

FEATURE: Connecticut's State Management Team (SMT)

Connecticut's Safe Schools Healthy Students (SSHS) Diffusion Initiative uses a school and community partnership model. These partnerships create safe, drug-free, and productive environments across all settings for social and emotional learning and promote healthy physical development and academic success. The SSHS partnership model connects state policy development and implementation of SSHS programs at the school district and community level.

The State Management Team (SMT) assembles diverse stakeholders including parents and representatives from education, mental health and substance use, public health, juvenile justice, social services, child and family protective services, family advocacy, and youth development. The SMT process supports the wide-spread adoption and operation of SSHS programs to extend the benefit beyond Connecticut's three initial SSHS school districts.



SMT Committees Support SSHS Diffusion and Sustainability

- Student Behavioral Health
- Data Innovation

The SMT process makes a difference. For example, SSHS school districts can create more impact from resources such as Emergency Mobile Psychiatric Services, school-based health centers, and community-based substance abuse prevention coalitions. Other early success stories include establishing a website and coordinating professional development training.

FOCUS: School Districts & Community Management Teams (CMT)

Schools and communities must work together to address violence, substance use, untreated mental illness, and a range of antisocial behaviors. Community Management Teams (CMT) build mission critical school and community partnerships.

Behavioral Health in Bridgeport



Bridgeport's CMT builds on an existing Substance Use and Mental Health Task Force. The CMT will

assist in improving screening, early identification, and referral processes to mental health and substance use resources in the district and in the community. Contact Nekita Carroll-Hall for more information (nhall@bridgeportedu.net).

Family Supports in Middletown



Middletown's CMT assembles several well-established partnerships. For example,

the local early childhood council helps strengthen the screening, early identification, and referral network for vulnerable children and their families. Contact Rachel Sadlon for more information (Sadlonr@mpsct.org).

Youth Development in New Britain



This CMT benefits from the merger of two community partnerships into the Coalition for

New Britain's Youth. Coalition partners and strategies focus on children and youth (birth to 24 years), creating a powerful vehicle for SSHS programming. Contact Ryan Morgan for more information (morgan4@cshnb.org).

About the Connecticut Safe Schools Healthy Students Diffusion Initiative

The Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction (DMHAS) receives federal funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to improve the behavioral health outcomes of students. SSHS Community Management Teams in Bridgeport, Middletown and New Britain work closely with district leaders to implement evidence-based strategies. A Statewide SSHS Management Team creates a statewide platform to share successful strategies with other school districts and communities. Visit <http://www.ct.gov/sde/sshs> or contact SSHS Project Director Carol Meredith (carol.meredith@ct.gov). Visit the federal SSHS website at www.samhsa.gov/safe-schools-healthy-students/about