



CONNECTING

Transforming Children’s Services in Connecticut

ISSUE JANUARY 2017

- ◆ CONNECT
- ◆ Conference
- ◆ Transformation Team Updates
- ◆ Family Champions
- ◆ “I Wonder Why”
- ◆ 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.



National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health

The National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health held its 27th Annual Conference in November. The Federation is a national family-run organization that links more than 120 chapters and state organizations that focus on the issues of children and youth with mental health needs. They emphasize family voice in the formation of national policy, services and supports for children with mental health needs and their families. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.ffcmh.org/>.

Distinguished members from our CONNECT team presented information about Connecticut’s system of care development. Denetra McBride and Manuel Maldonado from FAVOR, Inc. presented on, “Network of Care - Agents of Transformation.” Taylor Ford from FAVOR, Inc. and Ann Petitti from Beacon Health Options presented on “Engaging youth and families through social media efforts and lessons learned.” Of the experience, Taylor Ford said, “ It felt like the beginning of healing for both the youth and families who attended.”



Ann Petitti and Taylor Ford (left to right) presenting at the National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health.

CONNECT Statewide Transformation Team Updates

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

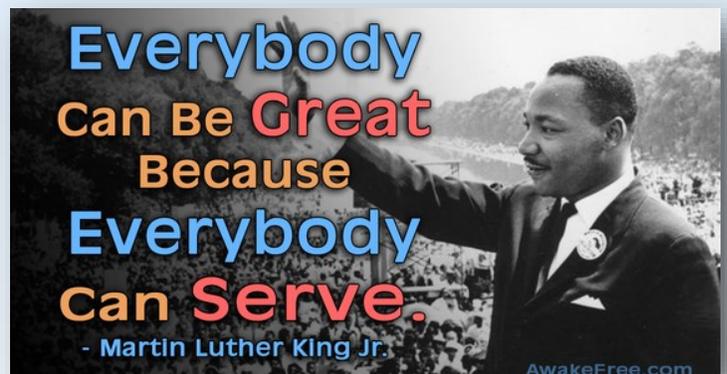
Family Engagement Action Team (FEAT)

“Community Conversation” Forums are being held to gather input and feedback from families and youth on the status of Connecticut’s child-serving systems. From October through December, 19 Community Conversations have been held throughout the state collecting information from 257 family members and 44 youth. Conversations will continue through the end of January. If you know of a group of families who would like to be involved, contact your regional Family Systems Manager (FSM) at FAVOR, Inc. at 860-563-3232.



Cultural and Linguistic Competency Development Team

The Cultural and Linguistic Development Team is currently working with a number of organizations from the second cohort of agencies to implement the Enhanced Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards. The team is also actively recruiting for a third cohort. What better way to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. in January or observe Black History Month in February than by getting involved in this process of change. Link to <https://www.thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/content/clas.asp> for more information on the CLAS national standards and see how you can get involved.



CONNECT Statewide Transformation Teams

CLAY SHIRKY, AUTHOR

**“When we change
the way we
communicate,
we change society.”**

Communication and Social Marketing

The Communication and Social Marketing team is working on updating their social marketing plan for the coming year. The team has been collaborating with IMPACCT and CTStrong, both of whom are valuable partners for change.

Many new marketing materials will be circulated this year. The team plans further enhancements to the wrapct.org website. Visit our Facebook page to keep up with CONNECT events and updates! If you are interested in guiding social change, the team meets the fourth Monday of every month in the Community Room at the New Britain Public Library at 11:30 a.m.



Like us on
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/CT.CONNECT.champions/?fref=ts> .



Network Analysis Team

The Statewide Network Analysis team met in November to plan their activities for 2017. In support of Connecticut’s goal to conduct an analysis of the statewide Network of Care, four cohorts are now involved in the network analysis project. The four cohorts are behavioral health programs, pediatric primary care practices, schools, and family champions. The behavioral health collaboration survey has been completed with more than 400 participants invited to contribute to the survey. The results are currently being prepared for presentation in each region. The primary care survey continued in December with the results forthcoming and the school survey will commence shortly. If you are interested in joining the Network Analysis team, please email allyson.nadeau@beaconhealthoptions.com or call (860) 707-1008.

CONNECT Statewide Transformation Teams

Data Integration Team

The Statewide Data Integration team met in November to plan for 2017. Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management (OPM) provided updates on Connecticut's Data Work plan. Details of their plan can be found at <https://data.ct.gov/dataset/Community-Health-Child-Welfare-Data-Integration-PI/j786-tjm6/data>. Data Integration team representatives participated in the CT Data Conference, "Counting What Matters: Better Data for Better Policy" in December. The statewide team plans to meet bi-monthly in 2017 and will hold regional data meetings on the alternate months. The team will continue to identify data needs and improve statewide data-sharing. If you are interested in joining this group or are interested in hosting a regional data discussion in your area, please email allyson.nadeau@beaconhealthoptions.com or call (860) 707-1008.



Workforce Development Team

The Workforce Development Team focuses on ensuring that families and youth are full partners in all aspects of the planning and delivery of their own care and have opportunities to share their knowledge and expertise in the development of family-driven, youth guided and culturally/linguistically system of care for all children in Connecticut. Plans for 2017 include providing continued education and support to families through Network of Care - Agents of Transformation (NOC AOT), Persuasive Story-telling and Data 101 trainings. The team is also working on expanding the curriculum, enhancing the training materials, and further developing the family trainer network. If you are interested in attending or hosting a training, contact FAVOR, Inc. at 860-563-3232.



Family Champion Spotlight

The Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) organization dates back to the 1960s. HOSA's mission is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development among students interested in entering the health care professions. Mental health care is now being incorporated into the HOSA's mission. Our own CONNECT Youth Engagement Specialist, Taylor Ford, has been collaborating with the HOSA's East Haven Chapter to help develop their mental health focus. Chapter youth were trained and certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid. Students then hosted a mental health awareness week in January at their high school. Activities included a presentation for



80-90 high school faculty and a CONNECT resource table with information on suicide prevention and mental health awareness ribbons.

