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

**Date: February 26, 2025**

**Time: 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM**

**Location:** Zoom

**Meeting Minutes**

**Commission Appointed Members in attendance:** Deborah Davis (Mothers United Against Violence), Dr. James Dodington (Yale New Haven Health), Ebony Epps (Project Catalyst), Dr. Kyle Fischer (The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention), Leonard Jahad (CT Violence Intervention Program), Melissa Kane (CT Against Gun Violence), James Mandracchia (State Department of Education), Partick McCormack (Uncas Health District), Dr. Kerri Raissian (University of Connecticut), Nina Holmes (CT Department of Social Services), Jacquelyn Santiago Nazario (COMPASS Youth Collaborative), Carl Schiessl, Esq. (CT Hospital Association), Johanna Schubert (Hartford Communities That Care), Dr. Pina Violano (The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, and Opportunity), Colleen Violette (CT Department of Public Health), Tyshaunda Wiley (CT Department of Public Health), Commissioner Manisha Juthani (CT Department of Public Health).

1. **Convene Meeting:** Commissioner Juthani convened the meeting at 9:02am, welcoming attendees.
2. **Approve Meeting Minutes:** The Commissioner called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the previous meeting in July. Patrick McCormack moved to approve the minutes, and Vincent Russo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Public Comment:** No members of the public offered comments during the allotted time.
4. **Legislative Update:** Colleen discussed that the OFIP is responding to several bills during the current legislative session. There will be an opportunity for Commission members to provide testimony to bills. The Partnerships subcommittee will take the lead on providing testimony. CTAGV will also support providing a more streamlined process for Commission members to provide testimony.
5. **VOCA Assistance Overview and Update:** [See meeting recording for more details: Minutes 00:00:09: to 00:36:24]

Marc Pelka, Deputy Director for Office of Victim Services presented on the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) federal program. He discussed the Federal CVF (Crime Victimes Fund) overview, VOCA allocations to Connecticut, and impact of VOCA funding in Connecticut that addresses gun violence.

Judicial Branch Bid notices site that posts VOCA funding announcements:

<https://www.jud.ct.gov/BidNotices/bid_login.htm>

1. **OFIP Update:** 
   1. **PA 24-19: An Act Concerning the Health Safety of Connecticut Residents**

Colleen reported that OFIP has completed the public education informational document for Public Act 24 19. The document has been approved by OPM. The design will change to have a cohesive design, but the information will stay the same. The document will be provided to primary care offices to be distributed to patients. OFIP is seeking ideas from committee members on the distribution plan. Marc Pelka of VOCA will connect OFIP distributing the document with organizations who are providing VOCA services.

* 1. **Subcommittee Action Plans**

Action Plans for each subcommittee have been compiled into an Excel spreadsheet based on the subcommittee’s mandates and charges from the Commission report. The document will serve as a working document for subcommittee members to collaborate. OFIP will provide administrative support to subcommittee members and chairpersons.

1. **Subcommittee Updates:**
   1. **RFP Grant Criteria and Award Subcommittee**

Commissioner Juthani reported that membership of this subcommittee is moving into an ad hoc basis. Only appointed commission members who are not applying for DPH funding will serve as members to be involved in the writing and/or review of grants. The next funding RFA will be released in a few weeks with a conference following to provide best guidance.

* 1. **Sustainability – Financial and Legislative**
* Co-chair Carl Schiessl reported that the Subcommittee met and reviewed the Governor’s budget that was recently released.
* Subcommittee hosted Marc Pelka at their November 2024 meeting and coordinated him sharing the information with the full Commission.
  1. Strategic plan template- subcommittee has discussed the strategic plan template, update, and approaches to moving forward. The subcommittee is seeking opportunities to engage in advocacy, and continue their work creatively.
  2. **Partnerships, Programs, Stakeholder, and Community Engagement**
* Co-chair Joanna reported that many commission members attended and were speakers at the recent HVIP summit.
* Yale School of Public Health event was held January 30th that helped to keep lawmakers informed on CVI initiatives.
* Many members submitted testimony on maintaining funding.
* Those who have received DPH grants have continued to network.
* Getting general unease feeling around funding, statewide and federally.
* Next subcommittee meeting on March 12th at 2:00 PM.
  1. **Data Evaluation and Analysis of Grant-funded Programs**
* Co-chair Kerri Raissian reported on the change in structure; Neena Jacob will now serve as a member and Colleen Violette as the Co-chair.
* Discussed name change for the data subcommittee to focus more on data and evidence
* DPH evaluator contract is planned to start April 1st
* Next subcommittee will be held Monday March 3rd at 10:00 AM (normally held 1st Tuesday of the month). The DPH Injury Violence Survellnace Unit will review the Data Dashboard to solicit feedback, ensuring it is user friendly. Will also discuss the process of submitting requests for data. It was stressed that as a commission the data being presented is accurate and cohesive.
  1. **Home Health**
* Co- Chairs Dr. James Doddington and Deborah Davis discussed that the concept of hospital-based violence intervention programs are built to serve victims of violence through intensive case management and integration into community violence intervention. The nationally accepted definition of CVI programs is that they serve in addition to healthcare services.
* Shared the importance of ensuring collaboration, advocacy, and getting health care providers at meetings for discussion. Also discussed how a positive ecosystem should work in tandem of positive energy.

