**Meeting Minutes**

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

**8/2/2023 9:00 to 11:00 AM - Zoom Virtual Meeting**

**Attendees:** Matt Ritter, CT Hospital Association. Martin Looney, RYASAP. Jason Rojas,CAGV. Bob Duff, Project Longevity. Vincent Candelora, Yale New Haven Hospital. Kevin Kelly, Hartford Hospital. Mary Daugherty Abrams, Mothers United Against Violence. Steven Hernandez, Health Alliance for Violence Intervention. Dr. Manisha Juthani, Ct DPH Commissioner. Ct’s Governor Ned Lamont. Vincent Candelora, New Haven Police Chief. Vanessa Dorantes, CT-Department of Children and Families. Dr. Diedre Gifford, Department of Social Services. Steven Hernandez,esq. (CWCSEO). Colleen Viollette, CT- DPH. Susan Logan, CT-DPH.

**Dr. Manisha Juthani Commissioner of CT-DPH** Welcomed everyone.

**Approving meeting minutes**: asking for comments, hearing none, but Andrew Woods asked for clarification on when sub committee members can make comments, report outs? Dr. Juthani made distinction on when these comments could or should be made during the meeting.

Pina Violano made the motion to approve the minutes first, Jeremy Stien made the second.

**Public comment section**: No public comments

**Miriam Miller Policy Director- CT-DPH provided legislative updates**:

* Additional funds: $3.5 M dollars – Permanent funds from the General Fund for a total of $3.9M for 2 years ($7.8M). Senator Moore instrumental in acquiring this funding. Comments and questions discussed among Commission members.
* Bond Funding – $12 M – Commission will be working on how those moneys will be spent. Used for Infrastructure development – for Capital improvements. Expansion of the role as a Commission. Green Spaces, Better Street lighting, community centers, municipalities will get the funding to build more parks, etc. focus is on “Primary Prevention”. Bond funding – initially assigned to OPM in 2021. Reassigned to DPH with decisions on spending the funding guided by the CGV Commission.
* New Sub-Committee on Home Health Care - Senator Saud Anwar advocated for it. For survivors of gun violence who have injury-related disabilities and need long term care. Harriott Home Health provides these services. Medicaid Funding is limited; only covers 37% of the cost. Commissioner will need to bring in someone with expertise in home health to the Commission. The Commission is in favor of starting this new subcommittee. Commissioner’s Office asked for volunteer to chair the home Health subcommittees. David Shapiro is volunteering to be on the Committee. Nursing and VNA services can also provide expertise (Pina Violano volunteered to help with that aspect)

**Carl Schiessl-Senior Director of Regulatory Advocacy Connecticut Hospital Association** thought it important to make note of the difference between a general fund appropriation and a authorization to support activities through the issuance of the sale of state bonds. There are steps needed before the $12 million can hit the streets. The state bond commission needs to approve, then be made available. As a commission we have a duty to support the Department and be there for this important step. Timing equally important to this step.

**Miriam Miller-Policy Director CT DPH**

**Andrew Woods-Chair Gun Violence Intervention & Prevention Advisory Committee** What is the roll out of these dollars in terms of issuing RFP’s? Is there a perspective timeline?

**Dr. Juthani-Commissioner of CT DPH** There will be an RFP, it will be up for discussion in our next steps. Our first pressing issue is to deal with the current RFP then we can be more clear with a timeline for the next round.

**State Senator Saud Anwar(D)Senate Chair Public Health Committee 3rd District Presentation/Request for Subcommittee**

**Survivors of gun violence in CT** 90% are African American and Hispanic, average age of victims is less than 28, 43% are less than 18 years of age and 65% survive their injuries. Survivors’ needs are not being met. Quadriplegic, Paraplegic, other physical trauma, non-healing ulcers and reoccurring hospitalizations. We have recognized while dealing with home health agencies like Harriot Health, that survivors needs are not being met.

Requesting a sub committee to investigate the needs of survivors of gun violence who receive home health care. There is an area of opportunity to see if there can be policy recommendations going forward, financial requests.

**Dr. Juthani -Commissioner CT DPH** discussed the need for this committee and thanked Senator Anwar for the information.

**Jeremy Stien Executive Director Connecticut Against Gun Violence:** moved to approve this subcommittee, **Charles Schiessl** seconded.

**Media Campaign: Colleen Violette Health Program Supervisor-Office of Injury and Violence Prevention**

Worked with the O’Donnell company to launch a 3-day campaign around National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Ads ran on Ct DPH’s Facebook and Instagram pages. On 6/2 it reached over 1,300 people. On 6/3 it reached over 2,000 and on 6/4 the message reached over 1,500 people. Colleen gave an overview and more detailed analytics of the gun violence campaign that ran June 2nd -5th.

Next steps include a survey that aims to gage the goals and objectives of the campaign. Survey will go out to the commission members. If you have any questions once you receive the survey link, please contact Colleen. Your input is important!

**Commissioner member Dorantes-Department of Children and Families** said she would be willing to commit to distribute the materials on her end and others may be also. This could be a good way to share information.

