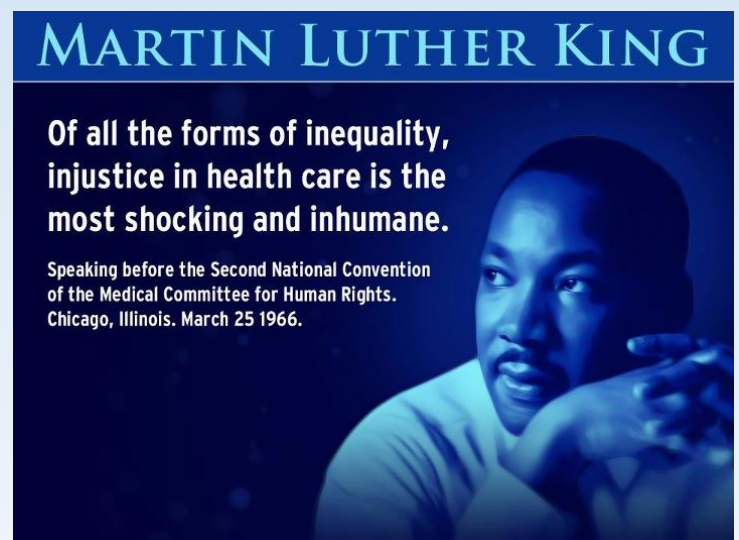
Family Engagement Action Team (FEAT)

Family Engagement Action Teams (FEAT) are coordinated individuals and groups of parents, caregivers and youth dedicated to children's behavioral health system transformation. The goal of FEAT is to strengthen parent, caregiver and youth voice and to develop partnerships with local, regional and state decision-makers. FEAT members are referred to as Network of Care CHAMPIONS and are supported by the FAVOR Family System Managers, a CONNECT Family Engagement Coordinator, a CONNECT Youth Engagement Specialist and Beacon Health Options. To become a FEAT member contact Daisy Olivo, CONNECT Family Engagement Coordinator at 860-837-1436 or by email: dolivo@Favor-ct.org.



Cultural and Linguistic Competency Development Team

The Cultural and Linguistic Competency Development Team is currently working with a number of organizations from a third cohort of agencies who plan to implement the Enhanced Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards. The team is currently scheduling regional meetings to develop tailored Health Equity Plans for each agency, based on the goals and objectives that each agency identified in their self-assessments. If your organization is interested in participating in our ongoing regional meetings, please contact jillian.taylor@beaconhealthoptions.com.

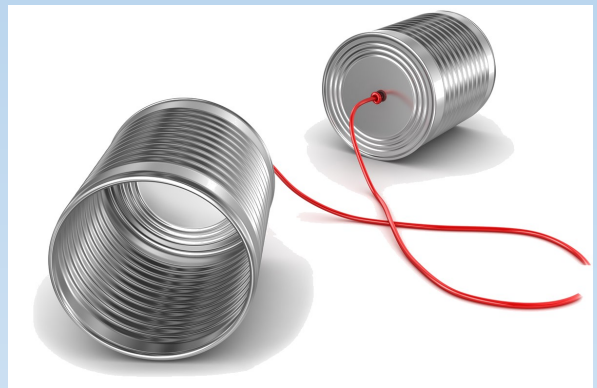


CONNECT Statewide Transformation Teams

Communication and Social Marketing Team

The Communication and Social Marketing Team has been working on submitting entries for the 2018 Excellence in Community Communications and Outreach (ECCO) awards. This recognition program showcases and celebrates outstanding achievements in social marketing and communications by system of care grantees. It provides an opportunity to share successes and to learn from the talents, strengths, and accomplishments of other systems of care around the country.

*Every good communicator starts
with listening.*



Network Analysis Team

The reports from all four stakeholder groups (behavioral health providers, pediatric primary care providers, families and youth, and schools) have been finalized and distributed, but the work is not done! The Network Analysis workgroup has a busy six months ahead. Currently, a third round of community conversations is underway. The community conversations seek input from families and youth involved in the behavioral health system in CT. The conversations will occur from January to March of 2018. For more information, or to set up a conversation in your area contact your FAVOR, Inc. Family System Manager.

Starting in February, the second round of regional collaboration surveys will begin. Anonymous web-based survey links will be sent to designated behavioral health providers in every region. Results from this round of collaboration surveys will be compared to those obtained in 2016 in order to look at change overtime. For additional information about the behavioral health collaboration surveys, please contact your regional Beacon Health Options Network of Care Manager. If you are interested in joining the Network Analysis workgroup, you may contact Lisa Palazzo at lisa.palazzo@beaconhealthoptions.com.

CONNECT Statewide Transformation Teams

Data Integration Team

The Data Integration Team leaders hit the road again over the past few months, meeting with providers and family champions in Waterbury, Hebron, New Haven, and Branford. Attendees learned about the CT Data Collaborative, updates to the CT Open Data Portal, and the ongoing efforts to increase transparency through data. Trainings continue to occur through the CT Data Collaborative with multiple Data Basics trainings planned over the next few months. To register for a training, visit <http://ctdata.org/academy/events/>. CONNECT data dashboards have also undergone enhancements that will go live soon. For more information on the CT Data Collaborative, visit their website at <http://connect.ctdata.org/>.

Workforce Development Team

The Workforce Development Team continues to work on expanding the number of families and providers trained in network of care development and system transformation. If you are a provider and would like a training about the wraparound model of care, contact your regional certified wrap trainer or search upcoming trainings on www.wrapct.org. If you are a youth or family member interested in system change, contact FAVOR, Inc. at (860) 563-3232 or email your request to <http://www.favor-ct.org/contact-us/>. The Workforce Development Team is also working in collaboration with FAVOR, Inc. to develop a sustainable family training and leadership development series through the H.O.P.E. Learning Collaborative. For an introduction to the HOPE Learning Collaborative, see page 7 of this issue or visit their website at <http://www.favor-ct.org/programs-services/hope-learning-collaborative/>.



Santa's Visit to FAVOR, Inc.