We STAND United hosted a second annual Teen Poetry competition in the State of Connecticut, at the Mattatuck Museum in Waterbury on November 19th. The purpose of the event was to help youth between ages 9-21 to “think critically, be original, creative, and to give imaginative writers a voice to express and empower themselves.” Teen poet Jacob Adorno won the competition with a moving poem, entitled, “I Wonder Why” honoring his brother Julian who battles with the disorder of autism. Jacob reminds us to see the strength, heroism, and abilities in his brother Julian; so that we too “can see the aspiring hero behind the mask and without the cape.” Congratulations to Jacob and the whole Adorno family. We thank you for sharing this inspiring work.



Jacob Adorno, winner of the 2nd Annual We STAND United Teen Poetry competition.

“I Wonder Why” by Jacob Adorno

(In honor of my brother Julian Adorno who is diagnosed with Autism)



Sometimes it's as simple as asking why
Like why is it that their mental state has to decline
Why can't we define when they're crossing the line
Why can't I be a psychic and start reading minds
Why can't we find time to enlighten them with shine
Why can't we tell they're upset if they refuse crying
Declining an outline where they break, torn between two sides
One's to confide and the other's to lie and bide
They are prohibited and limited with no malicious intent
Unable to emote or feel anything with mental consent
Nobody's at fault and no culprit was found
But now we're approaching closely to surround the sound
Pound social tendencies that hold ties that remember me
And if I do recall, I tried to wipe away those memories
Not to defend myself, but to reflect what they throw back
To push that far enough to make an impactful attack
Birthing an autistic child should have no remorse and be regret-less
Just be relentless in spreading a meaningful message
Because without a stage of parenthood, care, or nourishment, what can they do
Which can be dark and sad, but that's why we Light It Up Blue
When every bright outlook looks like it's meant to fade
Then we can start to light it up in many other shades
That's why we gather rallies and piles of supporters
To spread joy in broadcasts made by reporters
Opening doors and possibilities endless in a path full of corridors
And furthermore, we mean no harm straight to the core
Of the meaning, receiving knowledge of the cause
To congratulate the invested with awarding applause
I of course have the respect for those who pursue this profession
To have dealt with different cases in quick succession
And I'm glad by the outcome and hope that everyone who took time
From their busy schedules wondering the perfect pair of words that rhyme
Can pat themselves on the back if they have gone face-to-face
To a severe autism diagnosis or a milder case
And they are people who foolishly believe that it is curse
But, ignoring and shrugging off their abilities can make development worse
They are blessed with a gift and it is potential unwrapped
But, others simply believe that they are severely handicapped
My brother has a mindset of a kid with years behind me
That's why for help he seeks and tries to find me
I don't physically confront him or discipline him at first hand
But, I instead try to back away for him to control the mentality with more terrains than a collision of desolate lands
No matter how bleak it seems, an effort should be made in a form or shape
Where we can see the aspiring hero behind the mask and without the cape

Community Corner

Upcoming Events:

Registration is now open for the 11th Annual Childhood Conversations conference coming up on Saturday, April 1, 2017. Register at www.childhoodconversations.com.



Autism Families Connecticut's mission is to provide recreational and social activities for families affected by autism that promote growth and meaningful social connections. Visit their website www.autismfamiliesct.org for more information on activities and programs.

CHILDHOOD CONVERSATIONS
Empower Parents, Educate Children, Strengthen Families
11th Annual Conference!
Every Child Needs a Champion

Saturday, April 1, 2017
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Hartford Marriott Farmington
15 Farm Springs Road, Farmington, CT

Breakfast, lunch, snacks, free parking, and conference materials will be provided. Over 18 workshop options to choose from and vendor shopping!

Keynote Speaker: *Alice Farrell, JD, LCSW, MSW*

REGISTER NOW!
WWW.CHILDHOODCONVERSATIONS.COM

The Alliance for Shareable's Children • Office of Early Childhood • CT After School Network • CT Early Childhood Alliance • CT Early Success Center Alliance • CT Parent Information and Resource Center • CT Parent Press • Case 102 • The Connecticut Child Welfare Statewide • Fall Child Forum • John Merwin Science Center • The RESOLVE Network • The Village for Families and Children • University of Hartford • William Casper Memorial Fund • Windsor Department of Social Services • Windsor Early Childhood Council • Windsor State Success Center





CONNECTING

Transforming Children’s Services in Connecticut

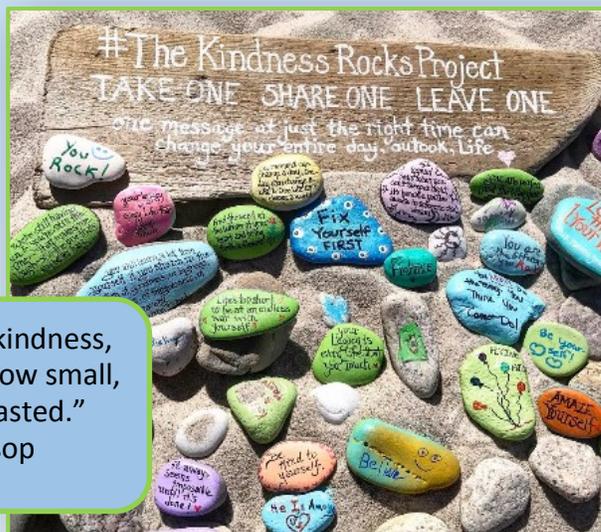
ISSUE: APRIL 2017

- ◆ CONNECT
- ◆ Team Updates
- ◆ FAVOR, Inc.
- ◆ Special Events
- ◆ 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.