**Funding information:**

**Dr. Juthani Commissioner CT DPH-** RFP went out. 17 applications were returned to CCMC. CCMC returned the results but there were some questions about whether the correct procedures were followed. Discussions are being held with CCMC to come up with a resolution**.**

**Financial and Legislative Sustainability Sub Committee Updates:**

**Carl Schiessl-Senior Director of Regulatory Advocacy Connecticut Hospital Association** Sub Committee met June 27th to review new laws in senate bill 9. Two things came out of that meeting that are of note:

1. An $11million appropriation to the judicial branch to support a youth programming select orgs working to reduce gun violence. In sections 39/40.
2. Sections 1069-1071 given to select orgs to reduce gun violence working with youth to be administered by the dept of economic and community development including $100,000 grants each year.

**Jeremy Stien -****Executive Director Connecticut Against Gun Violence:** discussed what a tremendous task it was to get this funding over the finish line and speaks volumes to the commitment that Connecticut has to this work. How do we have a more holistic approach to the work. How do we have a more public health approach to the work. How do we have more TA? These are all discussions we need to have throughout the year.

**Dr. Juthani- Commissioner CT DPH:** If this groups continues to do great work and show value, then others will be interested in our input, opinion, advice and suggestions or what we are doing. A way to start with this is to invite others who are already funded and see what they are doing. If the grant group wants to think about who gets funded next, the new need to work to build those things into the RFP. That’s what the work needs to be moving forward. Align that with the goals of the commission.

**Carl Schiessl-Senior Director of Regulatory Advocacy Connecticut Hospital Association** We are keeping our eye on federal funds as well and want to mention that.

**Dr. Juthani- Commissioner CT DPH:** mentionedthat in terms of federal funding we work with OPM as much as possible to expand funding.

**Kyle Fischer-Director of Policy the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention:** What method can we identify for picking good potential partners or funding sources?

**Dr. Juthani- Commissioner CT DPH:** I think this is a continued conversation, use these meetings to report out. Use these meetings to discuss potential partners, funding sources etc.

**Deborah Davis-Member Mothers United Against Violence:** Survivorship, glad we are discussing it and want to continue having a space for this **t**opic. **The Commissioner** suggested survivorship could be incorporated into the work of the home health subcommittee.

**Partnerships, Programs, Stakeholder, and Community Engagement:**

**Johanna Schubert:** gave comments on SB1162 an act requiring community roundtables. It funds a pilot project that requires police depts to host community roundtables to boost communication, several spoke on this bill. Safer communities’ summit was an amazing day and a highlight. Presenting at the hobby conference this September in Chicago.

**Karl Jacobsen Police Chief City of New Haven**- gave comments about working with Project Longevity in New Haven, seeing a reduction of gun violence in New Haven.

**Rev. AJ Johnson**-**Urban Hope Refuge Church/** **Interfaith Action Alliance:** Gave updates on their involvement in advocating for $20M in state budget for violence intervention and prevention. They started up a Coalition to End Gun Violence during this legislative session: included CTVIP, CGV, Interfaith Action Alliance, and others. Wanted the Commission legislative report to use a tool when advocating with legislators – didn’t have it in a timely manner.

Concerns about state funding to Judicial – what’s the purpose of this funding? Questions about how these funding decisions were made. Communications need to be improved.

SB11-62 an act for community round tables and funding a pilot program to have community organizations sit at the table with police – doing this quarterly.

CTHVIP Collaborative will be presenting at the next HAVI conference.

**Shirley Ellis-West** – involved with advocating for more cgv prevention resources.

**Data Evaluation and Analysis of Grant-funded Programs:**

**Data Evaluation** and Analysis of Grant-funded Programs –**At DPH, in the Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit**, we are continuing to collect comprehensive information on gun related and other lethal means of homicide in Connecticut. Also, we’re working with our syndromic surveillance vendor to create a nonfatal gun shot and violence dashboard which will display the violence-related emergency department visits. It will provide demographics and geography of the residents injured by gun violence and be updated on a near-real time basis.

**Kerri Raissian- Director for Advancing Research, Methods and Scholarship (ARMS) at UCONN** gave update on the UConn ARMS data. Syndromic surveillance system has ED visits from all EDs in CT and urgent care visits from 40 urgent care centers.

**Susan Logan-CT DPH** giving an update on Neena’s position and how she will be chairing this group when she comes back from leave and what data she will be using to help assist her with this group.

**Kerri Raissian- Director for Advancing Research, Methods and Scholarship (ARMS) at UCONN** how to evaluate the RFP’s. As quickly as possible. Offer TA, training.

**Kerri Raissian- Director for Advancing Research, Methods and Scholarship (ARMS) at UCONN** asked if we have a status on an evaluator on the RFP?

**Susan Logan CT-DPH**: No new updates, it is on our radar.

**Jeremy Stien -Executive Director Connecticut Against Gun Violence:** Is there timing on the dashboard?

**Susan Logan CT-DPH:** Within 2 months, by October 1st, we will have an accompanying documentation to go along with that to share.

CTHVIP Collaborative will be presenting at the next HAVI conference.

**Next Steps:**

* Draft Report Due early November, Commission and subcommittee’s recommendations need to be action orientated, realistic, and evidenced informed. Susan and Colleen will be working with the subcommittees to require and encourage the groups to meet monthly and think about the work ahead.
* Monthly Subcommittee meetings – need to meet monthly to get a report draft done by early November.
* Upcoming Commission Meetings (September 13 and October 11) Think about future subcommittee structure – think about the current subcommittees – do they meet the needs of the goals of the Commission? Is the needed expertise represented on the subcommittees. What other subcommittees do we need?