

Advocates warn of 'broken' state mental health system

By SARA BURNETT The Associated Press January 27, 2013 11:23PM



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SPRINGFIELD — As lawmakers debate ways to prevent another mass shooting, Illinois mental health advocates say more attention — and money — must be directed to a system they describe as overwhelmed and ill-equipped to identify or care for the mentally ill, including someone intent on carrying out a violent act.



In Connecticut, veteran suicides on rise

A records check of those buried at one of two Veterans cemeteries shows suicides are running about one a week in Connecticut for active and non-active service people. The problem here and nationally is likely worse than the official numbers (20 suicides a day 7300 suicides a year) since some such deaths in military zones aren't officially logged as suicides, or when the cause of death at home isn't stated as suicide out of respect for the family, religious concerns or insurance claims

<http://www.registercitizen.com/articles/2013/01/26/news/doc5104b5446692b019273877.txt>

Would the Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety Mental Health Working Group consider proactive, HIPAA and FERPA compliant anywhere, anytime internet screening for clinical depression, the acute precipitant of murder-suicide?

<http://www.webmd.com/depression/features/murder-suicides-in-elderly-rise>

The CAT MH can proactively identify major depressive disorders and measure the severity of depression for underserved populations and underserved geographical areas to reduce re-hospitalization, mortality, and suicide rates.

Relative to the currently used PHQ-9, the CAT-MH dramatically increased sensitivity while maintaining similar specificity. The CAT will identify more true positives (lower false negative rate) than the PHQ-9 using half the number of items, and it can be administered directly over the internet anytime (24x7x365) and anywhere, clinics, senior centers, homes, ranches, jails or even in a residence, chapter house, school or trading post in the smallest Navajo Nation or Apache Indian Reservation.

The CAT was created under a National Institute of Health grant by Dr Gibbons (University of Chicago), who was named the 2012 recipient of the Rema Lapouse Award given annually to an outstanding scientist for excellence in psychiatric epidemiology by the American Public Health Association.

Dr. David Kupfer MD the Chairman of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders Task Force (DSM-5) and former Chairman of the Dept. of Psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh led a rigorous scientific investigation, testing and validation of the CAT

According to the most recent data (see graphic below) from the United States Health Resources and Services Administration, Connecticut has 140 unique mental health underserved areas/populations and facilities without the necessary personnel and services to deliver adequate mental health screening and assessments. (See graphic at the bottom of the email.)

Below are the double digit scores for CT populations, geographic areas and facilities on a 25 point scale that After Newtown are continuing to put CT children, teens, and adults at elevated risk for suicide and other violent behaviors

The higher the score, the greater the priority and urgency for geographic areas, populations, and facilities to begin to improve mental health screening and assessment for psychiatric disorders that can contribute to suicide and other violence.

1. After Newtown, we had the opportunity to demonstrate the internet direct, anywhere, anytime CAT-DI for Dr John Krystal a national expert on treating depression. Dr Krystal is the Chairman, Yale University Department of Psychiatry and Chief of Psychiatry, Yale-New Haven Hospital.

2. We also provided Dr Ismene Petrakis, Professor of Psychiatry and Chief of Psychiatry, Veterans Administration Connecticut Healthcare System and the Yale School of Medicine with a live CAT demo. Both Dr Krystal and Dr Petrakis are copied on this email

3. In addition we provided a live CAT-DI demonstration to Representative Bobby Scott and members of the House Judiciary Committee Staff. Representative Scott is Vice Chairman of the House Democratic Gun Violence Prevention Task Force. that is considering mental health solutions after Newtown. Mr. Scott can be reached for comment through Mr Bobby Vassar who is copied on the email.

Please consider a convenient non-commercial gotomeeting live demonstration of the computer adaptive tests for mental health (CAT MH) that will show how CT Violence and Suicide Prevention Stakeholders can increase access for screening, assessment and treatment for clinical depression, one of the most common precipitants for suicide and gun violence.

V/R

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Inadequate Mental Health For CT Elevates Risk for



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Health Resources and Services Administration

State: Connecticut
County: All Counties
ID: All
Date of Last Update: All Dates
HPSA Score (lower limit): 0
Results: 140 records found.

001 - Fairfield County		
Optimus Health Care, Inc.	7099990926	Comprehensiv
Low Income - Southend Stamford	7099990932	Populat
Norwalk Community Health Center		
Norwalk Community Health Center	7099990933	Comprehensiv
Federal Correctional Institution - Danbury	7099990934	Correc
Southwest Community Health Center	7099990935	Comprehensiv
Brigepoint Mental Health	7099990938	Popu
Danbury Mental Health	709999093C	Pop
003 - Hartford County		
Community Health Services Inc.	7099990925	Comprehe
Charter Oak Health Center, Inc.	7099990927	Comprehe
East Hartford Community Health Center	7099990929	Comprehe
Low Income - Hartford	7099990931	Popu
New Britain Mental Health	709999093F	Populat
New Britain Town		Minor Civ
005 - Litchfield County		
Litchfield County	709005	Single
Community Health and Wellness of Gtr Torrington	7099990938	Comprehensiv
007 - Middlesex County		
Middlesex County	709007	Single
Community Health Center of Middletown	7099990920	Comprehensiv
009 - New Haven County		
Fair Haven Community Health	7099990921	Comprehensiv
Cornell Scott-Hill Health Corporation	7099990922	Comprehensiv
Staywell Health Center, Inc.	7099990928	Comprehensiv
Waterbury Mental Health at 200%	709999093A	Populat
Low Income - New Haven/West Haven/Hamden	709999093G	Popu
011 - New London County		
New London County	709011	Single
015 - Windham County		
Windham	709015	Single