Kindness Rocks Project



“No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.”
– Aesop

As part of Mental Health Awareness Month, the CONNECT staff at Beacon Health Options will be hosting a Kindness Rocks Project. The Kindness Rocks Project was started by a Cape Cod resident Megan Murphy, who as a hobby started painting inspiring messages on rocks for others to find. Kindness Rocks Projects have since sprung up around the country and world. The two goals of the Kindness Rocks Project are: Goal #1: Inspire others through randomly placed rocks along the way and Goal #2: Recruit every person who stumbles upon it to join in the pursuit of inspiring others through random acts of kindness. CONNECT staff will provide rocks at some of the Mental Health Awareness events in May for participants to inscribe with inspirational messages. For more information about the project or to start your own project, you can visit the Kindness Rocks Project webpage at:

<http://thekindnessrocksproject.com/>.

CONNECT Statewide Transformation Team Updates

CONNECT Transformation 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)

The Family Leadership Brunch FEAT team in Waterbury has been working on developing a presentation entitled, “Setting and Family-Friendly Table”. The presentation shares information from a family perspective on how to engage families in decision-making roles in the policy and governance of child-serving systems. Upon completion of this project, families will present the information to interested groups within the region. The Family Leadership Brunch participants are also working on hosting the first Network of Care meeting for the region and are currently in the process of locating a venue for the October event.



Cultural and Linguistic Competency Development Team

This team is responsible for developing, planning, and implementing a statewide process for incorporating enhanced Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards within the Network of Care in Connecticut. There have been 24 child-serving agencies that have participated in the CONNECTing with CLAS process to date. The CONNECTing with CLAS process includes Commitment, Assessment, Implementation and ongoing Evaluation of each agency involved. With the technical expertise of Health and Equity, LLC and CONNECT, CONNECTing with CLAS assists agencies with creating and implementing a sustainable Health Equity Work Plan. The CONNECTing team will continue to assist agencies with youth and family recruitment, engagement, and retention for future activities in the upcoming phases.

To learn more about the CLAS Standards visit:

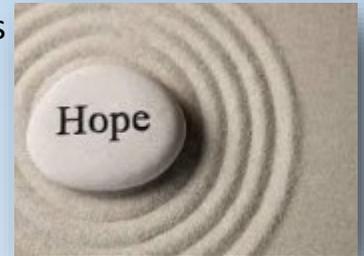
Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health website: www.minorityhealth.hhs.gov.



CONNECT Statewide Transformation Teams

Communication and Social Marketing Team

The CONNECT Social Marketing and Communications team is planning activities throughout the state for Mental Health Awareness Month in May. In addition, May 4th of this year is designated as National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. The theme for the day, "Partnering for Help and Hope", focuses on integrating behavioral health and primary care. Beacon Health Options in Rocky Hill will host a viewing of the SAMHSA webcast starting at 7:00p.m. on that day (dinner will be served). Olympic champions Michael Phelps, the world's most decorated Olympian, and Allison Schmitt, an eight-time Olympic medalist, will serve as Honorary Chairpersons of Awareness Day 2017 and will receive SAMHSA Special Recognition Awards. The National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health has announced their theme for Mental Health Awareness Week which is May 1-7. The theme is "Finding Help, Finding Hope".



Network Analysis Team

The combined Network Analysis team for CONNECT and PA 13-178 has had a busy quarter. Four groups are now involved in the network analysis project: behavioral health programs, pediatric primary care practices, schools, and family/parent champions. The findings from the behavioral health collaboration surveys will be presented to the regions this spring. The primary care survey is also now complete; reports are forthcoming. In addition, several primary care focus groups are being held throughout the state between February and April. The primary care focus groups bring together primary care and behavioral health providers to discuss system needs. Thirty community conversations were held throughout the state between October to February obtaining input from 484 families about what is working well, what is not working well, and suggestions for change. This invaluable feedback is being compiled and a report will be finalized shortly. Finally, several members of the Network Analysis team presented at the 30th Annual Research and Policy Conference; Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health in Tampa, Florida in March. If you are interested in joining the Network Analysis team, please regional Network of Care Manager at Beacon Health Options.

CONNECT Statewide Transformation Teams

Data Integration Team

The Statewide Data Integration team met in January and March. Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management (OPM) provided updates on Connecticut's Data Work plan, as state agencies continue efforts to post data for the public. In February, team representatives presented information at the Bridgeport Local Interagency Service Team (LIST) about the workgroup and regional data. The statewide team will continue to meet bi-monthly in 2017 and will hold regional data meetings on the alternate months. If you are interested in joining this group or are interested in hosting a regional data discussion in your area, please email allyson.nadeau@beaconhealthoptions.com or call (860) 707-1008.

Information doesn't inform until it is shared.

- J. Calabro

Workforce Development Team

The Workforce Development Team focuses on ensuring that families and youth are full partners in all aspects of the planning and delivery of their own care and have opportunities to share their knowledge and expertise in the development of family-driven, youth guided and culturally/linguistically system of care for all children in Connecticut. Network of Care - Agents of Transformation (NOC AOT) and Persuasive Story-telling trainings can be set up by contacting your area Family System Manager at FAVOR,inc., the contact list can be found at: [website http://www.favor-ct.org/contact-us/staff-list/](http://www.favor-ct.org/contact-us/staff-list/). The team is also working on expanding the curriculum, enhancing the training materials, and further developing the family trainer network.

Leadership is not about titles,
positions or flowcharts. It is about
one life influencing another.

John C. Maxwell



CONNECTICUT'S STATEWIDE FAMILY ORGANIZATION TURNS 15

Join FAVOR, Inc. for an evening of fun, festivities, and appreciation in celebration of 15 years of advocating for families with children who have mental and behavioral health challenges and empowering them to advocate for their children and communities. Along the way, we've worked with many champions who have dedicated their passion and

purpose to helping transform the children's behavioral health system by making it more responsive to the family voice. We will honor Tim Marshall from the Department of Children and Families for his dedication. We will also honor six family champions from across the state who have made a difference for families and their children in their communities. Our program includes a keynote speech by Mike Veny, who has transformed his personal struggles with childhood mental health into a crusade against stigma. Come enjoy music from the skillful mixing of melodies by Stevie B, and much more! The event will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Elizabeth Park Pond House located at 1555 Asylum Ave in West Hartford, CT. Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite, <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/passion-purpose-championing-childrens-mental-health-tickets-33023974597?ref=elink>.

