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

**Date: August 6, 2025**

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

**Location:** Zoom

**Meeting Minutes**

**Appointed Commission Members in attendance:** Deborah Davis (Mothers United Against Violence), Dr. Kyle Fischer (The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention), Leonard Jahad (CT Violence Intervention Program), Commissioner Manisha Juthani (CT Department of Public Health), Melissa Kane (CT Against Gun Violence), James Mandracchia (State Department of Education), Patrick McCormack (Uncas Health District), Dr. Kerri Raissian (University of Connecticut), Jacquelyn Santiago Nazario (COMPASS Youth Collaborative), Johanna Schubert (Hartford Communities the Care, Inc.), Dr. Pina Violano (The Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity, & Opportunity), Colleen Violette (CT Department of Public Health), Tyshaunda Wiley (CT Department of Public Health)

1. **Convene Meeting:** Colleen Violette convened the meeting at 9:05am, welcoming attendees.
2. **Approve Meeting Minutes:** Colleen called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the previous meeting in May. Melissa Kane moved to approve the minutes, and Dr. Kyle Fischer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Public Comment:** No members of the public offered comments during the allotted time.
4. **Office of Firearm Injury Prevention (OFIP) Update:** 
   1. **Contracts-** The Evaluator contract has been fully executed with Yale School of Public Health serving as the grantee. Six proposals were chosen for the RFA Implementing a Public Health Approach to Address Community Violence and will be shared once the contracts are fully executed.
   2. **Firearm Safe Distribution Plan-** Have distributed 840 safes and 948 cable locks. Interns Lavar Mitchell and Kassim Nimotalai worked with the Injury and Violence Surveillance Unit (IVSU) to identify different areas within the State that are at the highest burden for homicide and suicide, and to assist with strategizing the firearm safe distribution plan (See attached Firearm Safes Distribution Plan)
   3. **Heatmap of Firearm Deaths** [See meeting recording for more details: Minutes 00:08:53 to 00:14:27]

Interns Lavar Mitchell and Kassim Nimotalai presented heatmaps of firearm homicides and suicides in Connecticut for 2020- 2023. Raw number of homicides by firearm- 550 and raw number of suicides by firearm- 457 for this four-year period. Utilizing heatmaps to overlay specific incidents, including their locations and contexts, can provide a more detailed visualization of the impact of injury and violence throughout the state. This approach is essential for guiding public health professionals such as the Critical Incident Stress Management Team in their responses to these incidents (See attached slides Heat Map of Firearm Homicides/ Suicides in Connecticut 2020- 2023).

1. **DPH Data Presentation:** [See meeting recording for more details: Minutes 00:20:17 to 00:40:58]

Neena Jacob presented the Annual Community Violence Data Update focusing on non-fatal assault injuries, homicides, and firearm mortality by national, new England region, and Connecticut (See attached PowerPoint Data Presentation)

1. **UCONN ARMS Dashboard Presentation:** [See meeting recording for more details: Minutes 00:51:38 to 01:01:07]

Dr. Kerri Raissian presented UCONN ARMS (Advancing Research, Methods, and Scholarship in Gun Injury Prevention) Violent Mortality Dashboard. The dashboard maps suicides and homicides throughout Connecticut; limited to suicides and homicides.

<https://arms.chip.uconn.edu/violent-mortality-dashboard/>

1. **DPH Dashboard Presentation:** [See meeting recording for more details: Minutes 01:01:57 to 01:09:54]

Neena Jacob presented the DPH Connecticut Violence Injury Dashboard that is being developed to support both firearm injury, prevention and the suicide prevention program. Will be available to the public tentatively August 2025

1. **Subcommittee Updates:**
   1. **Sustainability, Financial, and Legislative**

Colleen shared that the subcommittee has not met since last Commission meeting due to Chairperson turnover, however looking forward to subcommittee restructure in 2026. Interns have been working on getting a cost analysis of CVI funding that's coming into the State of Connecticut. Will be beneficial to understand funding cliffs in the current political climate, what our baseline is, and how that might change.

* 1. **Partnerships, Programs, Stakeholder, and Community Engagement**

Johanna shared that the subcommittee met in May and July and had robust attendance at both meetings. Partners from across the State shared their community engagement activities around gun violence awareness day, sports, youth engagement, and partnerships with municipalities and law enforcement. Members have discussed funding concerns to HVIP programs due to the Big Beautiful Bill, Federal budget, and Federal courts not granting injunctive relief for cancelled contracts. Programs are now finding alternative sources of funding for those lost grants. Grantee showcase provided opportunity for partners to meet in person and see the impact of investment from DPH. Have been planning continuing education opportunities locally, statewide, and nationally including the HAVI conference. Registration information below. Next bi-monthly meeting will be early October.

