

**Council on Women and Girls
Health and Safety Subcommittee**

**Monday, September 23, 2024
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**

Link to view recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/YBDfvGvBTWt-Nv03GUFJlfMyIb5gBPHWCwVf4nr_wh0GMsmSnkNNiHmpB9fsa2Lk.0TkPMJojaEezRZr9

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I. Public Comment

Deborah Poerio provided an update on Family Bridge. Family Bridge has begun the planning process for Norwich, which has a unique environment in that the county has two tribal nations that will be included in the service area and delivery. Family Bridge expects to be ready in January 2025.

II. Family First Presentation by Sharon Davis, Director of Family and Community Services for the Department of Children and Families

The vision for Family First is for it to not only serve families who come to the attention of the child welfare agency, but also to develop supports in the form of Community Pathways, which provides upfront services without the need to enter families into the child welfare system. This would prevent the family from ongoing involvement in the child welfare system.

Community Pathways considers two candidacy populations, those being known DCF families and those families with families that accept Careline calls, families who have reached out and request behavioral health, siblings of youth in foster care, and pregnant and parenting youth in foster care.

As of October 1, 2023, the Community Pathways line has been live, marketed to families and family groups initially. Current services that are offered by the Community Pathways line include functional family therapy, multi-systemic therapy, brief strategic family therapy, and parent child interaction therapy.

The ongoing next steps for Community Pathways are to fully implement CT's Family First Prevention Plan and to partner with the top three mandated reporter groups: schools, medical personnel, and law enforcement. In addition to this, DCF is beginning the process of educating community members regarding the current available service array and working to include more services to enhance the service array. Furthermore, DCF is looking to onboard young adults and parents with lived experience to inform prevention services for the State in order to provide them with a voice and to have feedback on what services are offered.

III. Announcements

None

IV. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting scheduled for December 2nd at 10:00 a.m.