*Passion and Purpose:
Transforming Children's Mental Health*

Wednesday, May 31st
6:00 pm—9:00 pm
Pond House Café
Elizabeth Park
1555 Asylum Ave
West Hartford, CT

HONORING
 Tim Marshall
Clinical Manager
 Department of Children and Families
 2017 Policy Maker Champion Honoree
 2017 Family Champion Award Winners

GUEST SPEAKER
Mike Veny
"Celebrating Our Children's Success"

Dinner Reception in Beautiful Elizabeth Park
 Cash Bar
 Award Ceremony

Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite
 Event Code: 33023974597

We look forward to celebrating with you!



Author and advocate, Taylor Nicole

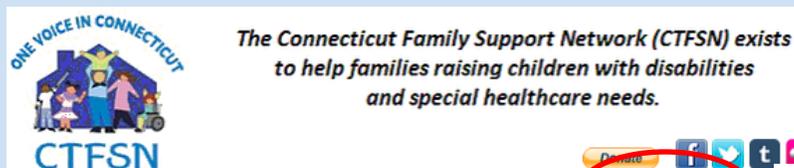
FAVOR Honors: Hope, Resilience, Strength

In celebration of Mental Health and Foster Care Awareness Month, you are invited to join FAVOR, Inc. on Friday, May 5th 6:00-9:00 p.m., for a powerful evening of celebrating young adults. Three young adults who have demonstrated exceptional youth leadership will be honored. You will also meet Taylor Nicole, the author of *Free Tayco*. She and her husband, Brian Jones, will share their individual journeys growing up as children in the foster care system. Some of the topics they discuss are mental illness, substance abuse, bullying, foster care and adoption. Refreshments will be available and a \$10 donation will be accepted. A book signing and sales will take place. To RSVP for this special event, please contact Claudia Ale at cale@favor-ct.org or 860-563-3232 by May 3, 2017.

“I woke up crying, I’m sure. Momma comes racing into my room, and lifts me. She is gentle and kind. She put on a cassette tape, and held me tight. I don’t tell her about the dream; robots are scary enough to a three-year-old, the thought of being alone in the world silenced me. I was too content then; nobody could hurt me in the arms of Momma. She would protect me. I was washed with comfort and warmth. I drifted off with a smile on my face, and my fears gone. That would be the last memory I would make with Momma.”

-An Excerpt From *Free Tayco*, by Taylor Nicole

Community Corner

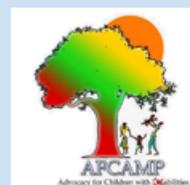


The Connecticut Family Support Network (CTFSN) has wonderful directories of summer camp and recreational activity resources listed on their website. Search under the "Resources" tab and select Recreational/Camps for directories or "Recreational Database" to search by town. Thank you, CTFSN, for making these and many other resources available and accessible. Visit the site at: <http://www.ctfsn.org/>.



Spring has SPRUNG! Enjoy it :)

See the attached Calendar of events for Mental Health Awareness Month sent with this April Issue.





CONNECTING

Transforming Children's Services in Connecticut

ISSUE: JULY 2017

- ◆ CONNECT
- ◆ Team Updates
- ◆ Raising Awareness
- ◆ 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.

Pictured left to right: Beresford Wilson, Derrick Gordon, Cynthia Lisinicchia, Susan Graham, Jo Hawke, Kenneth Harris, Joy Kaufman, Denetra McBride, Carolyn Westerholm, and Jack Tebes.



The Consultation Center Award for Organizational Excellence recognized FAVOR, Inc. and its Executive Director, Jo Hawke, on May 18th for their outstanding contributions and commitment to empowering Connecticut families. Incorporated in 2002, FAVOR was created to respond to the need for leadership and coordination among family advocacy and support groups in Connecticut. FAVOR, Inc. supports, educates, and advocates for families with children who have special mental, emotional, and behavioral health challenges and/or developmental and intellectual disabilities. Congratulations to a wonderful organization.

Building a Network of Care in CT

CONNECTing Children and Families to Care has developed a Letter of Agreement (LOA) to facilitate cooperation and collaboration between stakeholders in Network of Care development for children's behavioral health. The agreement asks supporters to adopt and promote the guiding principles of a Network of Care which include family-driven, youth-guided, community-based and culturally and linguistically competent services. Stakeholders are urged to provide input and active participation in the process of system development. The Letter of Agreement is a commitment to each other that we believe in these principles and will work together towards a system that embodies these values. The Agreement is attached to the email with this newsletter. We welcome your participation. Please join us by signing the attached agreement and emailing it to julie.calabro@beaconhealthoptions.com

**NETWORK OF CARE
LETTER OF AGREEMENT**

This document serves as a letter of agreement between your/our agency and the Connecticut Children's Network of Care recognizing your/our agency's active participation in the process of system development. We welcome your/our agency to participate in committees and activities with which the Network of Care is associated. Members share meeting and event notices, community resources, announcements, and training experiences. Members are given networking opportunities to ensure the delivery of strength-based, family-driven, youth-guided, community-based and **culturally and linguistically competent services**. Members can take advantage of feedback from other providers, parents/youth leaders, the state departments serving children and families, and other child-serving systems in Connecticut. Members receive progress reports on systemic changes impacting and improving children's health. By signing, parties recognize the shared efforts needed to further develop and maintain a responsive system of care for children and families.

