1/11/23

**Meeting Minutes**

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

**LOB Room 1B, 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM and Zoom Virtual Meeting Option**

**Attendees:**

In person Commission Members: Jim Dodington (Yale New Haven Health), Kerri Raissian (UConn ARMS), Pina Violano (CWCSEO), Mike Makowski (DPH), Colleen Violette (DPH), Susan Logan (DPH), DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani, Andrew Skowera (DPH)

Virtual Commission Members: Jeremy Stein (CAGV), Leonard Jahad (CT VIP), Vanessa Doran (DCF), Janet Rice (Advocate for Survivors), James Madraccia (SDE), Ebony Epps (RYASAP/StreetSafe Bridgeport), Vin Russo (DCF), Jacqueline Santiago (Compass Youth Collaborative), Carl Schiessl (CHA), Harold Dimbo (Project Longevity), Karl Jacobsen (New Haven PD).

**12/14/22 Meeting minutes approval:** Pina V. made motion and Mike M. seconded the motion.

**Subject Matter Expert Presentation:** Brita Roy, MD, MPH, MHS; Assistant Professor (Asst. Prof.) of Population Health and Asst. Prof. of Medicine at NYU Langone Health; Asst. Prof. Adjunct at Yale School Of Medicine; and Director of Community Health and Clinical Outcomes for “Beyond Bridges”

Used Systems Dynamics Modeling (SDM) to address gun violence in New Haven. Outcome that was studied was the number of people affected by gun violence.

SDM major impacts: Addiction, Gun policy, socioeconomic status (SES), Mental Health, Social Cohesion, Criminal-legal system, and Gang influence.

The study identified key leverage points that may have an impact of the number of people affected by gun violence. They are 1) housing stability based on SES, 2) Mental Health, and 3) Social Cohesion. These key factors have high potential in the SDM to show to have an impact and are feasible to address.

Focusing on person/family level programs for Housing stability (SES). Plan is to stabilize their home situation. Transitions clinic, a primary care clinic, works with people returning home from prison. Families in the program are going through a tailored financial education program. Connecting them to all resource that are needed.

Focusing on Community level programs for Mental Health. Trauma informed counseling is known to be effective and are training community members in counseling (barbers, faith leaders, etc.)

On the city and state level, they are creating a coalition to address structural racism.

3-year project in 6 neighborhoods where they intervened for 6 months at a time, and addressing people who are affected by incarceration. Study sample size of 1,400 people and families, at the neighborhood level.

Dr. Roy discussed current literature and studies that show different levels of effectiveness on having an impact on gun violence.

Best evidence:

* + Dismantling public housing high-rises
  + Blight remediation of buildings and land

Some evidence:

* + Providing green housing environments; e.g. tree cover
  + Reducing alcohol availability; e.g. more violence on Sundays when the alcohol sales on Sunday occurred (started in the early 2000s)
  + Improving street connectivity

No effect:

* + Transit changes
  + School openings

Indicators to measure Housing Stability – eviction rates, difficulty making mortgage payments, quality of place they’re living, etc. Leverages the first time home buyers program.

Youth Mentoring programs – have shown some success. Project Longevity, Cure Violence has more evidence of effectiveness, but hard to compare one to another because there’s variation in amount of resources in the program. “Ice the Beef” is a youth mentoring program. [HOME | Ice The BeefCT](https://www.icethebeefct.org/)

A Frame Shift in thinking is needed from person-focused to societal-focused. Thinking about the circumstances that they grew up with. Instead of blaming the person, what were the conditions in which they grew up?

**Update on End of Year Progress Report:**

Commission members comments were incorporated into the report and report is completed. Commissioner Juthani will be reviewing the report.

**Budget Update:**  Susan Logan gave the budget update for the ARPA funding and state General Fund for the development of the DPH Community Gun Violence Prevention Program, upcoming expected contracts, and the RFA progress for the community-based organizations.

**Commission Next Steps:**

* Moving to quarterly commission meeting: April, July, and October
* Continue monthly subcommittee meetings – Co-chairs need to organize those; Susan and Colleen can provide administrative support if needed

*Minutes compiled by Susan Logan (DPH)*