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DMHAS Prevention and Health Promotion Unit CT Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (CYSPI)

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In crisis? Call the [National Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK \(8255\)](tel:1-800-273-TALK)

The CT Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services, Children and Families (DCF), Public Health, Education, and the Judicial Branch and the State University System (CSU) are collaborating with the University of CT Health Center (UCHC) to develop, implement, evaluate, and sustain state youth suicide prevention and early intervention programs in conjunction with the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act.

- [Background](#)
- [Goals](#)
- [Advisory Boards](#)
- [Program Description](#)
- [Evaluation](#)
- [Technical Assistance](#)
- [CYSPI Overview](#)
- [CYSPI Overview - Powerpoint Presentation Fall 2007](#)
- [CYSPI Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Suicide Prevention Resources](#)
- [Statistics](#)
- [Risk and Protective Factors](#)
- [Suicide Fact Sheet](#)
- [Best Practices Registry for Suicide Prevention](#)
- [National Strategy for Suicide Prevention](#)
- [American Association of Suicidology Information & Media Kit](#)

Background

[Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act \(GLSMA\), P.L. 108-355](#)

- Signed into law by president George W. Bush on October 21, 2004

- Authorized \$82 million for youth and young adult suicide prevention across the nation.
- Requires active parental consent for participation in all program and evaluation activities.

Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act ReAuthorization of 2007 ([S.1514/H.R.2511](#))

The Reauthorization was introduced on May 24, 2007 by Senators Chris I (D-CT), Gordon H. Smith (R-OR), and Jack Reed (D-RI) in the Senate, and Representatives Bart Gordon (D-TN), Greg Walden (R-OR) and Danny Davis (D-IL) in the House. It would allow the five-year continuation and expansion of the original GLSMA and will expire at the end of fiscal year 2007 (September 2007). The original purpose of the GLSMA is to support youth and young adult targeted suicide prevention efforts nationwide, and if passed, the Reauthorization would expand this purpose to include early intervention and prevention strategies for all ages, particularly for youth. The primary components of the Reauthorization are to: 1) increase funding to this cause; 2) expand the target population beyond youth to all ages; 3) provide grant support to states and tribes that have not yet received a grant the opportunity to obtain one; 4) allow states that have completed a grant, such as Connecticut, but need additional funds to continue their successful programs the opportunity to do so; 5) fund a matching-grant program to colleges and universities; and 6) reauthorize the Suicide Prevention Technical Assistance Center.

With the support of Governor Rell's Office, the DMHAS CYSPI sent letters to each of the CT Congressional Delegates. The Senators were thanked for their sponsorship of S.1514, and the Representatives were encouraged to support H.R.2511. Letters: Senators [Dodd](#) and [Lieberman](#), Representatives [Court DeLauro](#), [Larson](#), [Murphy](#) and [Shays](#).

Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS) Application, Spring 2005

SAMHSA/CMHS <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/cmhs/>)

- State Agency Memorandum of Agreement: Departments of Public Health, Child & Families, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Social Services, Education and the Judicial Branch.
- CT is among the second series of states to receive funding.
- CT received \$1.2 million over 3 years (2006-2009) to enhance existing suicide prevention efforts of the CYSAB, DCF, DPH, Office of Child Advocate, schools, and colleges.

Goals

Goal 1: To build upon CT's existing youth suicide prevention infrastructure.

Goal 2: To implement selected youth suicide prevention/early intervention strategies.

Goal 3: To identify a permanent funding source to sustain the CT Prevention Initiative and support statewide replication/implementation.

Goal 4: To conduct a high quality program evaluation through an ac partnership.

Advisory Board

The CT Youth Suicide Advisory Board (DCF)

In 1989, the [Connecticut Youth Suicide Advisory Board](#) (YSAB) was established via [legislative mandate](#) within the Department of Children and Families. The charge of the board is to increase public awareness of the existence of youth suicide, to promote means of prevention and to make recommendations to the Commissioner regarding the prevention of youth suicide.

YSAB relationship with the CYSPI (DMHAS)

The YSAB acts as the advisory body to the CYSPI. A sub-committee of the larger board was created to provide ongoing strategic and operational advice to accomplish the tasks related to the Initiative, and reports to the YSAB on a monthly basis. The sub-committee met on a monthly basis 2006-2008 and on a monthly basis 2008-present. Members include the Department of Children and Families, Office of Child Advocate, State Department of Education, National Alliance on Mental Illness-CT, CT Behavioral Health Network, Town of Enfield Youth Services, Wheeler Clinic/CT Clearinghouse, University of Connecticut Health Center, United Way of CT, and private citizens/parents.

The CYSPI Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes:

- [April 28, 2009](#)
 - [February 17, 2009](#)
 - [December 16, 2008](#)
 - [October 16, 2008 - CYSPI Update](#)
 - [August 19, 2008](#)
 - [June 17, 2008](#)
 - [April 8, 2008](#)
 - [February 19, 2008](#)
 - [December 18, 2007](#)
 - [October 16, 2007](#)
 - [August 21, 2007](#)
 - [July 26, 2007](#)
 - [June 19, 2007](#)
 - [May 15, 2007](#)
 - [April 27, 2007](#)
 - [March 20, 2007](#)
 - [February 20, 2007](#)
 - [January 16, 2007](#)
 - [August 2, 2006 - CYSPI Update](#)
-

Program Description

Through CT's existing youth suicide prevention infrastructure, including the Youth Suicide Advisory Board (YSAB), the **Connecticut Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (CYSPI)** will support:

- [High School Component](#): The implementation of the Screening for Health, Inc.'s Signs of Suicide (SOS) High School Program, an evidence-based practice, in CT high schools;
- [College Component](#): The implementation of the QPR Institute's Qu Persuade, Refer Gatekeeper Program and Screening for Mental Health Inc.'s CollegeResponse Program in the CSU System;
- [Training Component](#): The expansion of the existing Department of Children and Families (DCF)-sponsored training program in recognizing the signs and symptoms of suicidality and depression, and increase capacity of the State's clinical workforce to assess and manage suicide risk.
- [Pilot Program](#): The design and pilot implementation of a model program in Hartford, CT to increase the availability, accessibility, and linkage of mental health screening and treatment for youth by embedding services in the Quirk Middle School School-Based Health Center and the St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center Adolescent Clinic; and
- [Statewide Campaign](#): A statewide youth suicide prevention education awareness campaign.

Statistics:

- [CT Youth Suicide Statistics \(map\)](#)
- [CT Youth Suicide Statistics](#)
- [Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Annual Suicide Stats 1990-2008](#)
- [College Student Suicide and Depression Data](#)
- [Fifteen \(15\) Leading Causes of Death, Connecticut](#)
- [USA Suicide: 2004 Data](#)
- [USA Suicide: 2005 Data](#)
- [2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey \(YRBS\) - Comparison Between CT Students, Surrounding State Students and US Students](#)

Return to: [Prevention Unit](#)

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