Guiding Principles: Strength-Based, Family-Driven, Youth-Guided, Community-Based, Culturally and Linguistically Competent

As a member of the Network of Care, members agree to uphold the guiding principles of Connecticut Children's Network of Care Transformation and to maintain meaningful involvement in network development.

- Endorse and agree to adhere to the guiding principles of the Connecticut Children's Network of Care
- Respect the privacy, confidentiality, dignity, diversity, cultural and linguistic diversity, and rights of all members, families, and guests within the Network of Care.

Additionally, to one or more of the following:

- Participate regularly in at least one committee, collaborative meeting, or child and family team meetings
- Collaborate in the development of a comprehensive system of care
- Collaborate to support youth and families referred to the Network of Care
- Commit available resources to furthering these efforts
- Actively foster family and youth participation in community and treatment processes
- Respond to appropriate opportunities to advocate for children's behavioral health needs
- Our agency has an established quality assurance process

Please note: This agreement is not intended to be contractual and is not binding on any party. This will not serve as the basis for any assertion of liability against any involved parties.

Individual Endorsement
(Print Name) _____

Organizational Endorsement
(Print Name) _____
as an authorized representative for,
(Print Name) _____
(Organization/Agency Name Print) _____

(Signature) _____ (Date) _____

Address: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

**CONNECTing
Children and Families to Care**

Guiding Principles of the Connecticut Network of Care

- ✓ **Ensure availability and access** to a broad, flexible array of effective, community-based care, services and supports for children and their families that address their emotional, social, educational, and physical needs, including traditional and nontraditional services as well as natural and informal supports.
- ✓ **Provide individualized care** in accordance with the unique potentials and needs of each child and family, guided by a strength-based, child and family team approach to care planning process and an individualized Plan of Care developed in true partnership with the child and family.
- ✓ **Ensure that care, services and supports include evidence-informed and promising practices**, as well as interventions supported by practice-based evidence, to ensure the effectiveness of services and improve outcomes for children and their families.
- ✓ **Deliver care, services and supports within the local, realistic, most normative environments** that are clinically appropriate.
- ✓ **Ensure that families, other caregivers, and youth are full partners** in all aspects of the planning and delivery of their own care/services and in the policies and procedures that govern care for all children and youth in their community.
- ✓ **Ensure that care, support and services are integrated at the system level**, with linkages between child-serving agencies and programs across administrative and funding boundaries and mechanisms for system-level management, coordination, and integrated care management.
- ✓ **Provide care management or similar mechanisms at the practice level** to ensure that multiple services are delivered in a coordinated and therapeutic manner and that children and their families can move through the network of care in accordance with their changing needs.
- ✓ **Provide developmentally appropriate mental health care and supports** that promote optimal social-emotional outcomes for young children and their families in their homes and community settings.
- ✓ **Provide developmentally appropriate care and supports to facilitate the benefits of youth** to adulthood and to the adult service system.
- ✓ **Incorporate or link with mental health promotion, prevention, and early identification and intervention** in order to improve long-term outcomes, including mechanisms to identify problems at an earlier stage and mental health promotion and prevention activities directed at all children and adolescents.
- ✓ **Incorporate continuous accountability and quality improvement mechanisms** to track, monitor, and manage the achievement of network of care goals; fidelity to the network of care philosophy and quality, effectiveness, and outcomes at the system level, practice level, and child and family level.
- ✓ **Uphold the rights of children and families** and promote effective advocacy efforts.
- ✓ **Provide care, services and supports without regard to race, religion, national origin, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical disability, socio-economic status, geography, language, immigration status, or other characteristics**, and ensure that services are sensitive and responsive to these differences.

**CONNECTing
Children and Families to Care**

The children and families of Connecticut confer this recognition to
Your Organization

For dedication to and support of Connecticut's Network of Care and commitment to ensuring that services are strength-based, family-driven, youth-guided, and culturally and linguistically competent.

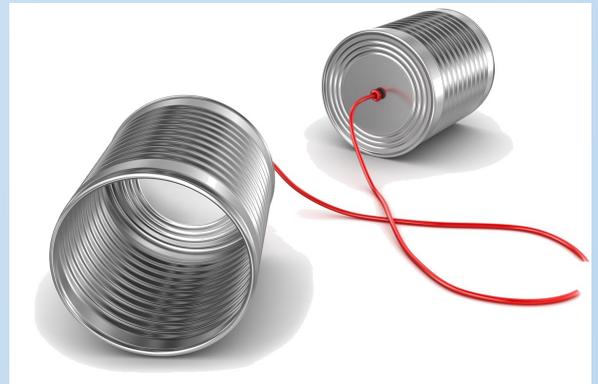
*Imagine it,
Build it.*

CONNECT Statewide Transformation Teams

Communication and Social Marketing Team

The communication and social marketing team did a wonderful job coordinating the 32 mental health awareness events throughout the state in May. Activities included having CONNECT resource tables at a variety of events, holding informational sessions and holding a health fair. Please see the special edition green pages for just a sampling of the events held throughout the month of May.

It's ok to talk about mental health. Share the message and help stamp out stigma.



Network Analysis Team

The Network Analysis workgroup supports the goal of integrating all child serving systems into a Network of Care that equally and effectively serves all children and families. Data was collected from four stakeholder groups to inform this process: behavioral health providers, pediatric primary care providers, families and youth, and schools. Reports from the behavioral health collaboration survey were completed and presentations of the results are occurring throughout each region. Contact your regional Beacon Health Options Network of Care Manager or FAVOR Family Systems Manager for more information. The reports from the pediatric primary care physician survey and focus groups are being finalized and will be released shortly. Input from the community conversations is in the process of being coded and a summary is expected in the fall. Finally, a survey using system support mapping, was disseminated to school professionals and the findings are currently being compiled.