**Santa came
to town.**

On a snowy December morning, I left the elves in charge of the toy making and made a trip to Wethersfield, CT to visit some very special boys and girls at the statewide advocacy organization. The FAVOR staff was very helpful on this visit by serving as honorary elves and reindeer. The 18 boys and girls who I visited on this date had been good all year and were given toys to recognize their great behavior. FAVOR partnered with Toys for Tots to make sure each child was given a toy from his/her Christmas list. One child could not believe he received a toy that was on his un-mailed letter to Santa. After receiving his toy, he exclaimed, "How did he know?" Well, Santa always knows!

I have also gone through some sensory training to better interact with all the children I see. This skill made it a great visit for both the children and parents. Crafts and other activities were set up in the office if children needed time to warm up to me. But as I expected, children who were initially afraid to meet me, ended up having so much fun, they did not want to leave the office!

Some of the little ones were still trying to figure out if I was the "real" Santa. One child pulled my beard to make sure it was real. It is! Another asked if I had eaten the cookies she left for me on Christmas Eve. I ate all of the cookies and even washed the plate.

A special thank you to our family leader, Erin Dodge and her assistant, Melissa Smey. Erin is a wonderful photographer who donated her time to take pictures of all the children and their families with Santa so that they could remember this special day. Parents were so appreciative of this opportunity. One parent said "I have tried taking them to see Santa before but the environment was just too much for them. Thank you for giving us this opportunity. You let my children finally meet Santa."

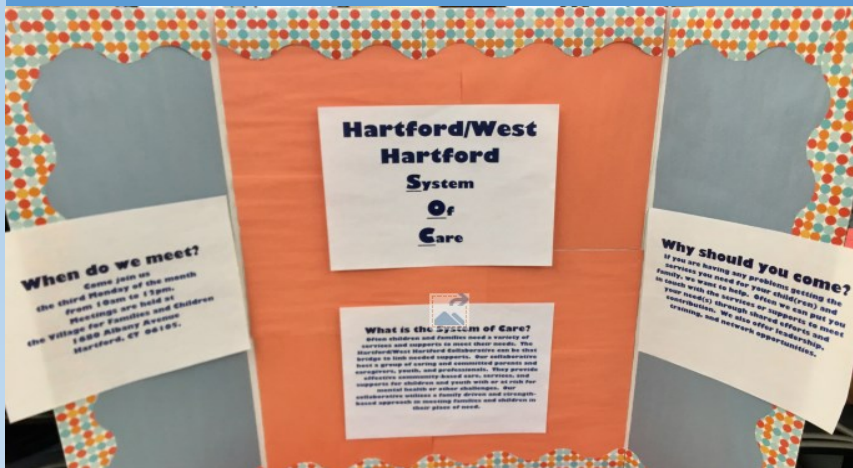
It was an honor to meet all these families. See you next December!



The Reindeers (standing left to right): Jo Hawke, Patricia Gaylord, Denetra McBride, Nydia Dominguez and Daisy Olivo. Seated: Lorna Grivois.



Hartford/West Hartford System of Care



Manny Maldonado



In the spirit of giving, the Hartford/West Hartford System of Care community collaborative held their first Clothing Drive and Resource Fair on December 18th at the Village for Families and Children. The event was a hit with 80 people in attendance. The focus was on winter jackets and clothing but shoes and books were also available for families. Resource tables offered information about behavioral health and other needed resources. A delicious pot luck meal was provided and it was perfect for building relationships and sharing. The System of Care community collaborative mission is “to empower and mobilize parents and caregivers, neighborhoods and youth to develop a culturally-competent children’s behavioral health system in partnership with schools, state and local agencies.” They meet the third Monday of every month from 10am-12pm at the Village for Families and Children on 1680 Albany Ave. in Hartford. You can contact the tri-chairs at hartford.whtfdsoccollaborative@yahoo.com for additional information.

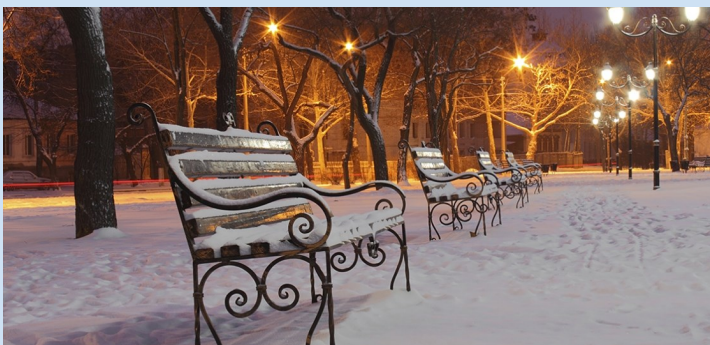
Community Corner



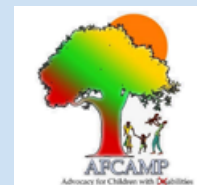
Honoring Opportunities for Personal Enrichment (H.O.P.E. Learning Collaborative)

FAVOR, Inc. helps to support, educate, and advocate for families with children who have special mental, emotional, and behavioral health challenges and/or developmental and intellectual disabilities. FAVOR, Inc. has developed the “Honoring Opportunities for Personal Enrichment” (H.O.P.E.) Learning Collaborative to provide the infrastructure to guide and mentor family champions who are interested in developing their leadership and peer support skills. For more information about the HOPE Learning Collaborative, please visit their website at <http://www.favor-ct.org/programs-services/hope-learning-collaborative/> or contact Nicole Quiles at nquiles@favor-ct.org.

“All parents and guardians of children with mental and behavioral health challenges need HOPE.”



Enjoy the silence of a new snowfall.





CONNECTING

Transforming Children's Services in Connecticut

ISSUE: MAY 2018

- ◆ Youth Mental Health First Aid
- ◆ 31 Days of Wellness
- ◆ Team Updates
- ◆ NAMI Walk

The New Haven Register featured a front page article of Senator Richard Blumenthal's visit to the Hill Regional Career High School. The Senator was there to view the school's pilot program which incorporates Youth Mental Health First Aid training for students. Susan Graham facilitated the training for 17 students in the school's health and science track. According to the article, Senator Blumenthal learned about Career High School's Youth Mental Health First Aid training when he visited the school on the day of the National School Walkout in March.

