

State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW)
Wednesday December 19, 2018, 10 am - noon
CERC Offices, 805 Brook St., Building 4, Rocky Hill, CT 06067
MEETING MINUTES

Chair: Jane Ungemack, UConn Health

Participants: Kendall Bobula, Office of Policy and Management (OPM); Susan Bouffard, Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS); Dawn Grodzki, DMHAS; Shawn Lang, AIDS CT; Mary Lansing, Department of Corrections (DOC); Carol Meredith, DMHAS; Christine Miskell, SERAC; Fawatih Mohamed-Abouh, UConn Health; Bonnie Smith, UConn Health; Karen Steinberg Gallucci, UConn Health/Mental Health Indicator Workgroup (MHIW); Jennifer Sussman, UConn Health; Jane Ungemack, UConn Health; Sara Wakai, UConn Health/MHIW; Jenifer Wogen, UConn Health; Xi Zheng, DPH.

Via phone: Eleni Rodis, DMHAS.

	Agenda Item	Discussion	Outcome/Action
I.	Welcome and Introductions (Jane Ungemack)	In-person attendees and phone participants introduced themselves and were welcomed by SEOW Chair, Jane Ungemack. Overall, there were 17 participants in attendance: 26 in person attendees and 1 via phone. A sign in sheet was circulated for in-person participants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sign in sheet will be available at each meeting to track attendance, and a call-in number will be provided for those who need it; • Meeting minutes will be disseminated to the group.
II.	Sharing of CPES Presentation to the ADPC: <i>Trends in Substance Abuse in CT, 2018: An Update</i> (Jane Ungemack)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jane Ungemack presented updated data on current substance abuse trends in Connecticut via PowerPoint presentation. These data were also presented to the Alcohol and Drug Policy Council the day before this meeting (12/18/19). The presentation included data from the following sources: CT School Health Survey and Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS); Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS); National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH); Office of the Connecticut Medical Examiner (OCME); and the Community Readiness Survey (CRS). • The presentation highlighted that reported alcohol use by youth maintains its decrease trend, while E-cigarette use is increasing, while marijuana use is becoming normative among young adults. Dr. Ungemack also noted that young adults report more prevalent use of most substances. The OCME slides highlighted the recent infiltration of the illicit drug supply by Fentanyl, as indicated by the increasing prevalence of Fentanyl in opioid-involved deaths accompanying the decrease in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPES will send out the supporting documentation on community type, including the criteria utilized for those designations. • CPES will look into availability of the ACS and 500 Communities Data for CT cities such as Hartford. CTData 500 Cities project connects health disparities and housing variables in Hartford's

		<p>Heroin-involved deaths without Fentanyl present. JU also presented data by community type (“Five Connecticut” variable).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM (DMHAS) asked why NSDUH data are not interchangeable with YRBSS or BRFSS data for consumption and related variables. JU responded that age groups and mode of administration differ between the NSDUH and YBSS/BRFSS, making them incomparable. Both have value in defining and measuring the extent of substance and mental health issues, and CPES presents both for that reason. • SEOW members asked about the criteria for categorizing communities into type. Community type takes into consideration a variety of elements besides income, including population density, community composition, development, and other community characteristics. • CM asked whether there is data to address neighborhoods within communities. Census tract data on variables in the American Community Survey (ACS) administered in conjunction with the U.S. census, is a potential data source, as is the 500 Communities data. • Xi Zheng (DPH) provided additional insight into the health district and community area analyses being undertaken using 5 year combined BRFSS data. • FMA commented on income level differences in neighborhoods and differential health indicators that result (health disparities). • SL (CT AIDS) commented on the OCME data presented, adding the contextual factor that in 2011 Oxycontin was reformulated to make it more difficult to crush and snort, which may have affected use levels and drug sales in the years following that reformulation. 	<p>neighborhoods (CPES will link SEOW to these results)</p>
III.	<p>Mental Health Indicators presentation (Sara Wakai and Karen Steinberg Gallucci (UConn Health, CPES Mental Health Indicator Workgroup)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen Steinberg Gallucci and Sara Wakai of UConn Health, Mental Health Indicator Workgroup (MHIW), presented on the work of the MHIW toward development of a framework for understanding and prioritization of mental health indicators. • KSG and SW led the group through the elements of a framework which included: predisposing factors; precipitating factors; mental health; present social context; and consequences. Elements within these constructs included a discussion of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), risk factors, and impacts. • Examples of relevant CT data categorized in the framework was presented, including data from the YRBS, BRFSS, NSDUH, Community Readiness Survey, and the DataHaven Community Wellbeing Survey. • Response to the framework included a question from CM (DMHAS) on whether the framework was best presented/viewed linearly. KSG responded that the elements of the framework often impact each other in a non-linear, sometimes cyclical or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Epidemiological profiles resulting from the MHIW work will be disseminated to the SEOW for review once they are completed in draft form.

		<p>concurrent fashion, noting that the elements do not reflect an individual causal model.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SL (AIDS CT) responded to the data by asking whether there was any data from the LGBTQ population, which have a higher prevalence of mental health issues and lower utilization of treatment than their non-LGBTQ peers. • JS (CPES) noted that DMHAS/CPES/UCHC hopes to tap into all at-risk young adult populations, including LGBTQ young adults, in its 2019 statewide young adult survey in Spring of 2019. 	
IV.	Participant and DMHAS updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM (DMHAS) spoke about the initial elements of DMHAS' Live Loud social marketing campaign being developed by O'Donnell and Company with funding from the Statewide Opioid Response (SOR) grant. An update on the campaign was presented to the ADPC on 12/18/18, along with a data update presentation by JU (UCHC CPES). The ADPC subcommittees will be making specialized data requests which will drive future CPES data updates to the ADPC. • CM also updated the SEOW on the Regional Behavioral Health Action Organization (RBHAO) regional prioritization and priority report development process, which began in November, and will continue throughout the first half of 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency and DMHAS updates are encouraged, and will be built into future meetings.
IV.	SEOW Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CERC Administrative Assistant, Natalie Rosenbaum, confirmed that the SEOW is welcome to continue to meet in their space for 2019 meetings, pending availability of space. DMHAS and CPES will confer on dates and update the SEOW on the 2019 meeting schedule in January, 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting minutes, presentation materials, and 2019 meeting schedule will be sent out to the group in the following weeks.

Meeting Accomplishments

- SEOW participants reviewed Connecticut-specific data relevant to current trends in substance use/misuse.
- The SEOW expanded its data focus to behavioral health, interacting with state-level mental health indicators and a framework for understanding and prioritizing them.
- Members across represented agencies contributed to a rich discussion based on the data presentations.
- Connections to additional data sources and efforts were made as result of the meeting (as noted in Next Steps).
- Venue was solidified for 2019 SEOW meetings.

2019 SEOW Meetings

- **April 24, 10 am – 12 noon**
- **September 18, 10 am – 12 noon**
- **December 18, 10 am – 12 noon**