



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF CHILD ADVOCATE E-News

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## OCA CHILD FATALITY REVIEW

OCA met with many stakeholders regarding recommendations from the OCA Infant-Toddler Fatality Report released on July 31. [The report can be found here.](#)

Key Recommendations include a) the need for a data driven, outcome focused safety net for at-risk infants and toddlers; b) the need for the child welfare agency to develop a practice model specific to the needs of infants and toddlers; c) the need for strategic investment in two-generation treatment and prevention supports to promote infant-toddler survival and wellbeing.

THE CONNECTICUT LEGISLATURE'S CHILDREN'S COMMITTEE WILL HOLD PUBLIC HEARING ON CHILD FATALITIES OCTOBER 2, 2014 AT 10 A.M.

## OCA RESPONDS TO CALLS FOR HELP

In August 2014, OCA responded to numerous intakes from professionals and family members asking for help regarding a vulnerable child or youth.

OCA provided advice to all callers and opened several cases for direct advocacy. Case issues include:

- Restraint of a young child with mental health needs at summer camp;
- Lack of access to appropriate care for children with developmental disabilities and mental health needs;
- Putting together special education services for children with complex needs.

If you or a constituent need help or advice regarding a vulnerable child, please contact the OCA by [email](#) or phone (800-994-0939).

## OCA EDUCATES

OCA can provide in-service training and technical assistance to professionals or community members. In August, OCA and the CFRP trained 25 public school nurses on suicide prevention utilizing the evidence based mode QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer.

SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH. Please visit [www.preventsuicidect.org](http://www.preventsuicidect.org) for information about training events, resources, and details on Connecticut's One Word, One Voice, One Life Campaign.

## OCA PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

OCA met with the Department of Children and Families and the Connecticut Juvenile Training School Advisory Committee to review preliminary findings regarding conditions of confinement, including the use of restraint and seclusion in the boys' and girls' correctional units. OCA anticipates working closely with colleagues at DCF and the CJTS Advisory Committee to strengthen access to rehabilitative and therapeutic services for children in confinement.

## OCA ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

OCA provided detailed written feedback to DCF regarding a draft of the P.A. 13-178 Children's Mental Health Plan. A public draft will be available in early September for public comment. Please visit [www.plan4children.org](http://www.plan4children.org).

OCA facilitated a meeting in August between Value Options, CT Behavioral Health Partnership, and Department of Developmental Services leadership to address the lack of access to developmentally appropriate services that results in some children languishing in the emergency department or inpatient units, both in and out of state.