



Tow Youth
Justice
Institute

Making connections. Informing solutions.

Transforming Children's Behavioral Health Policy and Planning Committee

September 2nd, 2026

2:00-4:00 PM

LOB room 2C with zoom option

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.

The law further directs the committee to assess and identify:

****Bolded language reflects focus of September Meeting***

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.

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

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 July Minutes

Administrative Updates

TYJI

UCC & Crisis Continuum Marketing

Crisis Continuum Marketing: Carin Buckman, Director of Communications of United Way of Connecticut
UCC Awareness Campaign: Katie Gallo, MS, CEO and Marketing Director of Daydream Communications

Q&A / Discussion

TCB Members

Solnit Follow Up Discussion

Dr. Frank Gregory, Administrator of the Children's Behavioral Health Community Service System Division, DCF; Susan Hamilton, MSW, JD, DCF Commissioner; Caryl Ryan, MS, BSN, RN, Chief Operating Officer at UConn John Dempsey Hospital; Tom Vaccarelli, Vice President, Facilities Development and Operations; Debra Abromaitis, Assistant Vice President, Office of Accreditation and Regulatory Affairs.

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

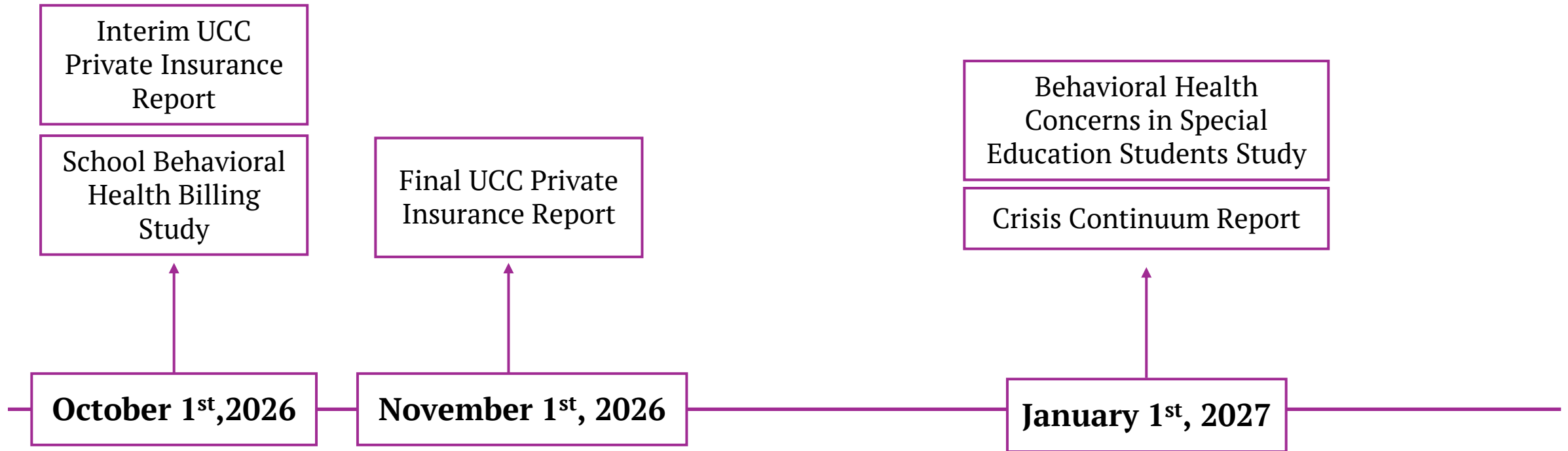
Workgroup Upcoming Meeting Dates

Workgroup:	Meeting Date:	Focus Areas/Action Steps
School Based	September 14 th , 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 workgroup will be presenting a draft report that was issued this past 2025 Legislative Session for framework and operating guidelines on Medicaid billing for Medicaid-eligible school-based behavioral health services. • Special Education: Will be providing updates on the report which was tasked last session on an examination of and recommendations for behavioral health issues impacting students in the state receiving special education. • School Based Health Center Subgroup will kick start this month.
Prevention	September 17 th , 2026 3:00 – 4:30 PM (ZOOM)	The Prevention workgroup will provide results based off the Service Array workshop that was held on August 4 th with the Innovations Institute at the UConn School of Social Work
Services	September 9 th , 2026 2:00 – 3:30 PM (ZOOM)	The Services workgroup results based off the Service Array workshop that was held on August 4 th with the Innovations Institute at the UConn School of Social Work.
System Infrastructure - SOC	September 15 th , 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.

