

**COUNCIL ON WOMEN & GIRLS- SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH & SAFETY**

**DATE: December 6th, 2021**

**TIME/ LOCATION: 10:00am - 12:00 pm/ Microsoft TEAMS**

**Meeting Members/Designees/Attendees:**

**Vannessa Dorantes** (Subcommittee Co-Chair: Comm. DCF); **Beth Bye** (Subcommittee Co-Chair, Comm. OEC); **Manisha Juthani** (Comm. DPH); **Deidre Gifford** (Comm. DSS); **Anne Bonito** (Legal Div of OEC); **Jennifer Barahona** (Norwalk ACTS); Maryann Smith( DPH); **Jane Siegel** (Staff Attorney DVA); **Shelly Nolan** (DMHAS); **Valencia L. Bagby-Young**; **Callyn Priebe**; **Brandon Hayden** - CT C2C ST Partnership; **Althea Marshall Brooks** (Waterbury Bridge to Success); **Allison Logan** (Bridgeport Prosper); **Marie Spivey** (SEET Systems Consultant Equity Education & Transition (SEET Systems) Consultants LLC); **Marian Evans** ( SCSU); **Donna Palomba** (Jane Doe No More); **Corrinna Martin** (M.O.V.E. Inc); **Lauren Scopaz Daunais** (Stamford Cradle to Career); **Kim Martone** (Deputy Director Health Strategy); **Yvette Young** (Village for Family & Children); **Aletha R. Minnis** ( DCF); **Rep. Dorinda Borer**; **Janet Stolfi Afano** (CT Diaper Bank); **Kathy Flaherty**; **Ashley Starr Frechette** (CCADV); **Gretchen Raffin** (Planned Parenthood); **Terra Volpe** (CT Against Gun Violence); **Lutonya Russell-Humes**; **Brian Foley** (DESPP); **Mary Mason** (for Nancy Navaretta DMHAS)

Recorder: Chenae Russell (Office of Early Childhood)

**MINUTES**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Commissioner Dorantes welcomed the group and called the meeting to order at around 10:00 AM.	
<b>Review and Approval of minutes from last meeting</b>	Yes	approved
<b>Legislative Updates – Members, Agencies</b>	None	
<b>Legislative Advocacy</b>	None	
<b>Questions:</b>	<b>NONE</b>	
<b>Topics of Discussion</b>	<p><b>Cradle to Career activities, Health and Safety</b></p> <p><b>Jennifer Barahona, Norwalk ACTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• broad-based, community collaborations that aim to improve educational outcomes for every child in the cities of Bridgeport, Norwalk, Waterbury and Stamford, cradle to career. Using a data-driven process that focuses resources on high-impact strategies, Our C2C Initiatives have begun to move the needle on what works for kids, and better position children in our communities for a successful future.</li> <li>• building a cross-sector coalition focused on improving equitable early childhood outcomes for CT cradle to career.</li> </ul>	

- Represent the backbone of the work in Bridgeport, Norwalk, Waterbury and Stamford.

**Allison Logan, Bridgeport Prospers**

- Uses data from Head start and identified complex problem the community – investment in PN-3 Pritzker Children’s initiative, Building a Baby Bundle Ecosystem for Moms and their children
- Co-developed with the community universal and targeted services within the Baby bundle for PN-3
- Partnering with OEC on Universal Home visiting
- Increased FCC setting for infants and toddlers
- Increase early literacy in pediatric and hospital settings
- Universal development screening (Sparkler)
- Increase access to Doulas,

**Althea Marshall-Brooks, Waterbury Bridge to Success**

- Mental Health Care Coordination, pilot in Waterbury
  - Care Coordination = system or referrals from Stay well home visiting programs into Women’s Choice Perinatal Service. Referrals will come to Unite Us clinical/ community provider database.
  - Education & Outreach= Waterbury bridge to Success working with Women’s Choice to provide education and awareness info sessions to the community broader awareness on doulas and value of doulas for women of color.
  - Systems Coordination= Unite Us to create module to collect and report on data, facilitates reporting back to hospitals, serves as fiduciary and grant manager. Participates in organizing and

assisting with all education and outreach as needed by Bridge to Success.

- Black Maternal Health

Awareness= #Day43

- January, strives to create solutions to fight Black maternal mortality and to support an all-around equitable environment for all women. Will raise awareness on Black maternal health through training, research, advocacy and community centered collaboration. Trinity Health and St. Mary's Hospital supporting. Sparkler key in this.

**Lauren Scopaz Daunais, Stamford Cradle to Career**

- Sparkler is a free developmental screening and play app.
- Helps parents and families do screening and connecting caregivers to providers.
- Has been a part of the statewide pilot and now a part of a statewide expansion for all families for free.
- Started working with providers who work with families with young children to support them. This includes, homes visiting, child care centers, communities etc.
- Partnership with local school districts, spread word through Stamford kindergarten public schools for free
- Partner with families to promote, improve and support Has some parent ambassadors to help with advocacy.
- Expanding providers to partner with health department field
- Uses the ages and stages questionnaire
- Helps with transition for kindergarten with where a child is at developmentally.

