

**Region 5 Suicide Advisory Board Meeting**  
**September 22, 2021**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**10:00AM-12:00PM**

Present

Allison Fulton, Kathy Hanley, Abby Wood, Emma Hollis, Jules Calabro, Brian Smith, Jenny Casey, Jill Pluta, Deborah Peterson, Andrew Lyon, Greg Simpson, Paula Gill Lopez, Donna Gleissner, Jessica Knudson, Miranda Dold, Lynn Crager, Kate Glendon, Gabe Lomas, Judith Kobylarz, Kristin Mabrouk, Stephanie Harred Borowy

1. Welcome, Introductions and Updates

- a. Jules Calabro suggested the group check out the [Connecting to Care Facebook page](#).
- b. Paula Gill Lopez shared that a new position, Director of the Connecticut Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation, is now posted and seeking applicants.
- c. Jenny Case shared that Immaculate is looking for a Dean of Counseling and Support Services.
- d. Greg Simpson mentioned an opening for a Network of Care Manager in Region 2 at Beacon Health Options.
- e. Andrew Lyon mentioned an opening at McCall for a Prevention Coordinator.
- f. Multiple openings in Danbury Mobile Crisis after staff leave due to vaccine mandate.
- g. Norwalk Psychiatry inpatient is closing in late 2022. Danbury Hospital will have an increase in beds in 2023.
- h. Region 5 unfortunately had 2 youth suicides in the past week. Kristin Mabrouk shared that one of the individuals who died had ties to Naugatuck and many of the youth at NYS knew the person. NYS is seeking support for those impacted and working with local partners to ensure the best, safest response possible.

2. Postvention Teams Updates

a. New Fairfield

- i. Kathy Hanley shared multiple documents that the New Fairfield postvention team have drafted together including an invitation letter, brochure to be left with a family after a death, resource list, and more. These drafts can and will be shared with the group as requested.
- ii. She shared her experience with relationship building with community partners and other key players, including first responders.
- iii. During the conversation, Kristin shared an experience in her community where those impacted by a death did not have their basic needs met and a discussion arose about how we can incorporate basic needs (food, clothes, a place to sleep) into our postvention response plans.

b. Danbury

- i. Jenny shared the draft of Danbury's plan and mentioned that the team has good representation from treatment, funeral homes, health and human services, CIT clinicians, and more.
- ii. The plan is still a work in progress, the team is meeting again soon. One challenge has been defining a leader of the team.

c. Newtown

- i. Jill Pluta shared that Newtown has a draft as well. A productive meeting was held with police after meeting with the First Selectman.
- ii. Lines of communication have been a challenge in the process.
- iii. The plan itself lives within the CIT team member role, not a particular individual, to create consistency.

- iv. A card for first responders to leave with the family and a one-pager (who we are, what's the plan, etc.) have been developed for community members.
    - d. A conversation arose about having all the plans centrally located somewhere where R5SAB members and postvention teams can view them. There was also a suggestion of cross-pollinating help and resources.
- 3. CTSAB Overview and Update
  - a. Abby Wood provided an overview of the CT Statewide Suicide Advisory Board, what it's about, the different subcommittees, educational opportunities, etc.
  - b. Recent topics discussed by the CTSAB include the 988 rollout and the updated [preventsuicidect.org](https://preventsuicidect.org) website.
- 4. Upcoming Projects
  - a. Allison Fulton reviewed the Priority Setting Process that the RBHAOs go through every two years and shared a summary of some of the findings related to mental health and suicide. MH screening, touchpoints in the community, increasing resources and awareness were all topics that came out of this report.
  - b. There are two communities in Region 5 (Cornwall and Harwinton) that have been approached about bridges where someone may go to attempt suicide. The statewide Lethal Means committee has done outreach but supporting these efforts can be a charge of the R5SAB.
  - c. [Angel Breeze Scents](#) cards have been purchased for a follow-up after hospitalization/treatment for a crisis. The group can think about the best settings where these cards could be piloted.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, December 22 at 10:00AM on Zoom**