

Regional Legislative Forum Info Brief – 1/23/24

Catchment Area Council Southwestern CT

The Hub, Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization (RBHAO) for Southwestern CT, held a Regional Legislative Forum through our Catchment Area Council on January 23rd, 2024. We appreciate your time, support and contributions to our conversations. We hope that you will address our legislative priorities in your policy work and keep our behavioral healthcare system in mind. Please know that we are here as a resource.

Contact: info@thehubct.org

Forum Recording:

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/Z0Z8PUN7Ez97YABgGwNOUW98C1wap1ax11Vmm7fxRW7Dc6aneu_SHY6yaAp2A2sl.5DVFE4KBe-6S4ePR

Passcode: r4Rp+Fjk

Forum PowerPoint Slides (includes legislative priorities, speaker contact information & more)

https://www.canva.com/design/DAF6LucNJLE/ctyg8nfpSTNMhHNCzsAh-A/edit?utm_content=DAF6LucNJLE&utm_campaign=designshare&utm_medium=link2&utm_source=sharebutton

Updates on Prevention Priorities & NAMI CT

Speaker: Margaret Watt, MPH, MA - Prevention Director, Positive Directions & Public Policy Chair, NAMI CT

Recording Timing: 14:21 – 24:13

Note: Info briefs are attached to this email.

Prevention Priorities:

- Fund an FTE in each community to coordinate mental health promotion and substance misuse prevention work.
- Provide resources to police for compliance and enforcement.

- Address retail education and consequences.
- Address licensing, advertising, and state agency oversight.

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) CT Priorities:

- Improve care through comprehensive strategic plans for mental health, filling gaps in the continuum of care, and ensuring access through parity law.
- Intervene early in supporting urgent crisis centers and TCB Committee.
- Divert from justice involvement by expanding access to crisis services and requiring de-escalation best practices.

Regional Legislative Priority & Ask: Sustain funding and support for the current Urgent Crisis Centers and open a location in Southwestern CT.

Speaker: Kristin Pracitto, LCSW – Vice President of Child Services, Wellmore

Recording Time: 26:12 – 45:00

Note: PowerPoints, Info briefs & testimony are attached to this email.

Education on Peer-Run Respite for Adults

Speaker: Jordan Fairchild – Executive Director, Keep the Promise Coalition

Recording Timing: 59:00 – 1:30:00

Note: Information is embedded in the Forum PowerPoint slides (link at the top of this summary)

Peer-Run Respite Priority & Ask:

- 8 peer run respites in Connecticut, including three affinity-specific respites for Black and Brown, Transgender, and Spanish speaking communities in order to best support mental health in a voluntary, person centered and culturally informed manner.

Regional Legislative Priority & Ask: Funding & Sustainability for accessible psychiatric beds and support staff to maintain services and increase accountability on commercial insurance companies to comply with federal law on parity.

*Speakers: Dr. Andrew Gerber, MD, PhD – President & Medical Director, Silver Hill Hospital
& Lisa Gregory, Peer Support Specialist*

Recording Time: 1:30:00 – 1:49:33

Note: Testimonies are attached to this email.

Regional Legislative Priority & Ask: Sustainability for intermediate and higher level of care across all ages.

Recording Time: 1:53:00 – 1:55:00

Note: Information is embedded in the Forum PowerPoint slides (link at the top of this summary)