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NEW HAVEN REGISTER

News Sports Business Entertainment Lifestyle Blogs Obituaries

Blumenthal visits Career High School to observe mental health first aid program

By Brian Zahn Updated 11:40 pm, Friday, April 13, 2018



Photo: Arnold Gold / Hearst Connecticut Media

IMAGE 1 OF 3

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, center, listens to DeAsia Ramos, seated center left, and other students during a Mental Health First Aid Training class at Hill Regional Career High School in New Haven Friday.

Senator Blumenthal was quoted saying, "It's a tribute to New Haven's school system and its administrators that they have seized upon this program." For the full article, visit <https://www.nhregister.com/news/article/Blumenthal-visits-Career-High-School-to-observe-12832676>.

CONNECT Statewide Transformation Team Updates

CONNECT Teams: Family Engagement Action Team, Cultural and Linguistic Competency Development Team, Communication & Social Marketing, Network Analysis, Data Integration, and Workforce Development.

Communication and Social Marketing Team

The Communication and Social Marketing Team has been working on awareness raising activities for May in recognition of Mental Health Awareness Month. This year the team introduced the “**Thirty-One Days of Wellness**” challenge. Each day of the wellness calendar offered a challenge to promote personal growth and wellness. Examples include planting a flower, decluttering your desk, and going for a walk in nature. Join us on our Facebook page, Connecticut Network of Care Transformation to view posts and information on wellness.

We can all move one step closer to wellness each day.



31 Days of Wellness

In honor of Mental Health Awareness Month- May 2018

		5/1 Day 1: Go to bed early	5/2 Day 2: Incorporate a new vegetable or healthy food item into a meal	5/3 Day 3: Forgive yourself for something or forgive another person	5/4 Day 4: Stay hydrated with a reusable bottle	5/5 Day 5: Do a good deed for someone
5/6 Day 6: Plant a flower or vegetable	5/7 Day 7: Partake in Meatless Monday	5/8 Day 8: Play your favorite song and dance	5/9 Day 9: Try a new activity	5/10 Day 10: Give yourself 5 compliments	5/11 Day 11: Journal 10 things you're grateful for	5/12 Day 12: Take a walk outdoors
5/13 Day 13: Call someone you love	5/14 Day 14: De-clutter your desk or room	5/15 Day 15: Take a social media break	5/16 Day 16: Make a list of short term goals	5/17 Day 17: Pick up trash near your office, home or school	5/18 Day 18: Slow down. Sit & watch the sunset	5/19 Day 19: Attend the NAMI walk at Southbury Southbury Field in East Hartford, CT
5/20 Day 20: Get rid of 5 things you never use	5/21 Day 21: Get some sun. Eat lunch outside	5/22 Day 22: Send an encouraging text or note to 5 people	5/23 Day 23: Plan a date with a friend	5/24 Day 24: Go the entire day without complaining	5/25 Day 25: Do one thing you've been putting off	5/26 Day 26: Make time for a wholesome breakfast
5/27 Day 27: Visit your local library and pick a book to read	5/28 Day 28: Sign a Letter of Agreement for CONNECT	5/29 Day 29: Write encouraging words on a rock and leave it for someone to find	5/30 Day 30: Make an uplifting music playlist	5/31 Day 31: Do 5 minutes of meditation		

Follow us on Facebook under Connecticut Network of Care Transformation - @CT.CONNECT.champions



CONNECTing
Children and Families to Care



CONNECT Statewide Transformation Team Updates

Family Engagement Action Team (FEAT)

Family Engagement Action Teams (FEAT) are coordinated individuals and groups of parents, caregivers and youth dedicated to children's behavioral health system transformation. The goal of FEAT is to strengthen parent, caregiver and youth voice and to develop partnerships with local, regional and state decision-makers. One FEAT team is currently working on turning an empty plot of land into a meditation garden in their neighborhood. Another group of families is working on improving services in their area. If you are a family member or know families who are interested in coming together for their community, contact your regional FAVOR, Inc. Family Systems Manager at (860) 563-3232.



Data Integration Team

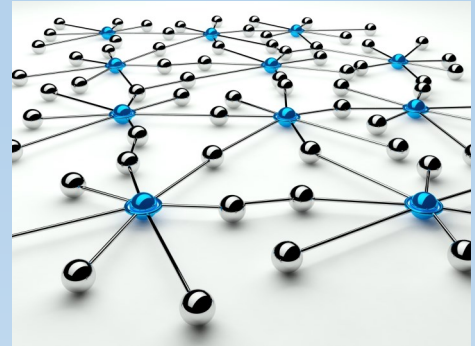
The Data Integration Team has continued to focus on gathering state agency data that informs individuals of available services in their communities. Additional exploration of CT's 211 website and other resources is underway. The CT Data Collaborative launched an enhanced behavioral health data dashboard in February (<http://connect.ctdata.org/>). Trainings continue to be available through the CT Data Collaborative and a variety of data resources and upcoming trainings can be found at <http://ctdata.org/academy/>.



CONNECT Statewide Transformation Team Updates

Network Analysis Team

The Network Analysis workgroup had a busy quarter between launching behavioral health collaboration surveys and facilitating community conversations. Between January and April, FAVOR, Inc. Family Systems Managers facilitated 32 conversations around the state, including eight conversations with youth and four conversations in Spanish.



The participants were asked to provide feedback about the children's behavioral health system in Connecticut. The FAVOR team will compile and analyze the data and create a report, which will be used to provide input to the children's behavioral health plan. In addition, the second round of regional behavioral health provider collaboration surveys have been completed in each of the six regions. Beacon Health Options Network of Care managers sent anonymous web-based survey links to designated behavioral health providers in every region. The team from Yale will analyze this data and compare the results from this administration to those conducted in 2016. For additional information or if you are interested in joining the Network Analysis workgroup, please contact Lisa Palazzo at lisa.palazzo@beaconhealthoptions.com. The individual reports can be accessed at the links listed below.

