



Making connections. Informing solutions.

University of New Haven

April 16th, 2026

3:00 – 4:30 PM

Zoom

TCB Prevention Workgroup April Meeting

- 1. TCB Updates**
- 2. Community of Concern Presentation – Rebekah Seaton**
- 3. Pyramid Model Presentation – Lorna Thomas-Farquharson Psy.D, Program Manager, Office of Early Childhood**
- 4. Prevention Subgroups – Forms Survey/ Next Steps**

April 16th, 2026
3:00 PM – 4:30 PM
Zoom

April Prevention Workgroup Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Ingrid Gillespie

Kris Robles

Adrianna
Ramirez

Emuna Patterson

Rebekah Seaton

Lorna Thomas-
Farquharson

Darcy Lowell

Edith Boyle

Pam Mautte

Lena Esposito

Tara Viens

Zosh Flammia

Katie Rudek

Kate Sweeney

TYJI Staff:

Emily
Bohmbach

Stacey Olea

Agenda:

- ❖ **Welcome and Introductions**
- ❖ **TCB Administrative Updates**
 - TCB Updates
- ❖ **Community of Concern Presentation**
- ❖ **Pyramid Model Presentation**
- ❖ **Prevention Subgroups**

Meeting Summary:

1. Administrative Updates

- i. The TCB Senior Project Manager provided updates on the recent April TCB Meeting as well as the upcoming workgroup activities, including presentations on co-occurring behavioral health and developmental disabilities, substance use prevention, suicide prevention, and findings from a statewide behavioral health services survey that will help guide subgroup planning.

2. Community of Concern

- a. A representative and member of the Community Voice workgroup, presented at West Hartford's Community of Concern initiative, a

community-based prevention and wellness organization focused on supporting youth and families

- i. The presentation highlighted the group's 20-year history of providing substance use prevention, mental health education, and youth wellness programming through partnerships with schools, families, local organizations, and community leaders. Members discussed how the initiative has expanded over time to address broader topics, including stress, depression, social media use, ADHD, identity, and belonging, grief support, healthy relationships, and youth wellness. The speaker described how the organization gathers feedback from students, families, and school staff through surveys, community conversations, and participation in events to better understand current youth needs and areas of concern.

b. Q&A

- i. Workgroup members discussed the Community of Concern model, as well as highlighting the value of school and PTO partnerships, prevention-focused education, and reducing stigma by creating connections among families experiencing similar challenges. Additionally, the discussion focused on the organization's use of accessible resources and youth engagement strategies, including student-led wellness events, youth participation on panels, and opportunities for students to help plan and lead prevention initiatives.

3. Pyramid Model Presentation

- a. Representatives of the Office of Early Childhood (OEC) and the UConn School of Social Work's PEAK Team provided a presentation on the Pyramid Model, an evidence-based framework designed to support the social-emotional development of young children through prevention-focused and relationship-based practices.
 - i. The model promotes positive behavioral support, strengthens caregiver and educator responses, and emphasizes viewing behavior as communication rather than punishment-based discipline. The presentation highlighted the model's public health and prevention approach, including universal support for all children, targeted interventions, and intensive supports when

needed. The presentation emphasized the importance of culturally responsive and inclusive practices, family engagement, early intervention, and reducing suspensions and expulsions in early childhood settings.

- ii. The speakers discussed Connecticut's statewide implementation efforts, including training and coaching networks, family support initiatives, and a new community-wide pilot program in northeastern Connecticut focused on integrating Pyramid Model practices across schools, libraries, pediatric providers, and community organizations.

4. Q&A

- a. Workgroup members discussed their interest in the Pyramid Model's role as a prevention-focused framework for supporting young children's social-emotional development and reducing challenging behaviors in early childhood settings. Members highlighted the importance of early intervention, consistent messaging across providers and families, and integrating the model into pediatric, educational, and community-based settings.
 - i. Members discussed the importance of supporting educators and caregivers through coaching, workforce development, and relationship-based approaches that help adults better respond to children's behavioral and emotional needs. The speakers explained how the model works alongside other behavioral health and consultation services to provide tiered support while keeping children successfully engaged in classroom and community settings whenever possible. The conversation centered on statewide implementation efforts, data collection, community partnerships, and opportunities to expand training and awareness through higher education, family support, and broader community engagement.

The next Prevention meeting is on May 28th, 2026, from 3:00 – 4:30 PM