



CONNECTing

Transforming Children's Services in Connecticut

ISSUE: JAN. 2019

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CONNECTing Children and Families to Care

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.



Remember to check out the updated Plan4Children website at www.plan4children.org. On the site, you can read the plan, see updates on the work being done, provide input, explore resources and more. Also, view the plan update hearing on CT-N.



The Children's Behavioral Health Plan Implementation Advisory Board met on January 28th at the Legislative Office Building to provide updates on plan implementation. You can watch the hearing on <http://ct-n.com>.

Early Childhood

National Early Childhood Family Network

In February of 2018, 55 family members who are connected to LAUNCH grantees gathered at SAMHSA for a Family Leadership Summit and committed to creating a National Early Childhood Family Network (NECFN). Since then, family members across the country have been meeting virtually to turn their vision into a reality. The group has accomplished a great deal in a very short period of time including: developing a committee structure including a steering committee and subcommittees on communication, governance, and vision/mission, developing goals and identifying their scope of work.

Vision: Our vision is to live in a world where all children birth to eight are safe, healthy, and inspired to lifelong learning.

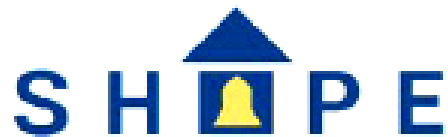
Mission: The National Early Childhood Family Network is a network of families and agencies committed to increasing awareness of early childhood experiences by providing resources and trainings to families of young children. We aim to bring families together locally and nationally to increase our collective voices and to advocate for policies and educational research that promote the well-being of young children and their families regardless of race, religion or social economic status.

- ♦ Developing a framework for a governance structure.
- ♦ Creating a skills matrix to identify strengths and assets of members.
- ♦ Creating a closed Facebook page for members to stay connected.
- ♦ Identifying partner organizations to support the emerging Network.

For additional information or to learn how you can participate, contact the 2018 National Steering Committee Chair: Tish MacInnis, Coordinator of Family and Community Partnerships Alabama Partnership for Children/Alabama Project LAUNCH by email at tmacinnis@smartstartalabama.org or phone 1-866-711-4025.



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.



CONNECT Statewide Transformation Team Updates

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

Cultural and Linguistic Competency Development Team

Regional CLAS Learning Community Meeting invitation

SEET Consultants, LLC will facilitate quarterly CLAS Learning Community meetings to help agencies establish and update their organization's health equity plan and health equity activities. The purpose is to sustain and enhance the work of the Connecticut Network of Care Transformation Initiative (CONNECT) agencies. Agencies, organizations and families involved with racial justice work are invited to participate and share their work and progress. SEET Consultants will provide technical assistance on the CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) standards and coordinate follow-up assistance and integration.

CLAS Learning Community meetings, 9-11am:

Region 6: Monday, January 28, 2019, Community Mental Health Affiliates, (CMHA)
233 Main Street, 7th floor, New Britain, CT 06051

Region 4: Friday, February 8, 2019, The Village for Families & Children
1680 Albany Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Region 5: Tuesday, February 19, 2019, Greater Waterbury United Way
100 N Elm Street, 2nd floor, Waterbury, CT 06702

Region 2: Monday, February 25, 2019, Marrakech, Inc.
6 Lunar Drive, Woodbridge, CT 06525

Region 3: Monday, March 11, 2019, JRI, Justice Resource Institute, Inc.
322 Main Street, Bldg. 2, 2nd floor, Willimantic CT 06226

The CLAS Learning Community is a collaborative effort which may result in program partnerships, resource sharing, improved programming and grant initiatives.

Please direct questions to Consultants; Michele Stewart-Copes, 860 716 8229, michel-esc@targetpcs.com or Dr. Marie Spivey, 860 221 5382, mmtatem@yahoo.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

Results from the third round of community conversations have been shared with all participating groups and are being disseminated more widely. The Community Conversations seek to gain the perspective of families and youth of the behavioral health system in CT. The report highlights strengths, system needs and opportunities for improvement. You will find the report on <https://www.plan4children.org/family-and-community-conversations/>.

In addition, the fourth round of community conversations is underway and will occur between January–March of 2019. For more information or to set up a conversation in your area, contact your FAVOR Family System Manager.

If you are interested in joining the Network Analysis workgroup, please contact Lisa Palazzo at lisa.palazzo@beaconhealthoptions.com.



CONNECT Statewide Transformation Teams

Workforce Development Team

The goal of the CONNECTing Youth presentation is to introduce mental health as an important part of your overall health. It focuses on three pillars: Physical, Mental and Social Health and allows the audience to see how they can all be interconnected. The presentation also allows time to discuss the differences between Mental Health and Mental Illness. The presentation closes with time for the audience to brainstorm ways that they can take charge and bring awareness to others about health, wellness and reducing the stigma around the topic of mental illness.

Typically done in a class period during the school day, CONNECTing Youth gives participants some basic information on mental health. Some students expect to simply sit and listen to the information, but to their surprise, they play an active role in the presentation itself. Students often utilize the planned brainstorming session to speak and think about activities and next steps for sharing the information with others. Some of the more regularly heard comments about the presentation have been ***“Great opportunity to show that there’s things I should be alert about and actually ask”*** and ***“It was a great informational presentation and I would be glad to talk to my friends about this.”*** If you are interested in bringing this valuable training to your school system, contact Taylor Ford, the statewide Youth Engagement Specialist at FAVOR, Inc. either by phone (860) 563-3232 or email: tford@favor-ct.org.

Communication and Social Marketing Team

The WrapCT website found at www.wrapct.org is getting a redesign! The new website will contain information on community meetings, information on Wraparound and family training opportunities, and many informative videos! The Social Marketing team is also working with Rich Wright Productions on producing additional informational videos on topics such as “Language Matters” and “System of Care Values”. The team is also in the process of developing a language assistance card.



Immigration Policy Resources for Connecticut Children and Families and Providers

Our CONNECTing *Children and Families to Care* Cultural and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Team is committed to providing available and reliable immigration policy information and resources to families and providers statewide.

There are many efforts underway for helping our population understand current immigration policies. Below, we are pleased to share some of these resources.

For further information, please feel free to contact any of the following organizations directly:

Resources: Local Legal Immigration/Advocacy

Yale Law School Immigration Legal Services: <https://law.yale.edu/wirac>

Unidad Latina en Acción New Haven: <https://ulanewhaven.org/>

Junta-for Progressive Action: <https://www.juntainc.org/en/>

Favor, Inc.: <http://www.favor-ct.org/>

Language Link (interpreter services): <https://www.mylanguagelink.org/>

La Voz Hispana (Spanish weekly newspaper that has been very active regarding this issue). <http://www.lavozhispanact.com/>

Community Corner




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.

Winter/Spring Classes are being held in Danielson, Greenwich, Hamden, Manchester, Milford, New Milford (*NEW*), Norwich (*NEW*), Ridgefield, and more coming soon! For a detailed pdf flyer suitable for printing and posting, please [CLICK HERE](#)

Paloma R Bayona
Program Director
NAMI Connecticut
576 Farmington Avenue
Hartford, CT 06105
860.882.0236 

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is offering a 12-session educational program for family, partners, friends and significant others of adults living with mental illness. For more information on the training dates and times, contact Pat at 860-882-0236 or register online at <https://www.namict.org/family-to-family-registration/>.

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