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 Statewide Data Integration co-chairs attended a Community Collaborative in the Central Region to gather information about data needs and share updates from the data workgroup. The goal is to visit the four remaining regions over the next six months. State agencies participating in the data workgroup continue to review and post available datasets and several family champions continue to inform the process. Lastly, half of the regions (South Central, South West, and North Central) have received Data Basics training from the CT Data Collaborative. This workshop is designed to promote data literacy among nonprofit programs and serves as the introductory-level training for the next Data in Depth trainings which will be made available to each region starting in Fall 2017.

Workforce Development Team

The Workforce Development Team focuses on ensuring that families and youth are full partners in all aspects of the planning and delivery of their own care and have opportunities to share their knowledge and expertise in the development of family-driven, youth guided and culturally/linguistically appropriate system of care for all children in Connecticut. The team is working on expanding the curriculum, enhancing the training materials, and further developing the family trainer network. If you are interested in becoming a family champion, contact FAVOR, Inc. at (860) 563-3232 or by email <http://www.favor-ct.org/contact-us/>.



The FAVOR, Inc. Staff

Mental Health Awareness

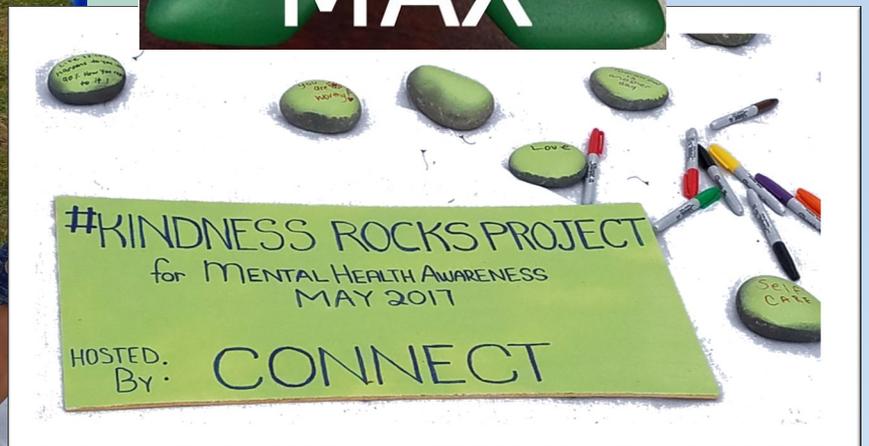


Champions All !!!

Many attended SAMHSA's Mental Health Awareness Live Event on May 4th, kicking off May as Mental Health Awareness Month.



Pictured left: Ann Petitti, Max and Lisa Palazzo doing Zumba at the Mental Health Fair in Berlin, CT .



#KindnessRocksProject: Eighty-eight people around the state inscribed kind messages on rocks as a part of a Mental Health Awareness Rocks Project in May.

Mental Health Awareness



Pictured left: Ann Petitti (Beacon Health Options) and Nydia Dominguez (FAVOR, Inc.) representing CONNECT at the Head Start Resource Fair.



Pictured left: FOODSHARE 's WALK AGAINST HUNGER event held May 7th with Taylor Ford, Jillian Taylor, Lisa Palazzo and Ann Petitti.

Pictured right: Jillian Taylor and Lisa Palazzo representing CONNECT at the Hope, Love & Understanding: Supporting Mental Health & Foster Care Awareness event held in Middletown on May 5th.



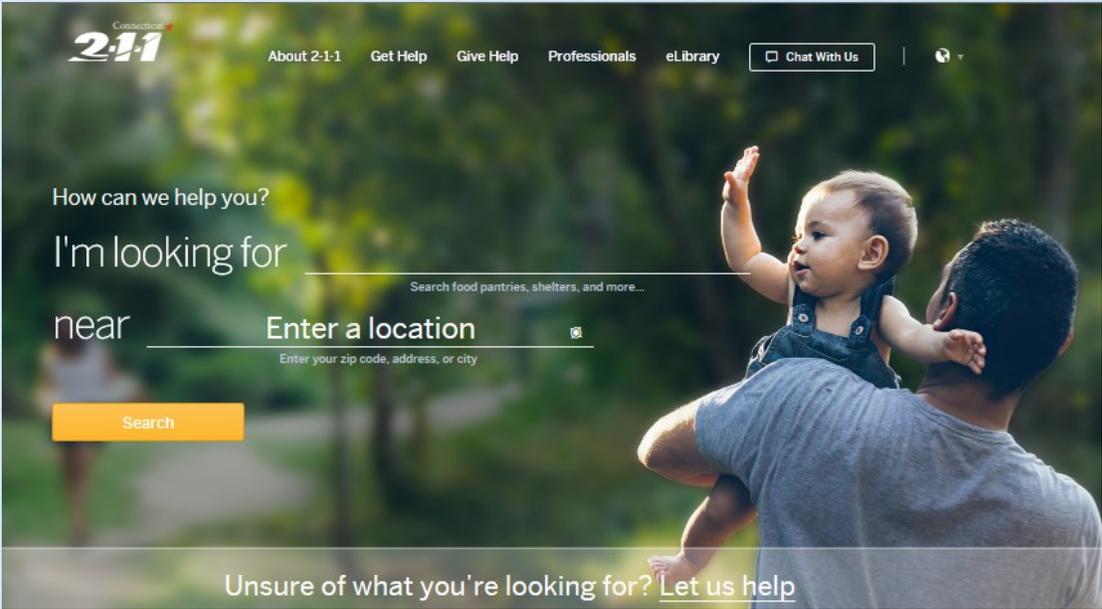
Mental Health Awareness



Hosted by Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership, K9 First Responders Gizmo and Spartacus teamed up to raise mental health awareness. They enjoyed meeting new friends who work in the mental health field.



Community Corner



Check out the wonderful updates to the United Way 211 website at www.211ct.org. 2-1-1 is a one-stop connection to Connecticut’s local services including physical and mental health providers, utility assistance, food, housing, child care and after-school programs, elder care, crisis intervention and much more. The website is very easy to search and offers Connecticut residents a great way to find the assistance they need.



Remember the sun screen and enjoy your summer!





