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# Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee

January 7th, 2025

2:00-4:00PM

Room 1E in the LOB

ZOOM Option Available

Scan to submit your attendance



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# 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

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# 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 December Minutes**

## **Administrative Updates**

TYJI

## **2026 Legislative Recommendation Concept Ideas**

TYJI

## **Disordered Eating: A Behavioral Health Issue Presentation and Recommendations**

Thomas Nuccio, Legislative Policy Analyst, Commission on Women, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity & Tianyi Zhang, MPH, Policy Fellow, Yale School of Public Health

## **Q&A**

## **Closing Remarks**

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

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# Administrative Updates

# COLLECTION DRIVE

Diapers, Winter Gear and Toiletries  
for Families in Need

*We invite all TCB and JJPOC members to support our community partners by contributing essential items.*

*Please bring your donations to the Legislative Office Building during our January meeting.*

## Items Needed:



Diapers (all sizes)



Winter Gear: hats, gloves, coats



Toiletries

## Donations will go to:

Diaper Bank: [thediaperback.org](https://thediaperback.org)

Brian's Angels: [briansangels.org](https://briansangels.org)

**January 07, 2025**

**2:00 PM - 4:00 PM**

**Legislative Office Building**



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# Looking Ahead – TCB Meeting updates

**Our next meeting will be held on February 14th, from 2:00-4:00PM at the Legislative Office Building with a zoom option.**

- The TCB will vote on legislative recommendations for the 2026 session at the February meeting.
- The morning of the February meeting, the Community Voices Workgroup will have a "CVW Summit" facilitated by Health Equity Solutions from 10-12:30 in room 310 of the capital. Breakfast will be provided.

*\*the 2026 Legislative Session will begin on February 4th, 2026*

# Workgroup Upcoming Meeting Dates

Workgroup:	Meeting Date:	December/Current Focus Area:
System Infrastructure	January 20 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 3:00 – 4:30 PM (ZOOM)	Within the December meeting, the workgroup reviewed and provided feedback on the Draft Cross Agency Data Sharing Language & Reviewed the recommendations from the Innovations Institute, Uconn School of Social Work's Children's Behavioral Health Data Infrastructure Report.
Services	January 14 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 2:00 – 3:30 PM (ZOOM)	The workgroup will have a presentation from Jill Farell, at the Innovations Institute, on current responses and an overview of the data collection from the TCB Children's Behavioral Health Provider Survey. The Services Array Subgroup will additionally meet prior to the meeting.
School Based	February 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 2026 3:00-4:00PM (ZOOM)	At the January 5 <sup>th</sup> meeting, the workgroup provided input on the Draft School Mental Health Infographic, as well as were provided updates on the three legislative priorities of the workgroup.
Prevention	December 4 <sup>th</sup> , 2025 3:00 – 4:30 PM (ZOOM)	The workgroup in December focused on developing ideas for a draft workplan for 2026, the workgroup will provide feedback of the draft workplan at the January meeting.

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# TCB Studies Updates

Study:	Researcher/Agency Involved:	Status of Report
School Based Health Center Survey	In collaboration with the State-wide Association of School Based Health Centers and Department of Public Health (DPH)	<b>Due January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027</b>  TYJI, & the School Based Workgroup chairs met with DPH to discuss next steps regarding the scope of the study. TYJI is looking to release an RFQ for this study this winter.
School Behavioral Health Billing	Department of Social Services (DSS), CT State Department of Education (CSDE)	<b>Due Date: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026</b>  In November, the School Based Workgroup Chairs met with CSDE and Senator Lesser to discuss the first steps for building the workplan. There is a meeting scheduled for the second week of January for identified individuals needed to help lead the efforts of this study.
Behavioral Health Needs – Special Education Students	Disability Rights Group, Special Education Taskforce	<b>Due Date: January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027</b>  TYJI has coordinated a meeting for the second week of January with the identified individuals needed to complete the study.