TCB Studies Update

Study	Agency/ Consultant Involved	Status/Update
School Based Health Center Survey Public Act 25-3, Section 2	In collaboration with the CT Association of School Based Health Centers (CASBHC) and Department of Public Health (DPH) Consulting with the National School Based Health Alliance	Subgroup will have first meeting within the September Workgroup Meeting. An interim report will be provided January 1st, 2027
School Behavioral Health Billing Public Act 25-168, Section 344	Department of Social Services (DSS), CT State Department of Education (CSDE) Consulting with Sivic Solutions Group	Within the September School Based Workgroup meeting, Solix Solutions Group will provide an update on the draft report. Report will be submitted to TCB and Committees of Cognizance on
Behavioral Health Concerns in Special Education Students Public Act 25-67, Section 14	CT State Department of Education (CSDE) Consulting with Disability Rights CT	Within September School Based Workgroup, an update on the report will be provided. The report will be submitted to the TCB and Committees of Cognizance on January 1st, 2027.
UCC Private Insurance Review Public Act 25-3, Section 7	Department of Children and Families (DCF), Department of Insurance (DOI), and Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate	An interim report will be submitted to the TCB by October 1st, 2027. The final report will be submitted by November 1st, 2027.
Crisis Continuum Review Public Act 25-3, Section 1	Office of the Behavioral Health Advocate, Department of Children and Families (DCF), Child Health Development Institute (CHDI), Carelon, UnitedWay, CT Hospital Association (CHA)	A report will be submitted to the TCB on January 1st, 2027.

TCB Studies Timeline



Past & Upcoming TCB Meeting and Focus Areas

Meeting (2026)	Focus
May TCB Meeting	• Updates on Crisis Continuum Marketing and Urgent Crisis Centers Campaign and Communications* • Substance Use Array • Suicide Prevention <i>*Revisited during the June and September TCB meetings.</i>
June TCB Meeting	• Updates on Crisis Continuum Marketing and Urgent Crisis Centers Campaign and Communications* • Updates on Crisis Continuum, UCC Private Insurance, School Billing, and Special Education Studies** <i>*Revisited during the September TCB meeting. Initially visited during May TCB meeting.</i> <i>**Revisited during the October TCB meeting.</i>
July TCB Meeting	• Solnit update* • Integrated Pediatric Behavioral Health Care <i>*Revisited during the September TCB meeting.</i>
September TCB Meeting	• Solnit overview and update* • Updates on Crisis Continuum Marketing and Urgent Crisis Centers Campaign and Communications** <i>*Initially visited during July TCB meeting.</i> <i>**Initially visited during May TCB meeting.</i>

Past & Upcoming TCB Meeting and Focus Areas

Meeting	Focus
October TCB Meeting	• Overview of EmPATH Units • Overview of reports tasked by the TCB* • Medicaid Rate Study Update <i>*Includes School Billing and Special Education studies visited during the June TCB Meeting</i>
November TCB Meeting	• Crisis Continuum Data Spotlight* • Conceptual legislative recommendations <i>*Initially visited during the June TCB meeting</i>
December TCB Meeting	• 2027 Legislative Recommendations

UCC & Crisis Continuum Marketing

Crisis Continuum Marketing: Carin Buckman, Director of Communications of United Way of Connecticut

UCC Awareness Campaign: Katie Gallo, MS, CEO and Marketing Director of Daydream Communications

Solnit Follow Up Discussion

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