CONNECTING

Transforming Children's Services in Connecticut

ISSUE: NOV. 2017

- ◆ CONNECT
- ◆ iCAN Conference
- ◆ Building a Network
- ◆ Youth Leaders
- ◆ 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.

Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council and Consumer & Family Advisory Council Joint Workgroup. Pictured left to right: Dr. Steve Girelli, Susan Graham, Deborah McCusker, Yvonne Jones, Brenetta Henry, Evelyn Melendez, Kelly Phenix, Maureen Reault, Alyse Chin, Dr. Stephney Springer.



iCAN Conference 2017

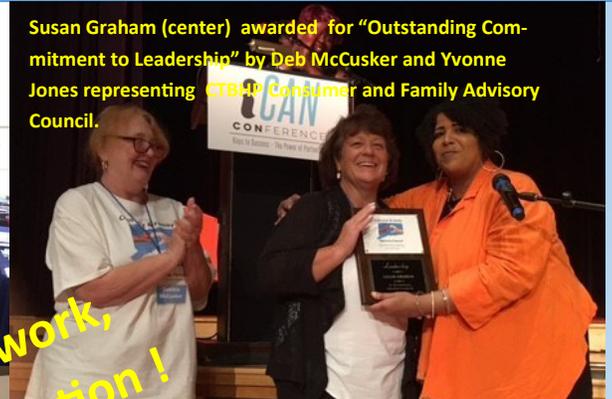
The Consumer and Family Advisory Committee of the CT Behavioral Health Partnership (CT BHP) hosted the 3rd annual iCAN conference. The goal of the annual conference is to educate and empower Connecticut’s consumers, families, service providers and community representatives. The theme of this year’s conference was “Keys to Success and the Power of Partnerships”. This year, there were five breakout sessions, including: Youth in Transition, Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS), Family Engagement, Legislation, and Adult Mental Health and Addiction Services. The conference was a great success with 225 participants and very inspiring speakers. We would like to thank all the sponsors, supporters and participants for coming together on this wonderful event.

"Keys to Success and the Power of Partnerships"

ICAN CONFERENCE 2017



Isaih Scales, Christina Cruz, and Joshua Vazquez



Susan Graham (center) awarded for "Outstanding Commitment to Leadership" by Deb McCusker and Yvonne Jones representing CTBHP Consumer and Family Advisory Council.



Thank you all for your work, dedication and participation!



Ann Pettit and Brenetta Henry



Jillian Taylor and Christa Mullen



Lori Szczygiel, Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer at Beacon Health Options CT and Beresford Wilson, Assistant Director at FAVOR, Inc.

Building a Network of Care in CT

CONNECTing Children and Families to Care has developed a Letter of Agreement (LOA) to facilitate cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders for children's behavioral health. The agreement asks supporters to adopt and promote the guiding principles of a Network of Care including, family-driven, youth-guided, community-based and culturally and linguistically competent care. Stakeholders are urged to provide input and active participation in system development. The Letter of Agreement is a commitment to each other, that we believe in these principles and will work together towards a system that embodies these values. The Agreement is attached to the email with this newsletter. We welcome your partnership. Please join us by signing the attached agreement and emailing it to

julie.calabro@beaconhealthoptions.com

**NETWORK OF CARE
LETTER OF AGREEMENT**

This document serves as a letter of agreement between you/your agency and the Connecticut Children's Network of Care recognizing you/your agency's active participation in the process of system development. We welcome you/your agency to participate in committees and activities with which the Network of Care is associated. Members share meeting and event notices, community resources, announcements, and training experiences. Members are given networking opportunities to ensure the delivery of strength-based, family-driven, youth-guided, community-based and culturally and linguistically competent services. Members can take advantage of feedback from other providers, parents/youth leaders, the state departments serving children and families, and other child-serving systems in Connecticut. Members receive progress reports on systemic changes impacting and improving children's health. By signing, parties recognize the shared efforts needed to further develop and maintain a responsive system of care for children and families.

Guiding Principles: Strength-Based, Family-Driven, Youth-Guided, Community-Based, Culturally and Linguistically Competent

As a member of the Network of Care, members agree to uphold the guiding principles of Connecticut Children's Network of Care Transformation and to maintain meaningful involvement in network development.

- Endorse and agree to adhere to the guiding principles of the Connecticut Children's Network of Care
- Respect the privacy, confidentiality, dignity, identity, cultural and linguistic diversity, and rights of all members, families, and guests within the Network of Care.

Additionally, to one or more of the following:

- Participate regularly in at least one committee, collaborative meeting, or child and family team meetings to collaborate in the development of a comprehensive system of care
- Collaborate to support youth and families referred to the Network of Care
- Commit available resources to furthering these efforts
- Actively foster family and youth participation in community and treatment processes
- Respond to appropriate opportunities to advocate for children's behavioral health needs
- Our agency has an established quality assurance process

Please note: This agreement is not intended to be construed and is binding on any party. This will not serve as the basis for any assertion of liability against any involved parties.

Individual Endorsement: _____ (Print Name)

Organizational Endorsement: _____ (Print Name)
as an authorized representative for:

(Organization/Agency Name Print)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

**CONNECTing
Children and Families to Care**

**The children and families of Connecticut
confer this recognition to
Your Organization**

**For dedication to and support of
Connecticut's Network of Care
and commitment to ensuring that services are
strength-based, family-driven, youth-guided,
and culturally and linguistically competent.**