<https://web.cvent.com/event/51c86333-2f91-4580-8df9-e86220239301/summary>

* 1. **Data and Evidence Based**

Members have discussed how to gain access to more data and evidence across the state. Have reviewed the subcommittee work plan at each meeting. The Evaluator for the grantees has been hired and has been attending the Data and Evidence subcommittee meetings to establish partnerships. At last meeting members discussed how to support both funded and non-funded programs through technical assistance trainings. The Connecticut Violent Death Reporting System Advisory Board will meet on August 12th and will present to the subcommittee at a future meeting. See Mike Makowski for more information.

* 1. **Home Health**

Deborah Davis shared that the most recent subcommittee meeting featured a survivor-led organization, Lewis B. Pace of Boston, focusing on recidivism. Discussed the importance of having resources available in communities and homes of survivors to reduce recidivism.

1. **CCMC Update on Grantees**

The Grantee showcase held on May 30th was for both cohorts, receiving funding for 3 years, and the second round of funding for approximately 1 year.

[**CVI Grantee Showcase Recording link**](https://connecticutchildrens.zoom.us/rec/play/KXqPY0uIVLA2ouMaDnSaBuWGyopAs8DdLWUecdx1OEi0qPUnxv4GyynBMCFbdX3nMXznzK8pR8SWLZOY.KeApAJfuYDiT-iEs?eagerLoadZvaPages=sidemenu.billing.plan_management&accessLevel=meeting&canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&continueMode=true&pwd=DG3DBDBaQQTFe9u9sAAAIAAAAJXcudgSmg9SZfwT381kzn0X78HkczzqU63027Qnneq1f9SB3R6ONsxqwZr1o0NjqjAwMDAwNA&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fconnecticutchildrens.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FgKdywCuTQwlT9-665wMlkdrqmPvJtJ_u_DbCnTFjMoCCAWLJcqOC7k69efMF_9ZC.5VTc73ONYKmLTUtm%3Fpwd%3DDG3DBDBaQQTFe9u9sAAAIAAAAJXcudgSmg9SZfwT381kzn0X78HkczzqU63027Qnneq1f9SB3R6ONsxqwZr1o0NjqjAwMDAwNA)

Grantees from the 1st cohort are approximately a month into the 3rd year of funding; currently finalizing their contracts. Grantees from the 2nd cohort who were awarded for one year are working with a no-cost extension. There are 10 organizations that were awarded funding in that round, 9 of them are still spending down funding. One completed their grant already within the initial timeframe of the contract. Looking forward to continuing partnership with Yale School of Public Health now that they have been hired as the Evaluator of the CBOs. Kelsey reviewed notable outcomes for grantees [See meeting recording for more details: Minutes 01:27:37 to 01:29:29]

1. **2nd Public Comment**
   1. Mike Makowski, Dr. Pina Violana, and Dr. Kerri Raissian discussed discrepancy in data counts for suicides deaths that have occurred on the Coast Guard property vs suicide affiliated with the Coast Guard.
2. **Commission Next Steps**
   1. **Quarterly Commissioner Meeting-** The Commission will continue to meet

Quarterly: October, December, and February. For December meeting members will approve the annual report that will be submitted to the legislature.

* 1. **Bi-monthly subcommittee meetings-**The subcommittees will continue to meet bi-monthly. Looking to reorganize subcommittees for 2026.

Motion to adjourn made by Kerri Raissian, second by Dr. Pina Violano. Meeting adjourned by Commissioner: 10:38am.

[Meeting Recording](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2FdEL9rqlsevM&data=05%7C02%7CTyshaunda.Wiley%40ct.gov%7Cf11e52473ee741182c6208dddb5dbbe7%7C118b7cfaa3dd48b9b02631ff69bb738b%7C0%7C0%7C638907917800324261%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kmW9e%2Br4m96NliaTtEq1KyqvxFaZvDTvbh6FxVYfwmM%3D&reserved=0)  
Respectfully submitted,

Tyshaunda Wiley

Health Program Associate, Office of Firearm Injury Prevention

8.13.2025