



Youth Mental Health Unit Launched in City



There has been growing need for mental health intervention among youth in the city of Waterbury.

In response to the increased number of calls to Waterbury Police involving children experiencing crisis, city officials developed the Crisis Intervention Team—Youth, or CIT. CIT-Youth team hit the streets in November 2021 with two bi-lingual social workers.

Xylia Lopez and Deisha Barrera, both MSW's work in concert with city police under the direction of WPD Lieutenant Michael Stokes. They respond directly to the scene of calls for youth in crisis to assist responding officers with mental health issues and intervention. "We have found that the presence of professional mental health providers in conjunction with Law

Enforcement is a valuable asset for children experiencing crisis than just police officers alone", explained Stokes. "Often, they (Lopez and Barrera) can diffuse a situation quickly and get the kids the immediate help they need".

The program was created as a collaboration with Waterbury Police, the school system and the Mayor's office. "Dr. Ruffin, Mayor O'Leary and Chief Spagnolo really made this happen", said Stokes. "They recognized that the youth of this city needed more, and put they wheels in motion".

City EMS crews are likely to interact with CIT-Youth personnel and will provide a "warm hand-off" of patients. This is similar to adult crisis teams that have been operating in the city for a number of years. "We have always worked well with our EMS crews", said Stokes.

"I applaud Waterbury for developing this program and look forward to great work from CIT-Youth. This will improve care for our most vulnerable kids", said Waterbury Hospital ED Director, Dr. Carlos Holden.

Virtual CME/Case Review

January 26 | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Zoom Meeting | Use the link and/or phone number below <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83377874388> Meeting ID: 833 7787 4388 +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) In this session, Dr. Alyssa Sexton, ECHN EMS Medical Director, will discuss Obstetrical Emergencies. Good for 2 Hours of CME credit.

Human Trafficking Training

Register for the 2-hour Introduction to Human Trafficking for EMS Course (TRAIN course # 1099797) with this link: https://www.train.org/connecticut/course/1099797/live_event

Choose which session you will attend. This program is approved by OEMS for 2 hours of EMS CME and meets the requirements of Public Act 21-103 which requires that all EMS personnel complete this training within 6 months of hire and once every 3 years thereafter.

Region Mourns Loss of EMS Leader



The region lost an EMS leader and devoted servant on December 28. Lawrence "Skip" Gelati was well known throughout the area and the state.

Skip was known by everyone by proudly serving Thomaston as the emergency management director, Thomaston Volunteer Ambulance training officer, and served 29 years for Thomaston Volunteer Ambulance. Skip proudly trained a countless amount of people throughout his career as a training center coordinator throughout the state of Connecticut. Since 2002, Skip was an adjunct instructor for Naugatuck Valley Community College for its EMS program, and also was part time faculty at Quinnipiac University Health Science Development, training center coordinator for Trinity Health of New England, and was an advanced medical technician. He also served on the executive board for the Region 5 EMS Council in a number of capacities for many years.

ESO HDE Up and Running

The Health Data Exchange for EMS providers is in service and operational at Waterbury ED.

EMS agencies who have ESO or other EPCR platforms can scan patient medical record bar code or type in the medical record number in their PCR for bi-directional data sharing.

The HDE platform works with most EPCR programs as long as the EMS agency subscribes to the service.

With HDE, patient demographics and other patient information can be viewed and imported into EMS PCRS instantly. Additionally, patient dispositions can be seen by direct contact EMS providers via a portal.

A bar code scanner is currently installed in the EMS room. EMS staff can connect the scanner to their laptop and scan a patient bar code. A sheet of bar codes usually accompanies all ED patients when they are registered. EMS can simply take one of the bar code stickers from that sheet. If the EPCR device does not have the capability of connecting the scanner, simply typing in the patient FIN number will allow for the data exchange.

"The quick and seamless exchange of patient information will help with accuracy and speed. The disposition piece will help EMS providers see patient outcomes", said EMS Coordinator Jose Matias. "I am excited about this improvement".

Trauma Program Receives Excellent Review



The trauma program at Waterbury Hospital earned high marks during a recent accreditation evaluation. The American College of Surgeons conducted the rigorous survey in December.

Hospitals that are designated as **Trauma Centers** must adhere to strict regulations and protocols in order to maintain accreditation status. Waterbury Hospital is designated as a **Level 2 Trauma Center**. Every three years, a team from the ACS pours through data, statistics, patient outcomes and processes to insure the hospital has met the high standards and criteria required.

Waterbury Hospital's review found zero deficiencies by ACS auditors. The hospital also received big praise for its overall trauma program.

"I am so proud of the entire team for our amazing survey results", explained Trauma Coordinator Dayna Failla. "In order for our program to succeed, we need everyone involved working together for the benefit of our seriously injured patients. This is certainly the case here at Waterbury Hospital".



New Medic Unit In Service

Hartford Healthcare was recently granted licensure for a Paramedic intercept vehicle to be based at their Charlotte Hungerford Hospital campus.

"**Northwest Medic One**" went into service on October 25 and responds primarily along with local BLS transport agencies in Harwinton, Litchfield, Bantam, Goshen and Morris to provide advanced life support. The unit can also respond to other areas under mutual aid. The unit is dispatched by LCD.

Paramedics assigned on the unit are all Critical Care Transport and Rapid Sequence Intubation certified.

NW Medic One is based out of Charlotte Hungerford Hospital and responds from that HHC campus.

