



## **Presentation to the Behavioral Health Partnership Oversight Council**

Tim Marshall, LCSW  
Jeana Bracey, PhD  
Stephanie Luczak, LMSW  
Lisa Palazzo, LCSW

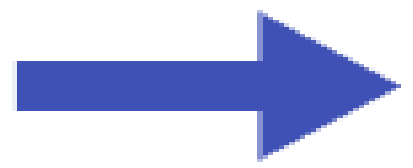
December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Connecticut's Network of Care Transformation grant: The Connecting to Care initiative

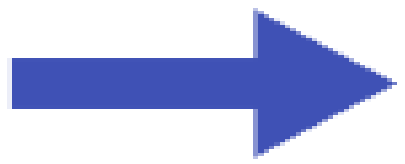
# Vision

Create a system of care at the local, regional, and state levels that: *offers a spectrum of effective, community-based services and supports for children and youth who have or are at risk for mental health challenges and their families.* Such systems must be: *organized into a coordinated network, build meaningful partnerships with families and youth, and address cultural and linguistic needs,* in order to help them to function better at home, in school, in the community, and throughout life.

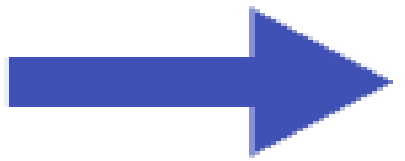
# Connecting to Care Goals



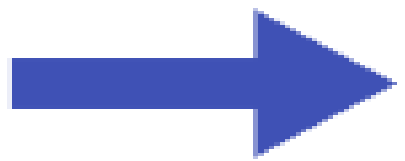
**Goal 1:** Create a youth and family driven local, regional, and statewide infrastructure for system of care expansion and implementation.



**Goal 2:** Implement a youth-guided, family-driven, and culturally competent approach to statewide system of care planning, expansion, and implementation.



**Goal 3:** Develop a comprehensive CONNECT Statewide System of Care Strategic Plan.



**Goal 4:** Develop a comprehensive statewide data system to promote integration & quality.

Current Work

# Expansion & Sustainability of System of Care Infrastructure



Expand and sustain activities pertaining to the awareness, identification, and treatment of youth who might be experiencing or at risk for suicide and/or First Episode Psychosis (FEP).



Care  
Integration



Culturally &  
Linguistically  
Appropriate Services  
(CLAS)



Trauma-Informed  
School Mental  
Health



Social  
Marketing



Workforce  
Development

CONNECTing to CLAS

# CONNECTing with CLAS

## VISION

To develop, plan and implement a statewide process for incorporating the enhanced Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Standards within the children's Network of Care of Connecticut.

## GOAL

To partner with families and network of care leaders to promote health equity, racial justice and cultural and linguistic competence across all behavioral health services at the local, regional and state levels.



# CONNECTing to CLAS Team Consultants



**Michele Stewart-Copes, MS, MSW**  
System for Education Equity &  
Transition (SEET) Consultants LLC, CEO



**Cecilia Frometa, Ph.D.**  
CONNECTing to CLAS  
Technical Assistance Consultant



**Marie M. Spivey, EdD, RN, MPA**  
System for Education Equity &  
Transition (SEET) Consultants LLC,  
Principal



**Cindy A. Crusto, Ph.D.**  
CONNECTing to CLAS  
Technical Assistance Consultant



**Michelle Riordan-Nold, MPP**  
CT Data Collaborative,  
Executive Director

# National CLAS Standards

## Purpose

*To provide a blueprint for individuals and health care organizations to implement **culturally and linguistically appropriate services** that will advance **health equity**, improve **quality**, and help eliminate **health care disparities**.*

# National CLAS Standards

## THE STANDARDS

### The National CLAS Standards

The National CLAS Standards are a set of 15 action steps intended to advance health equity, improve quality, and help eliminate health care disparities by providing a blueprint for individuals and health and health care organizations to implement culturally and linguistically appropriate services.

[View the Standards](#)



➡ <https://thinkculturalhealth.hhs.gov/clas>

# CLAS Standards

Principal Standard

Governance, Leadership and Workforce (Standards 2-4)

Communication and Language Assistance (Standards 5-7)

Engagement, Continuous Improvement, and Accountability (Standards 8-15)