Question: Are you open to expanding and working with others?

Everybody is invited to be involved in all this work.

Comm. Gifford: Here is the link to CT's most recent report from the Maternal Mortality Review committee. <https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DPH/Maternal-Mortality/CT-MMR-Evaluation-Report-2015-2017-FINAL-PRINT.pdf>

Will show the update report next time.

Althea- Hope for launching #Day43, recognize there are no Maternal Review Committee (MMRC), women's health departments because some do not have those in our health care system.

Comm. Beth Bye: Importance with UHV with the Governor linking to Maternal health and early comprehensive screening that is similar to the work being done that we have to do on the state level.

DR. Spivey: We do not look at what mothers have been through? The average child experience, the aces. We have used that. People really need to think what happened to them and apply that now.

Allison Logan= Awareness Educational campaign in Bridgeport on Aces and working with local pediatrics. It's what happened to you not what's wrong with you.  
Althea= Screening a part of home visiting

**M.O.V.E. Domestic Violence Presentation  
Corrinna Martin**

- Founder of nonprofit [Mothers of Victim Equality \(M.O.V.E. Inc.\)](#) in West Haven, CT.
- Since July 2013 working on bridging the gap with the Black and brown communities with Domestic Violence and different judicial branches. We felt it should be more proactive the retroactive and more inclusive then selective. The VP her daughter in 2017 was killed as a result of DV along with granddaughter. She adopted her surviving granddaughter.

- We have sought to speak to community and elected officials to bring them in to understand how this gap is so wide within the Black and Brown community. These resources are not accessible in way for these communities. Shifted to actual advocacy and survivors and developed a few programs piloted in 2018 through now.
- SAVE program trying to get implemented in the court system for victims a sanctuary room where they can be isolated from the chaotic environment in the court room to be exposed to the banter of the perpetrator or their families. Especially for the children being so violently involved or exposed.
- Bridging the gap to after hour support or on the weekends. There is a need for all hours outside of 9-5pm. Help families know there is someone there who can relate and support them. Many of the advocates have not had the experience that this program can provide for after hours. This is a pilot in Bridgeport since that is who we had worked with but open to working with others and expanding.
- Appreciate the emphasis of incorporating ACES , trying to start early to educate and undo what is learned and have a proactive approach and combat this first hand
- We are grassroots organization and are looking for help. It is vitally important we focus on outreach especially in the Black and Brown communities where there is distrust but that can be bridged into a path of trust. Many women do not want to go to a hospital because of how big of an employer it is and word can get out.
- I have been working on the violent offender registry, it gives tiered level of offenders that go from breach of peace to more violent crimes to help them get mental health support free of charge and work within the family dynamic and allows to work with women who do not

	<p>want to leave because most agencies will frown on the women who choose to stay.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking for any monetary support for sheltering rescue center in west haven who does not have and is desperately needs one.</li> </ul>	
<b>Topics</b>	Maternal Mortality in future meetings	
<b>Committee Updates</b>	<p><b>Cmr. Juthani – Covid-19 updates</b></p> <p>Covid-19 rates are rising in our communities expected in winter months. Hospitalizations are going up but 70-80% are those unvaccinated so biggest push is to get people vaccinated in the state. A lot of people sick not just Covid-19 but many that has been put off due to COVID. Keeping many out of hospitals is important.</p> <p>We have a quarter 18 &amp; older who have been boosted. You do not need to rely on pharmacies, there are DPH vans. We have 31 towns in red that went to 137 last weeks in the red, biggest driver are unvaccinated but also those 1% have had breakthrough case. Keeping those low with the booster.</p> <p>Omicron, identify a case in CT this weekend who went to NYC convention. In South Africa Omicron variant what is concerning in South Africa 10x more infection then the delta variant. Those in US are mild symptoms, a lot of information we do not know. a quarter 5-11 years old. 12-35-year-old work in communities in color. Continue to educate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Getting vaccinated to protect yourself and others.</li> <li>• Wearing mask</li> <li>• Getting Booster, vaccination clinics</li> </ul> <p>Email for a DPH van to come out to community Vaccinate For more information and to put in a request for a mobile vaccine van to attend your event, people can go to: <a href="https://ct.gov/Covid-vaccine">ct.gov/Covid vaccine</a></p>	
<b>Announcement</b>	Decided to meet on months where there is not a quarterly full council meetings and will be 90 minutes.	
<b>Adjournment</b>	The meeting adjourned around 11:32	

	<p>Future Subcommittee Meetings:</p> <p>February 7, 2022 March 7, 2022 May 2, 2022 June 6, 2022 August 1, 2022 September 6, 2022 November 7, 2022 December 5, 2022</p>	
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