

Alcohol and Drug Policy Council Prevention Subcommittee

Meeting Summary

Meeting Date / Location:		February 27, 2023 1:30PM-3:30PM, Microsoft Teams Meeting			
Committee Members					
x	Alison Karimi (DCF Agency Support)	x	Giovanna Mozzo	x	Robert Kanehl
x	Allison Fulton		Ingrid Gillespie		Robert Lawlor
x	Andrew Lyon	x	Jennifer Sussman	x	Sarju Shah (DMHAS Agency Support)
	Anna Gasinski	x	Judith Stonger	x	Scott Szalkiewicz
x	Carleen Zambetti		Kristi Olds	x	Shobha Thangada
	Colleen Violette		Nancy Kingwood	x	Surita Rao
	Daniel Tobin		Nathaniel Rickles	x	Tom Fulton
x	Deborah Lake		Rebecca Allen	x	Tom Russo
	Don Maletto		Rodrick Marriott		
Supporting Leadership & Other Participants					
x	Diana Shaw (DCP)		Stephanie Welch (DMHAS)	x	Anthony Judkins (presenter)
	Samantha Allard (DCP)	x	Kelly Edwards (DMHAS)	x	Diana DiTunna (presenter)
x	Ramona Anderson (DCP)	x	Kelly Leppard (DMHAS)	x	Kelley Edwards (presenter)
x	Karonesa Logan (DCP)		Kris Robles (DCF)		
x	Robin-Tousey Ayers (DPH)	x	Wendy Mill		
x	Allison Sullivan (DPH)	x	Cynthia Petronia-Vazquez		
		x	Alison Wiser		

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTIONS / DECISIONS
<p>Welcome</p> <p>Review of Minutes</p>	<p>The meeting began at 1:34p.m.</p> <p>Approval of meeting minutes from last meeting. Tom R. motioned to approve the minutes and Ramona seconded.</p>	<p>Minutes Approved</p>
<p>Fatherhood Initiative</p> <p>Department of Social Services, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services</p>	<p>Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative (CFI) Teach. Love. Inspire.</p> <p>CT Leaders came together for the Connecticut Fatherhood Initiative (CFI) to discuss fatherhood engagement and to ensure approach was based on system change. It was seen that a father's absence had a direct impact on children which led to the passing of Public Act 99-193 and its codification in CT General Statute. CT was the first state in the nation to pass Fatherhood Legislation.</p> <p>Public Act 99-193 led to the creation of the Fatherhood Initiative and Council to promote positive involvement and interaction for fathers with their children and to strengthen child support enforcement.</p> <p>Efforts made by CFI are not at the expense of mothers. Children are at the heart of the work and they support both parents whether they live with the children or not. A goal for the CFI program is to help children be successful and for both children and parents to have better outcomes.</p>	<p>Contact: Tony Judkins: anthony.judkins@ct.gov Diana DiTunno: diana.dittuno@ct.gov Kelley Edwards: kelly.edwards@ct.gov</p> <p>Action Items: Share CFI Brochures with ADPC</p>

[Public Act 22-138](#) passed last year. The bill created the Office of the CT Fatherhood Initiative within DSS, establishes council oversight with additional members and allows for CFI to seek additional funding and collaborative opportunities to improve services for fathers.

Public Act 22-138 Promotes education concerning emotional and financial responsibilities of fatherhood, assists men in preparation for legal, financial and emotional responsibilities of fatherhood, promotes the establishment of paternity at childbirth, encourages fathers regardless of marital status to foster emotional connection to financially support their children, integrate state and local services available for families, establish support mechanisms for fathers in their relationship with their children, regardless of their marital or financial status.

The council is led by the Commissioner of DSS and co-led by Senator, Marilyn Moore. The council consists of over 25 Connecticut agencies, and all three branches of CT government.

DSS has the following Certified Fatherhood Programs: Fathers for Life, Bridgeport, CT, Responsible Fatherhood Program, Catholic Charities, Hartford, CT, Nurturing Fathers Program, Family Stride Inc, Torrington CT, Teen Father Program OBAPP Inc, Bridgeport, Fatherhood Initiative Program, Madonna Place, Norwich, CT, New Opportunities Inc, Waterbury, CT and Male Involvement Network, Urban Community Alliance, New Haven, CT.

