

CT WOMEN AND GIRLS COUNCIL HEALTH & SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

July 10, 2019 subcommittee report

Submitted by TriChairs:

Commissioner Beth Bye, Office of Early Childhood

Commissioner Mariam Delphin- Rittmon, Dept of Mental Health & Addiction Services

Commissioner Vannessa Dorantes, Dept of Children & Families

Health and Safety Subcommittee Framework

Prenatal

Seniors

Public Policy, Data and Metrics

**Health and Safety
Across the Lifespan**

Prevention

Equity

Mental Health and Addiction Supports

Safe: at Home, in Community Settings, Child Care and Senior Settings

H & C subcommittee membership

20 attendees last mtg with representation from several state agencies and various stakeholder groups including:

- OEC
- DMHAS
- DCF
- OTLtG
- DOC
 - Cmsr Cook also in attendance
- DPH
- DESPP
- DDS
- OHS
- DSS
- DVA
- CCADV
- March of Dimes
- CSG
- Women's Health CT
- YWCA (Htfd Region)

- Agreement that cross-agency, cross-system emphasis will be deliberate part of this subcmte's structure
- Brainstormed add'l groups/topics to invite to the sbcmte future discussions (*open to all voices*)
 - Advocates for women w/ disabilities, Oakhill
 - Trans Women,
 - HIV/STI – education,
 - Physicians specializing in women's health , CT Hospital Association
 - CT Alliance to end sexual violence,
 - Planned Parenthood,
 - 211,
 - FQHCs,
 - Community Action Agencies,
 - AARP, Older Adult/ Aging Women's Issues

**fluid membership to add depth & perspectives to discussions*

Attny Phoenix-Sharpe of OTLtGov informed the group of over 100 interested stakeholders for the overall W & G Council... Efforts will be made to divide into existing subcmtes --- may be necessary to make subgroups within each to further broaden yet synthesize the work of each group.

Women's Health and Safety subcommittee

Cross-Agency Efforts

- Reframing PREVENTION to be along a continuum from primary (*population level*) to the individual
- Discussion of work between agencies and stakeholders to reduce likelihood of removal of a child from caregiver while increasing capacity of parents & sharpening the safety lens.
- Efforts to mitigate the trauma of separation and interrupted attachments by incorporating best practices of different levels / frequency of home-visiting & care coordination as examples



Women's Health and Safety subcommittee Cross-Agency Efforts (con't)



WOMEN VETERANS

Impact specifically to improved screening surveys of women during pre-natal and post birth experiences:

- Services available to female veterans
- Integrating questions about STIs
- When/How to incorp questions about healthy relationships & presence of IPV
- CAPTA legislation and birthing hospital notifications (*plans of safe care*)

* Exploring **Universal** screenings to decrease disparity, prejudice & some implicit biases

Women's Health and Safety subcommittee Cross-Agency Efforts (con't)



- **OEC** seeing increase in physicians making *Birth to Three* and specialty preschools earlier and more often
- **OEC/DCF**-- ECCP follow-up funding to prevent gap in service delivery
- **DPH's** ability to support additional competency skill-building trainings
- More work between **IPV** advocates, **law enforcement** & **DCF** on response protocols. Evaluating assessments to keep women safe when reporting abusive situations
- **DOC's** release and re-entry supports
 - Child development training
 - Building parental capacity in incarcerated parents
 - Incorporating more mother/child normative activities (*ie Girl Scouts Beyond Bars*)

Special women's health topic areas

- Incorporation of skilled assessment of MH & SU d/o screenings
- **DMHAS:**
 - opioid use screenings across systems
 - DMHAS continuum of care including OP and IOP programs,
 - residential programs for pregnant and parenting women and
 - the Women's **REACH** Program.

** Continue to evaluate the role that policy development, legislation and evaluation will have for this subcommittee's charge*



Highlighting and Showcasing CT's Women & Girls Health and Safety efforts

- Examination & elevation of existing groups across CT to possibly create a resource directory of what's current, celebration of what's good & identification of gaps
- SubCommittee potentially developing a **Health / Resource Fair**
 - 1st examine the landscape of existing forums to reduce duplication and hone –in on target audience (*women, specific age cohort, providers, policy makers???*)
 - Some already scheduled for the fall; consider exploring spring 2020 timeline
 - Consider theme/special topic areas (*ie breast health, prevention vs diagnostic screening ins coverage**)





The 'Next Ups' (special attention to adolescent & young women)

- **Inviting** a group of 8th graders who wrote to the legislature about the issue of feminine hygiene product availability in schools
- **Encouraging/mentoring** girls' leadership, gender-based social justice and advocacy development to address women's related issues