Network of Care Introduction and Methods

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/connect-ctdata/reports/Updated2017+NOC+Overview-pdf.pdf>

Collaboration Survey - Overall Summary and All Reports

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/connect-ctdata/reports/collaboration+survey+Overall+Summary+and+All+Reports.pdf>

2017 Community Conversations Report

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/connect-ctdata/reports/2017+Community+Conversations+Summary+FINAL+9+27+2017.pdf>

Assessment of the System of Mental Health Care for Children: a Focus on Pediatric Primary Care

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/connect-ctdata/reports/CCMC AAP+Final+Report+10 24 17.pdf>

System Support Mapping and Schools Pilot Project

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/connect-ctdata/reports/Brief+Report+SSM.pdf>

CONNECT Statewide Transformation Teams

Cultural and Linguistic Competency Development Team

The National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care (The National CLAS Standards) aim to improve health care quality and advance health equity by establishing a framework for organizations to serve the nation's increasingly diverse communities (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health). The CLAS team is currently working with its third cohort of providers to implement the CLAS Standards within their organizations.



Workforce Development Team

The Workforce Development Team continues to offer trainings to youth, families and providers throughout the state on topics related to system of care development, wraparound and increasing youth and family/caregiver voice in all aspects of the planning and delivery of their own care and services. The Team created a catalogue of the available trainings through WrapCT and FAVOR, Inc. which is included in this issue. If you are a provider and would like a training about the wraparound model of care, contact your regional certified wrap trainer or search upcoming trainings on www.wrapct.org. If you are a youth or family member interested in system change, contact FAVOR, Inc. at (860) 563-3232 or email your request to <http://www.favor-ct.org/contact-us/>.



The Family Voice

Participants are taken on a journey through the real-life experience of a family member's experience with the children's behavioral health system encouraging participants to approach their new position through a family-friendly lens.

How to Be Your Child's Best Advocate

Focus is on educational advocacy, including what to do when your child is struggling in school, the PPT process, laws parents need to know, effective communication and collaboration skills, how to work with school professionals when disagreements occur, and resources for parents with children who have behavioral health challenges.

Network of Care Agents of Transformation Training

Workshop helps family members develop the skills necessary to become Network of Care Champions. Topics include: increase your knowledge of System of Care values and principles, enhance your knowledge of Connecticut's Network of Care Transformation Initiative –CONNECT, develop skills to bring family voice to local, regional and state decision-making tables, develop and strengthen the Family Engagement Action Team network and improve family engagement in policy and practice.

Telling Your Story, Teaching the Community

This training teaches parents how to tell their personal story of navigating through the children's behavioral health system. Parents are advised that this journey can be very emotional as it will bring up difficult situations and issues involving their children. Parents have to be in the right space and time to complete this training and will be supported by regional Family System Managers (FSMs).

Support Group Facilitation Training

This training addresses the need to nurture, empower, and educate families of children with mental health, behavioral or emotional challenges who are current facilitators or are interested in facilitating support groups. Participants will learn the following skills: listening awareness, communication skills, stages of human emotional response, strategies for handling challenging and difficult behaviors, facilitator skills and strategies, what makes a good support group, support group member responsibilities, support group facilitator.

Persuasive Storytelling

This workshop focuses on the use of personal stories, one of the most effective tools for children's behavioral health advocates. Personal stories are especially powerful when communicating with system partners, provider agencies, media and other families and youth. During this session, participants learn and practice skills for telling their personal story. Participants are taught how to create their Single Overriding Communication Objective (SOCO). A SOCO is the reason a presentation or speech is done. Participants learn that if they stay true to their SOCO, there will be no doubt in the audience's mind about what they stand for and what message they are trying to convey. This training is highly interactive.

Data 101

This workshop provides families with the tools necessary to feel confident reading and working with data. Participants will learn what data is, how to read data and how to collect data. The workshop explores the differences between quantitative and qualitative data and shows how data is involved in our everyday lives. The mean, median, mode and frequency are discussed and taught through examples. Most importantly, this workshop provides participants with knowledge of how to use data to make informed decisions.



Wraparound is a philosophy of care with a defined planning process used to build constructive relationships and support networks among children and youth with emotional or behavioral challenges and their families. It is community based, culturally relevant, individualized, strength-based, and family-centered. Wraparound plans are comprehensive and address multiple life domains across home, school, and community. These trainings offer the philosophy and practical skills needed for Wraparound.

Utilizing the Wraparound Planning Process: An Introduction and Orientation

Introduction to Wraparound Practice Model and how to implement child and family teams.

Crisis Safety Planning

How to write and carry out effective crisis safety plans using the Wraparound Process.

Building Child and Family Team Facilitation Skills

Build skills in running a well-organized and efficient team meeting and learn how to get the right people to the table.

Building Child and Family Teams Using Natural & Informal Supports

How to engage families and others in developing well balanced child and family teams.

Engaging Families

Methods to enhance participants' ability to engage families in a meaningful way.

Strength-Based Documentation, Telling the New Story

Writing assessments, plans of care, legal documents, and progress notes using the Wraparound Process.

Conflict Resolution

Methods to assist facilitators in preventing and managing conflict on a child and family team and in team meetings.

Planning and Managing Transitions

How to do transition planning utilizing the four phases of Wraparound, moving teams away from formal system involvement to community support.

From Goals and Objectives to Needs and Benchmarks

Develop skill in writing clear, concise needs statements individualized to each family's plan of care and identify measurable, meaningful benchmarks to measure progress towards meeting their needs.

Supervising and Coaching Using the Child and Family Team Wraparound Process

Teaching the necessary skills for supervising anyone responsible for implementing the Wraparound Process.

To schedule a training, contact your local WrapCT Care Coordination agency.

Stepping Towards Hope and Wellness



NAMI Walk

The National Alliance on Mental Illness hosted their 15th Annual walk on the Saturday, May 19th at Rentschler Field in East Hartford. Although the day was rainy, these Beacon Health Options staff brought nothing but sunshine to the event. The event included activities, exhibit tables, music and more.



Pictured above: Beacon Health Options NAMI Walkers.



Pictured left: Lisa Palazzo, Ann Petitti and Jillian Skoczylas representing CONNECTing Children and Families to Care.