1. **CCMC Update on Grantees**

* Kelsey Arias reported that the HVIP Summit was held in February and co-sponsored by the city of Hartford. Although not required, most of the grantees were able to attend the summit and were able to meet in person, and attend grantee specific breakout sessions. Grantees have reported that they are seeking networking support, assistance in facilitating collaborations, and information on funding opportunities.
* Grantee showcases were held in December and January. Link to the recorded showcases:

[December 4, 2024](https://connecticutchildrens.zoom.us/rec/play/wNY9o6ERx66xOgLjqbOgZRBYhXhcInFjSYHOfWxi2c0hIGNKvNZgFgXaqrVxeNT5ctIskot4HKb6cwTv.wZJQX0SxR1aHZby8?accessLevel=meeting&canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&continueMode=true&pwd=5dFmgRSLDikSccHMbYLhguEDFUshr6wg&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fconnecticutchildrens.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FpiWAExhlMIXYBbDDzPgwoKr1TOBDyrNilDRS7-ut4c-CxpGLOQzhxkXMUIjYiGJL.4mEKmCJTI7YcokgU%3Fpwd%3D5dFmgRSLDikSccHMbYLhguEDFUshr6wg)

[January 22, 2025](https://connecticutchildrens.zoom.us/rec/play/uMDPoZVbEiOiYVbrc5GthJHysmlOZYC0TU8oBePVW-tDytPKozClovqYCmmdy0G9GdxSAeH0sG9vb8sc.lzRqS8C9cSamww20?accessLevel=meeting&canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&continueMode=true&pwd=T4tlsTkvAwues4c1RLOrIslXL-mIdkpL&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fconnecticutchildrens.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FTg8fvYGcqMCA_PpOftCyi3G4omf0cqJtcUcOrrS4uLHpuOWc9EWtA-3z3UNGDOE-.MglzBKJwtz_Z46jb%3Fpwd%3DT4tlsTkvAwues4c1RLOrIslXL-mIdkpL)

[January 23, 2025](https://connecticutchildrens.zoom.us/rec/play/cVotbE-e1CxjGPXjbyBhgiiMug89HI9tkETKVRqTg-gWtcvDxlE6WoGiZpDSXN_qbE5MtKNQ89kmV_wm.HRj5EQSkYzfVM8wX?accessLevel=meeting&canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&startTime=1737644584000&pwd=Yvrr9gGAJoGf8Wp6bPnnGnBh0p_uEJxq&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fconnecticutchildrens.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2F3KMw8lNU9VJ1Ffm_ULM4HHzMKXKxgobJ4JugN7SoGBcEEphXt1McPBLtxpvsSxoy.HU2OG1x-xD2iBrTn%3FstartTime%3D1737644584000%26pwd%3DYvrr9gGAJoGf8Wp6bPnnGnBh0p_uEJxq)

1. **Commission Next Steps**
   1. **Quarterly Commissioner Meeting-** Commission will continue to meet

Quarterly: April, July, October, and December. Unable to meet in person today due to being in session, but will plan to meet in person when the LOB is available.

* 1. **Bi-monthly Subcommittee meeting-** The subcommittees will continue to meet bi-monthly. OFIP will continue to provide administrative support to the subcommittees and Co-chairs.

Motion to adjourn made by Patrick McCormack, second by Carl Schiessl. Meeting adjourned by Commissioner: 10:30am.

[Meeting Recording](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FGvtj45_OjeU&data=05%7C02%7CColleen.Violette%40ct.gov%7C3c2558ba7b7645267bf308dd57308dea%7C118b7cfaa3dd48b9b02631ff69bb738b%7C0%7C0%7C638762588221540052%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=3Zcli0PeQr%2B5Q58j5dRoQg6Q%2Bu1XotgOAppa3zb6ANs%3D&reserved=0)

Respectfully submitted,

Tyshaunda Wiley

Health Program Associate, Office of Firearm Injury Prevention

3.4.2025