Each of these program's services include economic stability services, which are things around financial literacy, understanding your credit, building wealth, home ownership. They also offer intensive case management as well as curriculum-based instruction. Many of the folks here represented used 24/7 dads and one offers a teen dads program. The intensive case management can include anything from the establishment of paternity to working with individuals who have child support orders. The program will help with access and visitation and custody orders as well as DSS assistance programs, housing, employment, education, training, parenting and self-help.

Over the past three years, they have seen a 36% decrease in men being served at the Fatherhood Programs.

Per Title 9, Fatherhood Initiative is available to women. They are part of the Fatherhood Initiative and access the services. Under the federal guidelines the curriculum did not have to be changed to adapt it for women. So they are learning alongside the men. It's been really beneficial to the programs, because sometimes these women have different perspectives than the men in our program.

There is an Interagency Fatherhood MOU that is with DSS, DCF, DOC, SDE, DOL, DPH, DHMAS, Judicial SES, Judicial CSSD< DOH, DVA, BOPP and CSCU to provide active participation while seeking opportunities for collaboration.

<p>Infusing Prevention Into Fatherhood Services-DHMAS-DSS</p> <p>Hartford, Torrington, Waterbury, Bridgeport and New London.</p>	<p>DMHAS partnered with CFI to provide incorporate the strategic prevention framework into the program for seven fatherhood programs in Hartford, Torrington, Waterbury, Bridgeport and New London.</p> <p>The agencies learned about and utilized the strategic prevention framework. They incorporated prevention basics and other information about alcohol, tobacco and other drugs through the DMHAS Prevention and Health Promotion’s Technical Assistance and Training Center contractor. Additionally, program staff attended a CADCA conference, which is the leading substance use prevention organization. Members will also attend the New England Fathering Conference in March as well as the CT Fathering Conference in June.</p> <p>DMHAS Prevention Funding – the objective was to incorporate prevention messaging into the curriculum fathers go through both individually and in group settings so that prevention education is molded into the learnings to increase protective factors by incorporating these messages into being a role model with younger children, impact of substance use and a child’s perception of risk, etc. Messages were offered to help stimulate understanding as well as conversations with children.</p> <p>For next steps, funding will continue until September 2024 with the Governor’s Prevention Partnership to support the implementation and mentorship of the SPF within the CFIs.</p>	
<p>Prevention Subcommittee Goals Discussion</p>	<p>As discussed at the last meeting, we would like to have an open discussion on what our members would like to see from this subcommittee. Sarju briefly walked through the Subcommittee goals and started a collaborative discussion on ways to move forward.</p>	<p>Contact Sarju Shah: Sarju.shah@ct.gov</p>
<p>Brainstorming Discussion</p>	<p>The purpose of the subcommittee is to provide recommendations to the ADPC related to: Strategies to prevent the onset of illegal drug use; prescription drug misuse, abuse and proper disposal; alcohol misuse and abuse, and underage alcohol and tobacco use; effective substance use prevention practices that enable communities and other organizations to apply prevention knowledge effectively.</p> <p>Sarju opened this up to the subcommittee to see what they would like to see presented at these meetings to support the development of new recommendations and/or presentations. The following suggestions were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update to DOC OUD and facilitation enrollment and treatment upon discharge. • Integrate regional prevention recommendations from our RBHAO and SAPT block grant regional report process. • Youth Recovery CT (TBD-Wheeler) • ARPA funded statewide prevention • CIAC Connection 	<p>Contact: Sarju Shah: Sarju.shah@ct.gov</p> <p>Action Item: Prevention Subcommittee Survey</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the Faith Community in Prevention <p>If you have not taken the survey and have ideas, log in to take it.</p>	
Workgroup Updates	Naloxone work Group work continues. They have two sub subgroups within it, one looking at what's happening in the state and getting handled on that in terms of training and dissemination.	Naloxone Workgroup Contact: Judith Stonger
Future topics presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the Prevention Core • Data around Cannabis • Data from NE HIDTA 	
Other / Member updates	<p>The meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm.</p> <p><u>Next Prevention Subcommittee Meeting:</u> Monday, March 20, 2023, 1:30 – 3:30pm</p> <p><u>Next Full ADPC Meeting:</u> Tuesday, April 18, 2023, 10:00 – 12:00pm</p>	