



Tow Youth
Justice
Institute

Making connections. Informing solutions.

Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee

October 7th, 2026

2:00-4:00 PM

ZOOM ONLY

Tow Youth Justice Institute

About Us: The Tow Youth Justice Institute (TYJI) is a university, state, and private partnership dedicated to transforming the systems that impact youth, young adults up to age 26, and their families. We additionally embrace cross-system collaborations with policymakers, practitioners, service providers, students, researchers, and community members to advance justice that includes public safety, behavioral health, health, housing, and education.

Mission Statement: Rooted in equity and respect, our mission is focused on raising the voices of youth up to age 26, families, and those with lived experience, including those who have experienced victimization, and to promote policies, practices, and programs that reduce harm, build power, and create opportunities for all. Through research, coaching, education, and cross-system collaboration, we strengthen communities and support solutions that are community-informed, evidence-driven, and we focus on wellbeing, dignity, and long-term change.

TCB's Mission Statement

Mission Statement:

The TCB Committee exists to strengthen and align Connecticut's system of care through **legislative recommendations and strategic reforms aimed at improving access to high-quality services and promoting children's behavioral health and well-being through a sustainable continuum of care.**

As a bridgebuilder, TCB will engage **system-wide stakeholders, use data to assess gaps and system inefficiencies, identify cross-system alignment, and make recommendations to address and overcome the root obstacles to promote the well-being and resilience of all children and families.**

We define success as achieving a behavioral health system that is accessible to all children and provides appropriate, affordable, high-quality behavioral health services at the right time and place to ensure the most positive outcomes so that Connecticut's children can thrive well into the future.

Purpose:

The Transforming Children’s Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee (“TCB”) was established in 2023 by Public Act 23-90 and mandated to evaluate the availability and effectiveness of prevention, early intervention, and treatment services for children's behavioral health, substance use disorders, and general well-being of children aged from birth to eighteen. Through targeted recommendations to the General Assembly and executive agencies, the TCB may propose necessary actions to improve:

- ❖ (1) developmental and behavioral health outcomes for children, (2) facilitate transparency and accountability across state agencies, community-based organizations, and institutional providers, and (3) promote policies to advance data sharing and reporting between state agencies and state-funded programs.

The 2025-2028 Strategic Plan can be found [here](#). The strategic plan was voted on in April 2025.

Meeting Facilitation

- **Mute on Zoom**
 - Participants must remain muted on Zoom unless speaking
- **Hand Raising**
 - Virtual attendees should use the Hand Raise feature on Zoom for questions and comments
- **Questions at the End**
 - Hold questions and comments until the presenters have finished speaking
- **TCB only**
 - Only TCB members may ask questions and make comments
- **Recording**
 - This meeting is being recorded

TCB Administrative Updates

Workgroup Upcoming Meeting Dates

Workgroup:	Meeting Date:	Focus Areas/Action Steps
School Based	November 2 nd , 2026 3:00 – 4:30 PM (ZOOM)	Within meetings, the workgroup has split off into different subgroups focusing on the legislative tasks assigned to the workgroup. • School Billing: The subgroup will review the Medicaid School Billing report developed by the Civic Solutions Group and will consider potential recommendations for the 2026 legislative session. • Special Education: The subgroup will continue to review the Special Education study, which is currently in draft stage. • School Based Health Center: The subgroup will review the School-Based Health Center Study and potential recommendations for the 2026 legislative session.
Prevention	October 15 th , 2026 3:00 – 4:30 PM (ZOOM)	The Prevention Workgroup has narrowed its efforts to the birth through five age range and will continue to develop recommendations for consideration for the 2026 legislative session.
Services	October 14 th , 2026 2:00 – 3:30 PM (ZOOM)	The Services Workgroup identified potential priority areas and opportunities for action as outlined by the Connecticut Children's Behavioral Health Service Array Assessment. The workgroup will continue to focus on these identified areas and potentially develop recommendations for consideration for the 2026 legislative session.
System Infrastructure - SOC	October 19 th , 2026 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM	The Workgroup was charged by the tri-chairs to identify gaps in CT's systems – the subgroup will continue their conversation from July based off of the presentation provided by members of the working group on aligning authority, stakeholder voice, workload, and information flow across the children's behavioral health system. Additionally, the subgroup will review the Statutory Charges of Children's Health Oversight Boards Report released in August.
Cross Agency Data Sharing	October 30 th , 2026 9:00 AM – 10:30AM (ZOOM)	The Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup will continue to develop the workgroup workplan and review other data-driven efforts in Connecticut for children's behavioral health.

Agenda

Welcoming, Opening Remarks

TCB Tri Chairs: Senator Ceci Maher, Representative Tammy Exum & Claudio Gualtieri, Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary, OPM

Review and Acceptance of September Minutes

Administrative Updates

TYJI

UCC and Crisis Continuum Marketing Updates

Crisis Continuum Marketing: Carin Buckman, Director of Communications of United Way of Connecticut
Sara Nelson, MA, Senior Account Director for DayDream Communications

Empath Units Overview: Yale New Haven and Stamford Health

Pamela Hoffman, MD, Co-Training Director, Health Informatics MS, Yale New Haven Health

Raviv B. Berlin, MD, Psychiatrist at Stamford Health

Q&A / Discussion

TCB Members

School Billing Report Overview

Aaron Link, Director, Business Development, Solix, and Bret Schlyer, Director, Financial & Education Services, Solix.

Q&A / Discussion

TCB Members

Closing Remarks

TCB Tri Chairs: Senator Ceci Maher, Representative Tammy Exum & Claudio Gualtieri, Senior Policy Advisor to the Secretary, OPM

Recap of September Solnit Conversation

Solnit Conversation Recap

During the September 2026 TCB monthly meeting UConn Health and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) jointly presented an update on Solnit South Campus Hospital as a follow-up from the July TCB monthly meeting, focusing on the following topic areas:

- **Workforce**
 - Staffing plan and analysis
 - Additional registered nurse and child service worker positions
 - Existing vacancies being filled
- **Behavioral Health Resource Officers**
- **Census/Admissions**
 - Focused care for youth who require inpatient psychiatric treatment that cannot safely receive the necessary care in another setting.
 - Point-in-time consensus: 24 patients
- **Clinical Programming**
 - Individualized treatment with multidisciplinary assessments
- **Infrastructure and Physical Environment**
 - Updates and repairs to physical environment and infrastructure
 - Safety and aesthetic improvements
- **Regulatory**
 - Established consent order and independent monitoring team
 - Assignment of security staff
- **Community Engagement**
 - Re-engagement with families, current and former youth, and other individuals directly affected
- **Future Opportunities**