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**Commission on Community Gun Violence Intervention and Prevention**

**Date: October 11, 2023**

**Time: 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM**

**Location:** [**Zoom**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85027692993?pwd=aWszK3VzbTRSQ1Y0ajd1dnVYOGNMdz09)

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

1. **Convene Meeting:** Commissioner convened the meeting at 9:02 am.
2. **Opening remarks from Commissioner**: A recap of Commissioner Juthani’s announcement regarding the DPH Office of Firearm Injury Prevention. The Office was elevated to the level of the Commissioner’s Office since they thought a spotlight should be on this new Office and to make sure the funding gets out to the needed organizations and community members. Commissioner emphasized this is no different from what was proposed by the Legislature in 2022, which was for DPH to establish the Community Gun Violence Prevention Program. DPH is posting new positions and a management level position will be posted in about a month.
3. **Approve Meeting Minutes:** Motion to approve by Pina Violano and seconded by Jeremy Stein. Motion passed.
4. **Public Comment:** Sasa Harriott from Harriott Home Health Services (HHHS) commented that she is happy to be here at the Commission meeting. HHHS follows the HVIP model and provides a standard of care once they’re discharged into the community.
5. **Media Campaign:** [see meeting recording for more details: Minutes 10:58 to 44:03] John Paul Grego from Odonnell Company marketing firm gave the update. Initial campaign strategy – working with DPH on this. Using DPH’s suggestions, their own research and also incorporating the survey results from the Commission. Priorities are youth intervention and conflict de-scalation, safe storage (disputable among Commission members), criminal violence, access to firearms, mental health, substance use disorder, systemic disparities, etc. All messages can still be part since this is a multi-layered and complex issue. Need data sources and data for the key data points that would like to be measured.

**Kick-off Marketing strategy**. This strategy aligns with the survey results from Commission members and partners. Create awareness as this is a public health issue, provide resources and support for those affected by gun violence, ultimately reduce gun violence and increase intervention and prevention of gun violence.

**Priority Populations** – Young men of color, cities: Black and Hispanic communities. The 5 cities: New Haven, Hartford, Waterbury, Bridgeport, and Stamford. And populations addressed by community-based organizations (CBOs).

**Key messages** –Be positive, hope for change [See meeting recording for more details].

**Deliverables** – A website/microsite (to look up resources in your communities, link to resources, legislation passed, About Us – the Commission and the DPH Office); social media posts/ads, community outreach flyer/poster. Developing an exhaustive list of contacts = Compendium of CBOs for dissemination to stakeholders.

**Next steps -** Need data; compendium will be completed by next week and delivered to DPH. Commission invited to Send stories, data for key data points, information, suggestions – any new suggestions for messaging can be incorporated into Phase 2 of the campaign.

**Discussion:**

Safe storage – it is a harm reduction strategy.

Commission members are representatives of the community and can provide input to the marketing campaign; such as through the survey.

Send data to DPH through Adam and Colleen [and Susan].

Looking for media suggestions and welcoming additional thoughts.

What are specific platforms that youth are using and places where it can be disseminated, which communities, and to whom?

1. **Subcommittee Updates:**

Commissioner asked members to think about the goals of the subcommittees, if any need to fold or others need to be collapsed into others.

* 1. **RFP Grant Criteria and Award Subcommittee** – [See meeting recording for more details: Minutes 45:12 to 48:37] Kevin Borrup gave the update. Subcommittee met on 9/26 . Subcommittee had a brief discussion about the new RFP mechanism – suggestions on creating categories, the size of organization and annual income/costs, GOs vs. NGOs, etc. Will be meeting in late October.

Pina Violano asked how are the reviewers being selected and what are their qualifications? This can be discussed within the next RFP grant subcommittee meetings.

* 1. **Sustainability – Financial and Legislative Subcommittee** – [See meeting recording for more details: Minutes 48:45 to 53.15] Subcommittee met on 9/26. Carl Schiessl worked on populating the Commission report template and will circulate rough draft to the subcommittee for comments. Will meet October 24 and hope to finalize the set of recommendations. Contact the subcommittee if have policy suggestions. Jeremy Stein gave additional update. Waiting for information from Medicaid coverage of HVIP services. Potential federal sources of funding. Waiting on activities and impact of the federal office of gun violence.
  2. **Partnerships, Programs, Stakeholder, and Community Engagement Subcommittee** – [See meeting recording for more details: Minutes 53:19 to 1:01:06] Andrew Woods gave the update. Said they met a couple of weeks back. Subcommittee is putting out a call for listening sessions. Johanna Schubert sent out notification of a listening session on 10/18. Invited Odonnell to attend. Adam Skowera will be attending on behalf of DPH. Andrew advocating for needing more time to decide about the future of this subcommittee. Johanna S.: CT HVIP Collaborative = quarterly meeting November 7 from 9-11 PM
  3. **Home Health Care Subcommittee** – [See meeting recording for more details: Minutes 1:01:15 to 1:04:13 ] James Dodington and Deborah Davis co-chairs and will meet next week. Welcoming Sasa Harriott and partners at DSS. Gave comments about the need for this subcommittee. Aftercare of the victims of violence. And going back into the communities with healthy minds, bodies, and healthy environment. Referred to HHHS.
  4. **Data Evaluation and Analysis of Grant-funded Programs Subcommittee:** – [See meeting recording for more details: Minutes 1:05:15 to 1:09:19] Kerri Raissian provided DC Terranova with update. Susan Logan’s update: RFP undergoing legal review and once completed can be released. Please look out for the RFP which will be posted on the DPH website if you google CT DPH RFP [ [Request for Proposals (ct.gov)](https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Request-For-Proposals/Request-for-Proposals)]. Expect it to be released in the next few weeks.

Data Dashboard – morbidity dashboard of hospital-based Emergency department data – started talking to the developer on creating this dashboard. Inviting Kerri to be a part of that development. And for mortality dashboard on homicide data, the Office of Firearm Injury Prevention epidemiologist is being tasked with creating this dashboard.

1. **Commission Next Steps**
   1. Report due to DPH Staff November 3 . Templates sent out to the subcommittee chairs on 9/21.
      1. Recommendations need to be action orientated, realistic, and evidenced informed.

Be compiled by November 22nd and between 11/22 and 12/20 – members invited to send feedback and comments about the report. But all feedback will be incorporated prior to the December 20th meeting.

* 1. Monthly Subcommittee meetings/ Structure of subcommittees moving forward. No changes to be made at this time.
  2. Upcoming Meetings (December 20th) – Finalize the draft of the report, can give update on the progress of the dashboards.
  3. Will have January (outside speaker), April, July/August, October, and December (Oct./Nov/December – working on the annual report).

1. **Adjourn meeting** - Motion to adjourn made by Pina Violano, second Carl Schiessl. Meeting adjourned by Commissioner: 10:14 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Logan

Supervising Epidemiologist, DPH Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit

11.27.23