July 2018

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Transforming Children's Services in Connecticut

ISSUE: JULY 2018

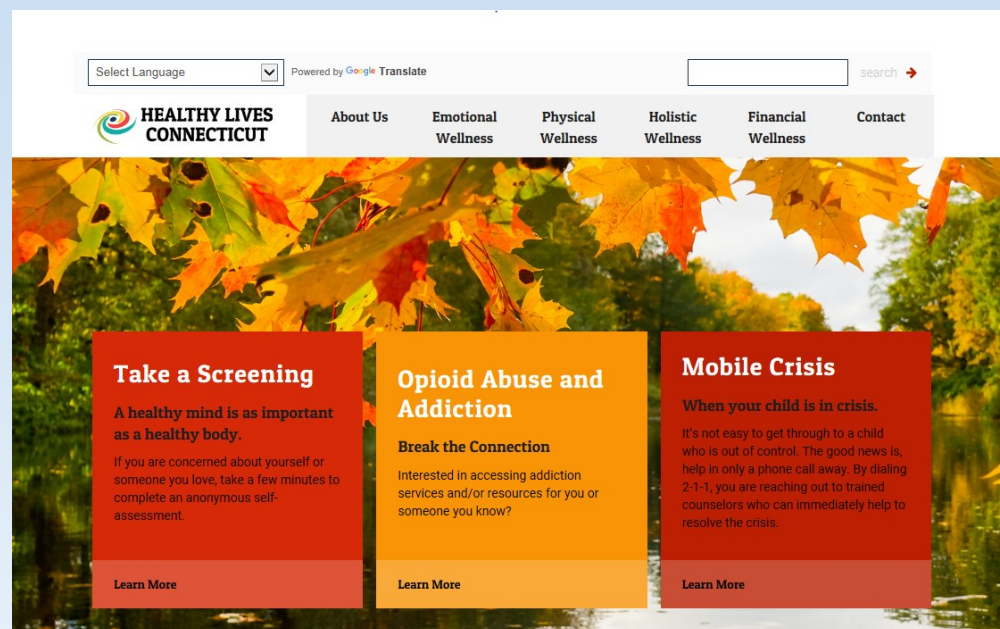
- ♦ HealthyLivesCT.org
- ♦ Team Updates
- ♦ Family Champions Connection
- ♦ Community Corner

This website is the product of a statewide collaborative effort which includes the following partners: Beacon Health Options, Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority (CHEFA), Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI), CT Department of Children and Families, CT Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the University of New Haven and United Way of Connecticut/2-1-1.

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Introducing Healthy Lives Connecticut



Connecticut is committed to the health and wellness of its citizens. The Healthy Lives Connecticut website provides information and tools for maintaining or regaining wellness in the areas of emotional wellness, physical wellness, holistic wellness, financial wellness, and recovery from addiction issues. The site also includes self- screening tools for mental health and addictions which are anonymous and confidential. Visit the website at www.healthy livesct.org.



HEALTHY LIVES CONNECTICUT

TAKE A SCREENING

A healthy mind is as important as a healthy body.

Are you worried about yourself or someone you love? Take a few minutes to fill out an anonymous self-assessment.

HELP WITH ADDICTION

Addiction and Recovery

Interested in addiction recovery information or resources for you or someone you know?

MOBILE CRISIS

When your child is in crisis.

It's not easy to get through to a child who is out of control. The good news is help is only a phone call away.

Wellness is more than being free from illness. The things we do and the emotions we feel all relate to our overall wellness. Our actions and emotions also affect our wellbeing. It's important to make healthy choices for both your physical and mental wellbeing. Making healthy choices will help lower stress, prevent illness and improve interactions with others. Healthy Lives CT gives Connecticut residents resources to support and promote overall wellness.

FEATURES

- **Take A Screening** - Find out if you or someone you care about should talk with a mental health professional.
- **Community Resources** - Links to programs and services
- **Calendar** - List of health topics to help you focus on wellness.
- **Blog** - Articles, tips, and trends
- **Social Media** - Twitter and Tumblr feed for each area of wellness.

WELLNESS AREAS

Emotional Wellness



Physical Wellness



Holistic Wellness



Financial Wellness



www.healthylivesct.org

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CONNECT Teams: Family Engagement Action Team, Cultural and Linguistic Competency Development Team, Communication & Social Marketing, Network Analysis, Data Integration, and Workforce Development.

Cultural and Linguistic Competency Development Team

The *Enhanced National Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards* aim to improve the quality of health-related services and advance health equity by establishing a framework for organizations to serve the nation's increasingly diverse communities (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health).

To date, the CONNECT CLAS Leadership Team assisted 39 agencies in developing implementing and evaluating health equity plans.

We are pleased to announce Summer Programming:

Regional CLAS Learning Communities for agencies with a health equity plan.

The first meeting is being held **August 13th** at **The Children Center of Hamden.**

Accelerated CLAS Health Equity Planning

August 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Location: The Alliance: The Voice for Community Non-profits

35 Cold Spring Rd. Building 500, 2nd floor, Suite 525 Rocky Hill, CT 06067

Orientation to the Enhance National CLAS Standards - Looking for host sites

Theme 1: Governance & Leadership

Theme 2: Language Services

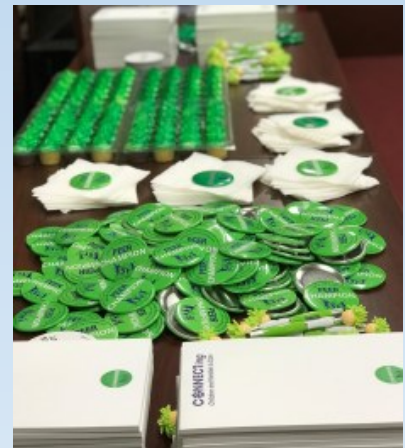
Theme 3: Community Engagement and Continuous Quality Improvement

If you are interested in hosting a training and/or would like additional, information please contact Lisa Palazzo at Beacon Health Options, lisa.palazzo@beaconhealthoptions.com.

CONNECT Statewide Transformation Teams

Communication and Social Marketing Team

The Communication and Social Marketing Team has submitted entries for the 2018 Excellence in Community Communications and Outreach (ECCO) awards. The entries are currently being reviewed and evaluated. This recognition program showcases and celebrates outstanding achievements in social marketing and communications by system of care grantees. It is an opportunity to share successes and to learn from the talents, strengths, and accomplishments of other systems of care around the country. Wish us luck with our entries. The team also hosted the Mental Health Awareness Day live broadcast from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Administration Service on May 10th. The event was well-attended, educational and fun.



