

Seventh Annual CT BHP ‘iCAN’ Conference Showcased Behavioral Health Services, Programs and Resources Throughout the State

The Consumer and Family Advisory Council of the Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership (CT BHP) hosted its seventh annual “iCAN” Conference on September 22, 2022. It is the state’s only consumer-driven behavioral health care conference.

This year’s virtual event offered six workshops supporting the theme, “Partner to Transform Systems and Embrace Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.” Registered participants received a link to the iCAN website to view a description of each session, and anyone will soon be able to view the workshops on the ctbhp.com website.

Other highlights included an opening panel hosted by Nick Lebron, City of Hartford Councilman, and a special message from Representative Matt Ritter, Speaker of the CT House of Representatives. All three commissioners from the Partnership’s agencies, the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS), and the Department of Social Services (DSS), spoke as well.

This year, we also debuted an integrated closing panel, which offered an overview of highlights from each workshop. All enjoyed the rich content and education.

Responses from the conference’s 180 participants were highly positive. Most individuals who responded to the iCAN feedback survey indicated that conference content was good to excellent in relevance and usefulness. The responses were similar regarding the quality of speakers and the overall experience. One participant wrote, “Good information about suicide prevention in communities of color, and loved the mini-summaries of the other workshops.” While another participant shared, “I love the sense of community.... I find it helpful and comfortable to participate. Every piece is practical and so valuable.”

“Each year, the iCAN Conference enables consumers, community partners, and industry sponsors to promote our behavioral health system in Connecticut,” said Carrie Bourdon, Executive Director of CT BHP. “We hope this annual event raises awareness among consumers, agencies, and providers about the many services available and how to get the most from them.”