**CONNECTing
Children and Families to Care**

Guiding Principles of the Connecticut Network of Care

- Ensure availability and access to a broad, flexible array of effective, community-based care, services and supports for children and their families that address their emotional, social, educational, and physical needs, including traditional and nontraditional services as well as natural and informal supports.
- Provide individualized care in accordance with the unique strengths and needs of each child and family, guided by a strength-based, child and family team approach to a care planning process and an individualized Plan of Care developed in true partnership with the child and family.
- Ensure that care, services and supports include evidence-informed and promising practices, as well as interventions supported by practice-based evidence, to ensure the effectiveness of services and improve outcomes for children and their families.
- Deliver care, services and supports within the least restrictive, most normative environments that are clinically appropriate.
- Ensure that families, other caregivers, and youth are full partners in all aspects of the planning and delivery of their own care/services and in the policies and procedures that govern care for all children and youth in their community.
- Ensure that care, support and services are integrated at the system level, with linkages between child-serving agencies and programs across administrative and funding boundaries and mechanisms for system-level management, coordination, and integrated care management.
- Provide care management or similar mechanisms at the practice level to ensure that multiple services are delivered in a coordinated and therapeutic manner and that children and their families can move through the network of care in accordance with their changing needs.
- Provide developmentally appropriate mental health care and supports that promote optimal social-emotional outcomes for young children and their families in their homes and community settings.
- Provide developmentally appropriate care and supports to facilitate the transition of youth to adulthood and to the adult service system.
- Incorporate or link with mental health promotion, prevention, and early identification and intervention in order to improve long-term outcomes, including mechanisms to identify problems at an earlier stage and mental health promotion and prevention activities directed at children and adolescents.
- Incorporate continuous accountability and quality improvement mechanisms to track, monitor, and manage the achievement of network of care goals; fidelity to the network of care philosophy; and quality, effectiveness, and outcomes at the system level, practice level, and child and family level.
- Protect the rights of children and families and promote effective advocacy efforts.
- Provide care, services and supports without regard to race, religion, national origin, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical disability, socio-economic status, geography, language, immigration status, or other characteristics, and ensure that services are sensitive and responsive to these differences.

*Imagine it,
Build it.*

Youth and Family Champions

The mission of the Connecticut Association of Future Health Professionals (HOSA) is “to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science technology education students, therefore, helping students to meet the needs of the health care community”. HOSA prepares future healthcare professionals for leadership roles to ensure compassionate quality healthcare. Find out more about HOSA at www.cthosa.com. In this issue of CONNECTing we would like to spotlight one of these future leaders.

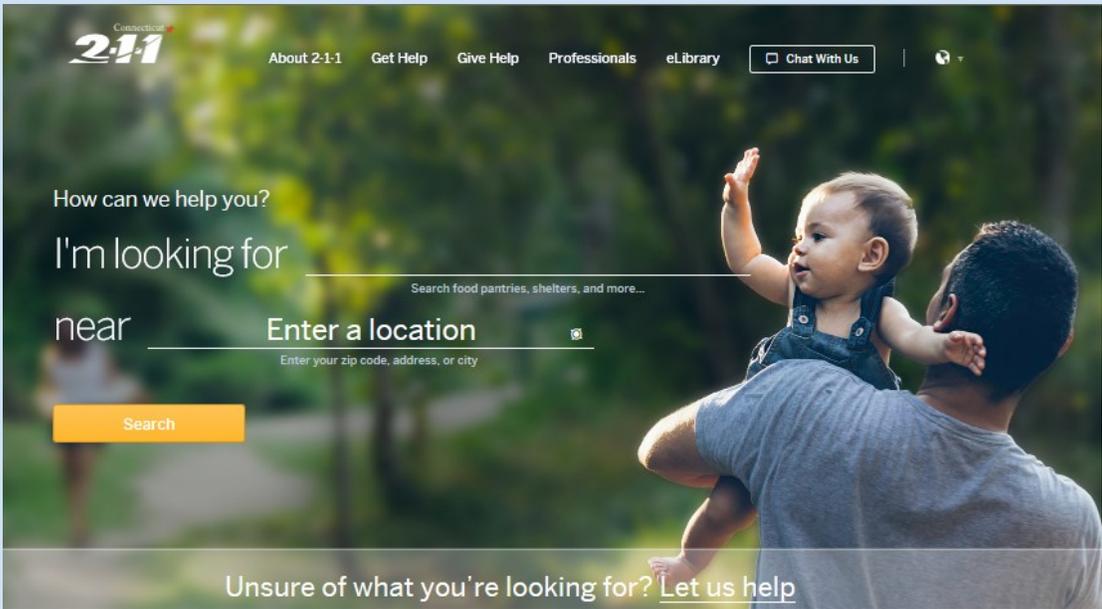


Mikayla Raffone attends East Haven High School and is the President-Elect for the Connecticut HOSA Chapter for 2017-2018. She has been actively involved in HOSA since her sophomore year and has been involved in many HOSA sponsored activities. Mikayla attended a Youth Mental Health First Aid and CONNECTing Youth trainings in the fall of 2016 as a part of a collaborative effort between HOSA, CONNECT, Project Aware and the East Haven School System.

Mikayla was invited to present on her experience with CONNECTing Youth and Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings for a podcast series put on by National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice (NCMHJJ). The podcast series focused on the issue of transitioning from a punitive response model to a model based on identifying and addressing student needs, engaging the most challenging families, and developing structures to actively involve families in program design and quality improvement. Mikayla shared her perspective on using mental health training as prevention strategy in school diversion programming. Mikayla also recently attended the HOSA Leadership Conference held in Washington, D.C. While at the conference, she met with legislative aides representing Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and shared her experience with CONNECTing Youth, Youth Mental Health First Aid and her work on the NCMHJJ podcast series.

Of her training in mental health, Mikayla says she learned that mental health is something about which everyone needs to be aware, “because you never know ‘who’ is struggling with ‘what’ so we all need to keep an open mind and an open heart.”

Community Corner



Check out the wonderful updates to the United Way 211 website at www.211ct.org. 2-1-1 is a one-stop connection to Connecticut 's local services including physical and mental health providers, utility assistance, food, housing, child care and after-school programs, elder care, crisis intervention and much more. The website is very easy to search and offers Connecticut residents a great way to find the assistance they need.



Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower. - Albert Camus