Network Analysis Team

The Yale Evaluation Team is busy finalizing the reports from the 2nd round of behavioral health collaboration survey results for each region. In late June, the Eastern Region received their report and additional presentations are currently being planned for the remaining regions. Be on the lookout for a presentation in your region over the summer and early fall.

We are also looking forward to reporting the results from the third round of community conversations. The team from FAVOR has just finished coding the data, the data analysis will be completed by mid-August with the final report coming at the end of the summer.

For additional information or if you are interested in joining the Network Analysis workgroup, please contact Lisa Palazzo at lisa.palazzo@beaconhealthoptions.com.

CONNECT Statewide Transformation Teams

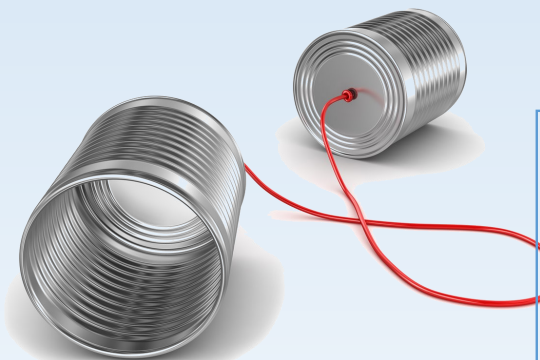
Data Integration Team

The Data Integration workgroup continues to focus on increasing transparency and availability of state agency data. Recent legislation passed concerning executive branch agency data management and processes. For more information on this bill, please visit

www.cga.ct.gov/2018/act/pa/pdf/2018PA-00175-R00HB-05517-PA.pdf. The CT Data Collaborative has also made updates to their website <http://ctdata.org> and upcoming trainings continue to be posted at <http://ctdata.org/academy/>.

Workforce Development Team

The Workforce Development Team introduced a new way for families interested in system change to come together, to learn from one another and to strengthen the collective voice of families across Connecticut. The FAMILY CHAMPIONS CONNECTION is a statewide virtual learning community. Facilitated learning calls provide information and training, networking with other family champions and strengthening family partnerships. Calls are held twice a week. Monday evening “IMPACT” calls are from 8:00-9:00 p.m. and Thursday “POWER HOUR” calls are at 12:00-1:00 p.m. Family Champions can simply call in to share, partner and learn. See the flyer attached to this issue and please share it interested families you may know. For more information contact: Susan Graham, 860-309-4322 or by email at familychampionsct@yahoo.com.



Simply dial **(515) 604-9860**
and enter **109669#** to join the call
Mondays 8:00-9:00p.m.
Thursdays 12:00-1:00p.m.

FAMILY CHAMPIONS CONNECTION

HOPE Academy Learning Community

HONORING OPPORTUNITIES for PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

The **FAMILY CHAMPIONS CONNECTION** is a statewide virtual learning community. Let's come together to learn from one another and strengthen the collective voice of families across the State.

A Family CHAMPION:

- wants to help bring about **system change**
- wants **children and families** to be better served
- has **personal experience** with child serving systems

If this describes **YOU – JOIN US** – calls are open to **EVERYONE**

Monday Evening IMPACT: 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

or

Thursday POWER HOUR: 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Registration not required – Just CALL in - let's learn together and get connected

Facilitated learning calls provide:

- Information & Training
- Networking with other FAMILY CHAMPIONS
- Strengthening Family Partnerships Technical Assistance

How it works:

Dial **(515) 604-9860** & enter **109669#** to join the call

Join a weekly call to share, partner and learn.

Let's "Be the CHANGE" we want to see in Connecticut

For more information contact: Susan Graham

860-309-4322 or at familychampionsct@yahoo.com

Community Corner

CONNECTING CARING COMMUNITIES

Come connect with community based organizations that support children & families in our region!



This event is co-sponsored by the North Central Network of Care & DCF Region 4 Regional Advisory Council. It will feature a panel discussion by community based providers about how they are supporting families.

When: Wednesday, June 13th 9:30-11:30

**Where: West Hartford Town Hall Conference Center
50 South Main St West Hartford
Refreshments will be provided**

Parking validation is available. Go through the main entrance & take the elevator to the 3rd floor. Take 2 lefts off the elevator and the door to the conference center is on the right. RSVP is not required but please let Lisa Palazzo know by June 1st if you need translation services at 860-707-1149 or lisa.palazzo@beaconhealthoptions.com.

Connecting Caring Communities, co-sponsored by the NCNC (North Central Network of Care) and the DCF Region 4 RAC, was held on June 13th in West Hartford, CT. In an effort to increase collaboration and share information and resources, this event featured a panel discussion by community-based providers that support children and families in the North Central region. Almost 90 people of various disciplines (behavioral health, juvenile justice, education, law enforcement, medical, faith based and caregivers and community members) attended to hear from the panelists and network with each other all in an effort to better serve children and families.

The panel included representation from Breaking the Cycle, Brothers Creating Opportunities, Compass Youth Collaborative, Ebony Horsewomen, Inc., Girls Empower Hour, Latin Enrichment Organization (L.E.O), and Young Educated Determined to Succeed, Inc. (Y.E.D.S). Panelists spoke passionately about their programs and the supports they offer to children and families. Which is everything from dance and drill teams, equine & animal therapy, cycling programs for teens with substance use disorders, leadership and mentoring programs, entrepreneur programs, support groups, and behavioral health counseling. Participants asked about barriers and program needs and one thing was clear; more funding and volunteers are needed. If you are interested in learning more or volunteering you can contact lisa.palazzo@beaconhealthoptions.com.

Community Corner

What is the NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program?

NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 12-session education program for family, partners, friends and significant others of adults living with mental illness. The course is designed to help all family members understand and support their loved one living with mental illness, while maintaining their own well-being. The course includes information on illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression and other mental health conditions. Thousands of families describe the program as life-changing. The program is taught by trained teachers who are also family members and know what it is like to have a loved one living with mental illness.