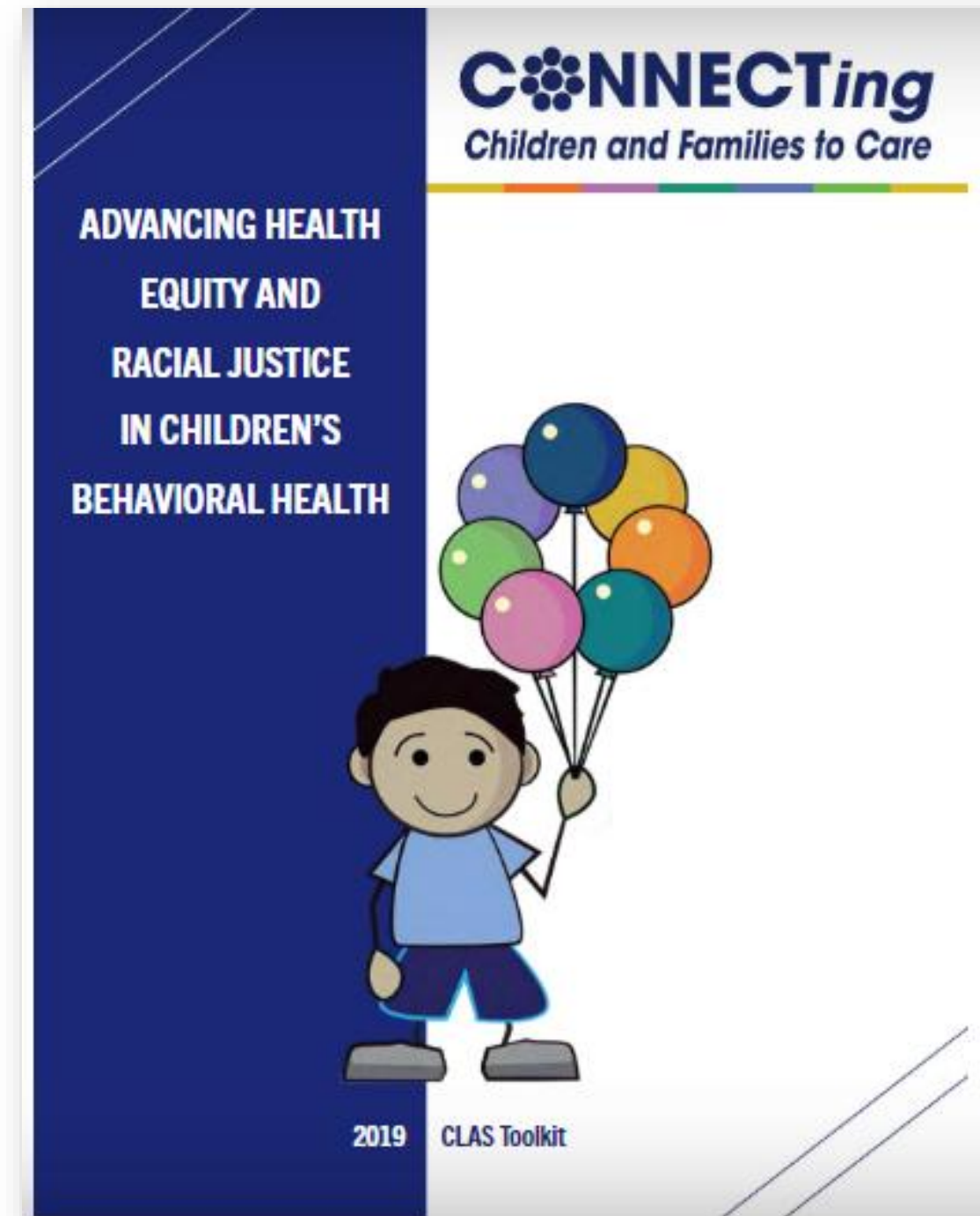


# Four Phase Change Model to Develop Health Equity Plans & Address Racial Justice and Health Disparities



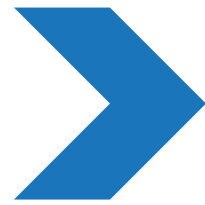
# Highlights of Our Work

- **56** organizations trained in the 6 month cohort process or an accelerated cohort
- **35** agencies developed Health Equity plans with **6** currently in process
- **202** Individuals have been trained in Assess, Plan & Improve: An Equity Workshop
- CLAS Toolkit developed: [\*\*Advancing Health Equity and Racial Justice in Children's Behavioral Health\*\*](#)
- **41** Individuals have been trained in the Toolkit
- Regional Learning Communities with **49** unique organizations participating
- Conducted an analysis of Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) Health Equity Plans
- Presented at several national conferences including:
  - The Institute for Innovation and Implementation Conference in Washington DC
  - Research & Policy Conference on Child, Adolescent, and Young Adult Behavioral Health in Tampa



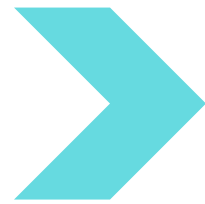
# Technical Assistance Offerings

## Initiation/Engagement



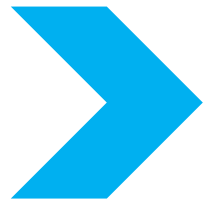
- Introduction to Health Equity Planning
- Health Equity Toolkit Training
- Introduction to the CLAS Standards
- Implicit Bias and Cultural Humility

## Implementation



- Health Equity Planning: 3-6 month cohort process using the Four-Phase Model of Change

## Evaluation



- Health Equity Outcome Measures
- Individualized Technical Assistance
- Health Equity Data Strategic Planning

## Sustainability



- Regional Learning Communities

# Upcoming Opportunities



Is your organization interested in developing a **Health Equity Plan**?



Are you ready to transform your organization to a **racially just and culturally and linguistically appropriate** organization?



Are you interested in **partnering with families** and providing racially justice, equitable, understandable, quality care and services?

## INFORMATION SESSIONS

**Monday, December 14<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 – 11:00 am

11:00 – 12:00 pm

**Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>**

10:00 – 11:00 am

11:00 – 12:00 pm

**To RSVP, contact Cecilia Frometa, Ph.D. at [cecilia.frometa@yale.edu](mailto:cecilia.frometa@yale.edu)**



Questions?



## Thank You

For questions and additional follow up, don't hesitate to reach out the  
CONNECT Coordinating Center by contacting  
Stephanie Luczak at [sluczak@uchc.edu](mailto:sluczak@uchc.edu)