

Connecticut Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (CYSPI)
Advisory Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2008
United Way, Wethersfield, CT
9:00 – 10:30 AM

In Attendance: Marianne Buccelli, CT Clearinghouse; Allison Case, DMHAS; Amy James, UCHC; Ashley Murphy, DMHAS Prevention Fellow; Scott Newgass, SDE; Judy Stonger, CT Clearinghouse; and Faith Vos Winkel; OCA.

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Discussion of Recent Events

- Reports and press inquiries around late July deaths of two adolescent girls in Bridgeport and female high school student in Mansfield by hanging
- Request for postvention support following suicide of culinary student in Hartford

High School Component

- Amy has assumed role of primary contact with both Connecticut Technical and Trumbull High Schools. Has preliminary work plans from all schools but Wright and Trumbull. Implementation and evaluation are expected to proceed more smoothly this year with increased experience and information provided at learning community.

Saint Francis Hospital-Quirk Middle School Pilot

- Allison, Amy and Carol Meredith met with Dr. Schichor, Mary Stuart and Bruce Bernstein July 30 to review progress and plan for coming year. Amy will attend ADAPSA meetings monthly and DMHAS and St. Francis will meet quarterly to address consent, enrollment, staffing and data entry issues previously identified. St. Francis to resubmit budget with enhancements and incentives to increase middle school student enrollment.
- Amy has met with Peter Hough, the clinician covering while Jennifer Paul is on maternity leave, and trained him on the web-based data entry application August 8. Concerns about staffing and clinical management of screened adolescents, particularly over summer, persist.
- Faith reported she also participates in ADAPSA meetings and will continue to promote discussion of school staffing and middle school enrollment issues. These challenges are not unexpected. An out-posted St. Francis employee might be more effective than a school-city employee. Re-structuring of supervision might also have an impact and should be considered.
- Scott supported idea of dedicated, secure time to concentrate on project (versus school) issues. Also raised notion of staff training or other incentives to enhance buy in and results.
- Group also discussed concern that more adolescents can be screened and identified than can be treated.

Statewide Awareness Campaign

- Marianne provided a summary of 2007 mini-grantee accomplishments. Amity High School's final report is outstanding. Despite repeated efforts, Integrated Wellness Group was not successful in launching 6 week stress reduction and time management curriculum proposed. Per Judy's suggestion and with assent of the group, IWG will retain mini-grant award and will provide revised services in the coming year with technical assistance from Wheeler. IWG will be encouraged to adopt a community versus clinical model and reduce the number of sessions.

- Marianne also provided a list of 2008 mini-grantees. Judy reported that an orientation and overview meeting is scheduled for September 9 at the Clearinghouse. All letters of agreement have been signed. Checks will be distributed at the meeting and prior grantees will be invited to share their experiences.
- Three agencies that submitted letters of intent but did not complete mini-grant applications provided Marianne with requested feedback. Timing, difficulty getting internal budget approval and the inability to come up with a viable plan prevented these agencies from seeking funding.

AMSR Training

- Judy reported that Barry Feldman will facilitate AMSR training on October 14, the third of four sessions. Scott will remind Pat Ciccone of date so SDE personnel can be invited to attend (target is cohort 2A).
- Through the Mental Health Transformation initiative, Wheeler is offering an AMSR Training of Trainers October 29-31, 2008 that will include participants from other states. The first day of the 2½ day training is AMSR itself and while attendance is encouraged, it is not required. Judy will disseminate application criteria statewide as appropriate.
- CYSPI-funded AMSR ToT is scheduled for April 20-22, 2009. Group discussed both encouraging a subset of (likely) EMPS providers to apply to participate in October 2008 training to grow buy-in for Spring session and whether it is appropriate to require Connecticut-based participants who receive training and become certified trainers to agree to provide a minimum number of trainings in exchange.

Upcoming Meetings

Tuesdays, October 21; and December 16 from 9:00 – 10:30 at United Way

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Handouts: June 17 Meeting Minutes; Education and Awareness Campaign Mini-Grant Report Summer 2008 (Fall 2007 Grantees); Mini-Grant Summary Worksheet – Spring 2008 Grantees

Additional Resource: SAMHSA/CSAT Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention: Evidence and Implications – A White Paper (forwarded electronically)