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Family-to-Family FALL Classes 2018

F2F – STAMFORD Date: Begins, Monday, September 10th, 2018 Time: 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Location: St. John's Lutheran Church 884 Newfield Ave. Stamford, CT 06905 Contact & Registration: <u>Marietta</u> at (203) 329-8633 or <u>Bob C.</u> at 203-849-9573	F2F – FAIRFIELD Date: Begins, Monday, September 17th, 2018 Time: 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Location: First Church Congregational 148 Beach Road, Fairfield, CT 06824. Contact & Registration: namiFairfield@gmail.com
F2F – HAMDEN Start Date: Tuesday, September 11th, 2018 Time: 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Location: Unitarian Society of New Haven (Library) 700 Hartford Turnpike, Hamden, CT 06517 Contact & Registration: <u>Marc</u> at 203-234-0629	F2F – BLOOMFIELD Date: Begins, Tuesday, September 18th, 2018 ***Classes are going to be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays*** Time: 6:30 – 9:00 PM (Both days) Location: The First Congregational Church 10 Wintonbury AV. Bloomfield, CT 06002 Contact & Registration: <u>Lisa</u> at 860-670-7935
F2F – MANCHESTER Start Date: Wednesday, September 12th, 2018 Time: 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Location: Center Congregational Church 11 Center St, Manchester, CT 06040 Contact & Registration: <u>Roberta</u> at 860-690-1034	F2F – NORWICH Date: Begins, Thursday, September 20th, 2018 Time: 6:30 – 9:00 PM Location: Southeastern Mental Health Authority - Community Conference Room 401 West Thames Street, Norwich, CT 06360 Contact & Registration: <u>Kathy</u> at 860-691-8355 or <u>Dottie</u> at 508-757-5348
F2F – RIDGEFIELD Start Date: Monday, September 17th, 2018 Time: 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Location: First Congregational Church 103 Main Street, Ridgefield, CT 06877 Contact & Registration: <u>Marc</u> at (203)-203-940-2516 or marcrabinowitz@gmail.com	F2F – GUILFORD Date: Begins, Wednesday, September 26th, 2018 Time: 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. Location: Nathanael B Greene Community Center, 32 Church St, Guilford, CT 06437 Contact & Registration: <u>Susan</u> at 860-575-9593 or susanschuster@yahoo.com

Contact us to register for these NAMI Family-to-Family classes!
 & don't forget to visit www.namict.org under Educational Programs



Enjoy your
Summer :)





CONNECTing

Transforming Children's Services in Connecticut

ISSUE: OCT. 2018

- ◆ Plan4Children.org
- ◆ Healthy from Day 1
- ◆ SHAPE
- ◆ iCAN
- ◆ Workgroup Updates
- ◆ Community Corner

WHAT IS CONNECT?

The Connecticut Network of Care Transformation (CONNECT) is a statewide initiative to create a partnership among families, state agencies, and service providers at the local, regional and state levels to develop an integrated approach to the delivery of children's services within Connecticut.



We are pleased to announce that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has approved CONNECTing Children and Families to Care for a no-cost grant extension for the Oct 1, 2018 – Sept 30, 2019 contract year.



Plan4Children.org Website Relaunch

Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) helped the State of Connecticut relaunch the www.Plan4Children.org website with a new look and updated content. The website was originally created in 2014 as part of the development of Connecticut's Behavioral Health Plan for Children.



The relaunched website provides progress reports, as well as information on current activities to improve and integrate children's behavioral health services, systems, and supports into a network of care. A draft of the 2018 progress report on the implementation of Connecticut's Behavioral Health Plan for Children is now available on the website.

Healthy From Day One



Promoting Family Wellness

Health goes beyond visits to the doctor. While these visits are important for preventing and treating health conditions and diseases, they do not offer a full picture of health and wellness. It is important to focus on wellness within everyday life.

The Healthy From Day One public awareness campaign identifies the four pillars of family wellness as physical wellbeing, emotional wellbeing, relational health and access to community supports and resources. Shaped by a focus group consisting of parents and family members from New Haven, the language used was careful to reflect both the values and concerns of our families. The final product is universal in its application regardless of where you live in the state. Healthy From Day One is a messaging campaign from families for families.

For parents desiring to celebrate their children's developmental milestones or to track and determine the development needs of their child, Healthy From Day has also teamed up with Office of Early Childhood, Department of Public Health, Help Me Grow and Child Development Infoline to promote free statewide developmental screening services, tools and materials.

Ages and Stages : <https://cdi.211ct.org/program/ages-and-stages/>

Act Early, Know the Signs: <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/milestones-app.html>

To find out more go to the Healthy From Day One website at: [cdi@211ct.org/healthyfromdayone](https://cdi.211ct.org/healthyfromdayone). All materials can be ordered, free of charge, by all family champions and community providers. Materials are available in both English and Spanish. Funding was provided by Elm City Project LAUNCH (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs In Children's Health) through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA).

SHAPE your School Mental Health System!



What is The School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation (SHAPE) System?

www.theSHAPESystem.com

The School Health Assessment and Performance Evaluation (SHAPE) System is a free, interactive system designed to improve school mental health accountability, excellence, and sustainability. The SHAPE System is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau effort to expand and improve the quality of comprehensive school mental health systems in the United States.



♦ Custom Reports

Self-assess your school mental health system's quality and sustainability based on national standardized performance measures just for school mental health. Each time your team works together to submit information on SHAPE, you will have access to free, customized reports reflecting your school's or district's data.



♦ Strategic Team Planning

Invite any school-based, community or school employed team members to your SHAPE account, where you can work as a coordinated, collaborative team to assess, document and action plan around the quality and sustainability of your school mental health services and supports.



♦ Free Resources

With a SHAPE account, you and your team members have access to a comprehensive repository with up-to-date, public access resources hand selected by a team of school mental health experts.



♦ Be Counted in the National School Mental Health Census

By engaging with The SHAPE System, your school or district mental health system will become part of the national school mental health movement toward quality and sustainability.



iCAN Conference 2018

Too many Connecticut families cycle in and out of the mental health and addiction systems while trying to access the proper services and programs to gain behavioral health wellness and self-sufficiency. Connecticut has an array of behavioral health and recovery programs and services, but the challenge is that our state's systems and providers who service CT HUSKY residents are either unaware of the programs and services available or they just do not share the information with each other.

