



**Region 5 Suicide Advisory Board
October 25, 2023 10:00-11:30AM on Zoom**

Present: Abby Wood Maldonado, Allison Fulton, Kathy Hanley, Sarah Lorenzini, Andre Luis Grigorio, Kayla Champagne – WCTC, Alyssa Giedra, Kelley Brochu - Wolcott HS, Carrigan Costello - Wolcott CASA, Kristin Pracitto - Wellmore Behavioral Health, Alice DeMeo – DCF, Stacey Kovalevsky and Joanna Keyes – TAHD, Brian Hembrook - New Milford Youth Agency, Jules Calabro - Carelon Behavioral Health, Krystal Medley – United Way of CT, Lisa Hossein - Naugatuck Youth Services, Nancy Fawcett – CIFC, Natalie Jackson - Newtown HHS, Victoria Giordano - Newtown YFS, Tanya Iacono - Regional Crisis Team , Linda Seay - Alt2Suicide Facilitator, Laura Stamatien - Amplify , Sheila Levine - Bethel HS, DFS, Megan Slekis – Thomaston Schools

1. Introductions and how membership recognized Suicide Prevention Awareness Month
2. Urgent Crisis Centers for Youth- Kristin Pracitto, Clinical Social Worker and V.P. of Child Services at Wellmore provided an overview of the new Urgent Crisis Center for Youth
3. CDC Grant Update - Stacey of TAHD shared the following initiatives:
 - Upcoming programs (firearm safety and Drug Take Back) and initiatives they did for Suicide Prevention Month
 - Laminated suicide prevention posters in restaurant bathrooms around the region whereby folks can use a QR code to access resources.
 - They have a new intern who will be focused on suicide prevention within the LGBTQ+ population as required by the grant
 - Handing out materials at a health fair
4. Family Assistance and Social Determinants Funding - Jules of Carelon provided information on a family assistance funding program
 - Paid for by ARPA dollars. Families can apply.
 - A need was identified during Covid for additional behavioral health services (SU, MH treatment and medications)
5. Planning for 2024
 - a. The group reviewed the 5 goals of PLAN 2025 and discussed potential subcommittees including Postvention, Gizmo Promotion, and Lethal Means. There was significant interest in each of the subcommittees and next steps will be determined at the December meeting.



- b. The R5SAB will meet every other month starting in 2024. A meeting schedule will be distributed when created.
6. Member updates and new business
 - a. Save the Date – Postvention 101 on November 29

Next R5SAB Meeting – December 20, 2023

The Region 5 Suicide Advisory Board seeks to:



- Integrate and coordinate suicide prevention, intervention, and response activities across multiple sectors and settings including all 43 communities in Region 5.
- Support the overall vision of the **Statewide Connecticut SAB** and provide the local and regional infrastructure for suicide prevention and postvention response activities.