

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

HEALTH AND SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE

9/14/21



COMMITTEE MEETING ON AUGUST 30TH

► Presentations

► **CT Against Gun Violence**, Public Health Issue

- Although the number of gun homicide deaths has come down since the 1990s there were 105 gun homicides in 2020, up 53% fr/ 2019. Deaths are concentrated in our largest cities: gun homicides in Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven account for more than half of statewide gun homicides. These include and impact women and girls.
- *Connecticut Initiative to Prevent Community Gun Violence* is designed to establish a state-level grant-making authority (an Office of Community Gun Violence Prevention), tasked with funding strategies to reduce street-level gun violence.

► **CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence**

- Welcomed Megan Scanlon, new Executive Director. Leads this membership organization of **Connecticut's 18 domestic violence service agencies** that provide critical support to victims including counseling, support groups, emergency shelter, court advocacy, safety planning, and lethality assessment, among other services.
- **Safe Connect** is a unique platform that strengthens access to safety for victims and survivors by transforming the statewide domestic violence hotline. The statewide hotline has traditionally only been available by calling a toll-free telephone number, but the ways in which people communicate have evolved since its establishment. Under Safe Connect, access to certified domestic violence counselors will be available via **PHONE, CHAT, EMAIL**. Services are **confidential, safe, free, voluntary, & available 24 hours per day, 7 days/wk, 365 days/yr**.
- Will share public policy ideas at next meeting

► **Universal Home Visiting and Community Health Workers**

- See next slides

► **Legislative Agenda**

- Sub committee members and their agencies will submit legislative proposals for discussion.



HEALTHY BABIES AND HEALTH MOMS: EQUITABLE HEALTH ACCESS FOR FAMILIES

Connecticut plans to use American Rescue Plan State funds to expand family support through universal home visiting

- **COVID-19 has reinforced health disparities and behavioral health challenges** that affect many Connecticut families.
- Health inequities are best addressed early in life: **home visiting pairs pregnant and new parents with registered nurses and community health workers to improve health outcomes, and enhance social determinants of health, and reduce Adverse Childhood Experiences.**
- Universal home visiting reduces emergency medical care and child welfare engagement - **generating \$3 in savings for every \$1 spent in program costs**
- Having a baby is a big life change - every family can **benefit from early public health supports like home visiting regardless of income and risk profile.** COVID has led to increased rates of perinatal maternal depression and anxiety.
- CT would offer universal home visiting in communities **disproportionally impacted by COVID-19** and address health equity from the start
- **Prenatal engagement and 1-3 postpartum visits can have long-term impact,** promoting health for babies and connecting families to needed community services



INTEGRATION OF UHV AND CHWS

- **Universal home visiting (UHV) would be implemented through the Family Connects model**, which includes recruitment, 1-3 home visits conducted by registered nurses (RNs), and follow-up.
- **Community health workers (CHWs) could integrate and enhance** existing service delivery components, provide prenatal visits and an early postpartum visit, and/or provide continued support for families that could benefit from longer-term engagement.
- CHWs typically come from communities that they are serving; **integration is needed to maximize community take-up and best address the health disparities and behavioral health needs that Connecticut families face due to COVID impacts.**

Community Health Worker Types

Opportunities for Integration into Family Connects Model