The Consumer and Family Advisory Council (CFAC) of the CT Behavioral Health Partnership (CT BHP) hosted the 4th annual iCAN conference. The goal of this year's conference was to encourage individuals, parents, youth, family members, agencies and providers to stand up, step out, and take action in true partnership for system change. They strive to ensure Connecticut communities are aware of behavioral health programs, services and resources available throughout the state and through the CT BHP as we help people live their lives to the fullest potential!



iCAN Conference 2018



who
CAN?

Fourth Annual iCAN Conference

"Stand Up and Step Out!"

Take action in true partnership for system change.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2018

iCAN
CONFERENCE



CONNECT Statewide Transformation Team Updates

CONNECT Teams: Family Engagement Action Team, Cultural and Linguistic Competency Development Team, Communication & Social Marketing, Network Analysis, Data Integration, and Workforce Development.

Cultural and Linguistic Competency Development Team

In July 2018, members from the CLAS workgroup presented a three-hour informational session titled, “Beyond the Basics of Health Equity: Implementing the National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services” at The Institute for Innovation and Implementation Conference in Washington DC. They also exhibited a poster presentation, which was well received and obtained feedback about the great work going on in Connecticut.

Back in CT, the CLAS team held two accelerated “crash courses” for individuals and organizations interested in learning more about facilitating health equity planning and utilizing CLAS standards. In addition, regional Learning Communities were held in each of the six DCF regions. Learning communities are comprised of agencies that completed health equity plans and want further support and assistance, or those that are interested in learning more and participating in a sharing, supportive environment. Learning communities continue to meet quarterly in each region; please contact Lisa Palazzo if you would like to join one in your area.

A toolkit is currently being finalized which will provide assistance and information on how to utilize CLAS standards and develop Health Equity plans. More information to come.

Finally, in response to current immigration practices, a paper, entitled, “Supporting Immigrant Children and Families Following Traumatic Separations”, is being drafted to provide awareness, information, and resources for CT families. More to come on this important topic!

If you are interested in additional information please contact Lisa Palazzo at Beacon Health Options at lisa.palazzo@beaconhealthoptions.com.

CONNECT Statewide Transformation Team Updates

Data Integration Team

The Data Integration workgroup will continue efforts around data literacy through the efforts of CT Data Collaborative, as the formal workgroup involving state agencies will no longer meet. The CT Data Collaborative created regional “Data Stories” and recently presented this information in each of the six DCF regions. These stories provide information related to the individuals who reside in the region, including data on health outcomes, education, poverty, age, etc. “Data Stories” can be found at <http://ctregions.ctdata.org/>.



Network Analysis Team

Over the summer, the Yale Evaluation Team presented findings from the second round of Behavioral Health Network of Care Collaboration surveys in each of the six DCF regions. The reports will be utilized to help support network development and improvement activities in the regions. If you have not received a copy of the report and are interested in learning more, please contact your Beacon Health Options Network of Care Manager.

We are also looking forward to reporting the results from the third round of community conversations. The team from FAVOR is finalizing the report and the findings will be presented in the fall.



CONNECT Statewide Transformation Teams

Workforce Development Team

The Workforce Development Team introduced a new way for families to come together for system change, to learn from one another, and to strengthen the collective voice of families across Connecticut. The FAMILY CHAMPIONS CONNECTION is a statewide virtual learning community. Facilitated learning calls provide information and training, networking with other family champions and strengthening family partnerships. Calls are held twice a week. Monday evening “IMPACT” calls are from 8:00-9:00 p.m. and Thursday “POWER HOUR” calls are at 12:00-1:00 p.m. Family Champions can simply call in to share, partner, and learn.

Dial **(515) 604-9860**
and enter **109669#** to join the call
Mondays 8:00-9:00 p.m.
Thursdays 12:00-1:00 p.m.

Communication and Social Marketing Team

Congratulations to the Communication and Social Marketing Team for their winning entries in the 2018 Excellence in Community Communications and Outreach (ECCO) awards. A list of all the winning entries across the nation can be found at: <https://www.samhsa.gov/children/ecco-recognition-program>. Check out the award details on the next page and congratulations to the winners!



SAMHSA ECCO Recognition Awards for 2018



CONNECTING Families to Care is pleased to announce that we received a silver recognition award and two honorable mentions from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for Excellence in Community Communications and Outreach (ECCO) for 2018. The ECCO awards are given each year to showcase and celebrate the outstanding achievements of grantees in raising awareness about the importance of children's mental health.



Category: Strategy – Social Marketing/ Communications Planning

Beacon Health Options received a Silver award for the "CONNECTing Families to Care" animated video which can be viewed on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCuODPzo15E>.

Category: Audience – Professionals

FAVOR, Inc. received honorable mention for the Family-Led Trainings they provide for staff at the Department of Children and Families.

Family-Led Training at Connecticut's Department of Children and Families



Category: Audience – Parents and Caregivers

Beacon Health Options received honorable mention for the CONNECTing quarterly newsletter.

Community Corner

The United Way of Connecticut/211 has added a feature to their website. Website visitors can now create their own account and build list of the resources in their area.



My Resource List

[< Back](#)



Dia de Cultura Hispana

Únase a nosotros para celebrar el día cultural hispano con nuestros campeones de las familias en CT.

Viernes, 16 de Noviembre del 2018

10am -1pm

Location: FAVOR Inc, 185 Silas Dean Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109

Confirmación para asistir a este evento es necesario:
Maria Feliciano, 860-706-4454 o por correo electrónico: mfeliciano@favor-ct.org
y por favor incluir que comida compartiras.

FAVOR, Inc. is hosting Hispanic Cultural Day. Family Champions will come together to learn about different Hispanic cultures, serve cultural foods and celebrate the Hispanic culture. Join them in this celebration by registering for the event. Contact Maria Feliciano by phone at 860-706-4454 or email mfeliciano@favor-ct.org to RSVP.

Hispanic Cultural Day
Friday, November 16, 2018
10 a.m. –1:00 p.m.
185 Silas Dean Highway
Wethersfield, CT 06109



"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower."

- Albert Camus