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# TCB Studies Updates

Study:	Agency/ Researcher Involved:	Status:
UCC Private Insurance Review	DCF, DSS, DOI, Behavioral Health Advocate	<b>Due Date: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026</b>  The group met In December to discuss updates to private insurance billing for UCC's as well as barriers to billing.
Crisis Continuum Review	CHDI, DCF, UnitedWay, Services Workgroup Chairs	<b>Due Date: January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027</b>  The subgroup had met a few times to evaluate data that is currently being collected and asses where gaps/barriers may be. The group will reconvene in the next few months to evaluate fall 2025 data trends.
IICAPS Experimental Design	Yale Child Study Center	<b><i>No due date indicated in legislation*</i></b>  TYJI is working with the Yale Child Study Center to identify funding sources for the study.
IICAPS Review of Models	DSS, Yale Child Study Center	<b>Due Date: January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027</b>  TYJI to connect with DSS to obtain updates.

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# 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 that address and overcome the root obstacles in order 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.

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# Purpose Statement

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.**

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## The law further directs the committee to assess and identify:

1. Statutory and Budgetary changes to improve the children's behavioral health system.
2. **Service Delivery Gaps and other missed opportunities to advance the State's ability to offer families a set of streamlined, accessible, and responsive solutions.**
3. Strengths and Barriers that either support or hinder children's behavioral health care.
4. School-Based Behavioral Health Efforts that collaboratively support efforts to improve behavioral health outcomes for children.
5. Disproportionate **Behavioral Health Access and Outcomes for children of color and those in underserved communities such as rural parts of the state.**
6. Disproportionate access and outcomes across the behavioral health care system for children with developmental and intellectual disabilities.
7. Quality Assurance framework(s) **to maintain timely data analytics to improve both private and publicly operated behavioral health services, facilities, and programs capacity to streamline and centralize processes and operations with accountability and agility.**
8. Governance Structure to align state public policy and healthcare goals to ensure that all children and families, in urban, rural, and all other areas of the state, can access high-quality behavioral health care regardless of their ability to pay.
9. Sustainable Workforce Needs to support the evolving behavioral health needs of children. While the enacting legislation sets out a comprehensive agenda, the TCB builds on the substantial progress made by statewide children's behavioral health initiatives over the years.

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# Legislative Recommendation Concepts for 2026

**Within the System Infrastructure Workgroup, and Crisis Continuum Subgroup, two potential legislative concepts for the 2026 session have been introduced:**

- Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup Concept Language
- Development of a Sustainability Plan for the Data Quality Improvement Efforts for the Urgent Crisis Centers / Mobile Crisis

**Further areas for the TCB to consider:**

- 119k to Zero Collective Recommendations
- In Collaboration with ASDAC, explore Autism and IDD Recommendations

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# DRAFT: Development of a Sustainability Plan for the Data Quality Improvement Efforts for the Urgent Crisis Centers / Mobile Crisis

**Background:** DCF currently contracts with an outside entity to provide statewide aggregated data and quality improvements reports for UCC and Mobile Crisis on a quarterly and annually basis. These reports are utilized by DCF/SAC, UCC, and Mobile Crisis to evaluate current trends in data in services and establish performance improvement plans.

**Concept Language:** It is recommended that The Department of Children and Families (DCF) in partnership with TCB explore a sustainability plan for the Data Quality Improvement reports for the Urgent Crisis Centers and Mobile Crisis.

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# DRAFT: Cross Agency Data Sharing Workgroup

**Background:** The TCB contracted with the UConn Innovations Institute at the UConn School of Social Work to develop a [Children's Behavioral Health System of Data Infrastructure and Use of Data For System Improvement Report](#). This report, published in Fall 2025, recommended that "Connecticut should establish a Children's Behavioral Health Data Workgroup ("Data Workgroup") with the expertise and capacity to plan and support strategies that strengthen the state's behavioral health infrastructure, along with robust reporting mechanisms to ensure accountability." Please see additional draft language [here](#).

**Concept Language:** The Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee, recommends establishing a data working group to focus on data infrastructure and quality improvement planning and implementation activities that support a whole population focus with an equity lens, with data intentionally collected, analyzed, and used to ensure that all children have access to effective behavioral health services.

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# **Disordered Eating: A Behavioral Health Issue Presentation and Recommendations**

Thomas Nuccio, Legislative Policy Analyst, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity and Opportunity & Tianyi Zhang, MPH, Policy Fellow, Yale School of Public Health



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# Q&A



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## **Next Meeting:**

**February 11th, 2026**

**2:00 – 4:00 PM**

***\*voting meeting***