



Tow Youth
Justice
Institute

Making connections. Informing solutions.

Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee

June 17th, 2026

2:00-3:30 PM

Virtual, ZOOM

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.

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

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 May Minutes

Administrative Updates

TYJI

School Billing Updates

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

Q&A / Discussion

TCB Members

Special Education Updates

Tom Cosker, Advocate for Disability Rights CT

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

TCB Administrative Updates

Urgent Crisis Center and Crisis Continuum Marketing Project Updates

UCC Private Insurance Review Updates

UCC Private Insurance Review Updates

Scope of the Project: The Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee, in consultation with the Behavioral Health Advocate and DCF and DOI commissioners, to convene a working group to (1) review private health insurance coverage for children's treatment at Urgent Crisis Centers (UCC's), (2) identify potential barriers to commercial insurance coverage and reimbursement, and (3) make recommendations to address any barriers. The behavioral health committee must report, by October 1, 2026, on the working group's findings and recommendations to the Appropriations, Children, and Human Services committees and the Office of Policy and Management secretary. An urgent crisis center is one that DCF certifies to treat children's urgent mental or behavioral health needs.

Agencies Involved: DCF, DSS, DOI, led by the Behavioral Health Advocate

Report Due Date: October 1st, 2026

Updates: The three-community based UCCs in Connecticut completed a survey about their experience with private insurance and barriers to billing. The BHA, DCF, and DOI last week met separately with each UCC to review their responses and ask any necessary follow up questions. The TYJI will be working on compiling information from the meetings held and re-convene the larger workgroup that met this past winter within the next month.

Crisis Continuum Report Updates

Crisis Continuum Review

Scope of the Project: Derived from the 2025 legislation, the TCB shall complete a study looking at the Crisis Continuum in Connecticut. Such study shall include, but not be limited to, (1) the rates of utilization of the United Way of Connecticut 2-1-1 Infoline program, 9-8-8 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, mobile crisis intervention services, urgent crisis centers, as defined in section 19a-179f of the general statutes, subacute crisis stabilization centers and hospital emergency departments for such services, outreach and marketing strategies utilized by the service providers, common sources of patient referrals to such service providers, the allocation of state and other financial resources to such service providers, and the anticipated demand for behavioral health services for children into the future.

Agencies and Orgs Involved: DCF, Community Based UCCs, UnitedWay, CHDI, CHA, Carelon, and led by the Behavioral Health Advocate

Due Date: January 1st, 2027

Updates: The subgroup last met in May where CHDI, Carelon, UnitedWay, and the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) provided data regarding the utilization of the respective services provided. This data is currently in the beginning stages of being incorporated into a draft report and will be reviewed with the behavioral health advocate later this week. The subgroup will meet next week to discuss next steps to address the remaining requirements identified in the legislation and walk through the initial set of data.

School Billing Updates

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

Q&A

Special Education Updates

Tom Cosker, Advocate for Disability Rights CT



Making connections. Informing solutions.

Next Meeting:

July 15th, 2026

2:00 – 3:30 PM