



School Mental Health Quality Improvement Spotlight

With funding and support from the [Connecticut Department of Children and Families](#), the [Child and Health Development Institute \(CHDI\)](#) provides free training and technical assistance to Connecticut schools and districts to foster engagement in the SHAPE system. The SHAPE system allows school and district leaders to take stock in what has gone well, identify what is crucial to retain and prioritize, recognize gaps and areas of need, and make sure their school mental health system is robust and efficient. Districts and schools are using SHAPE data and reports to engage in proactive planning; recognize and sustain the strengths of their school mental health system, identify and prioritize areas for improvement; and strategically abandon areas that are not working.

“Despite school building closure this spring, we were still able to complete the SHAPE assessment with 4 out of 6 of our schools and the deep, self-reflective discussions that resulted were invaluable. Never before had our school teams stepped back to review their mental health structures, discuss what was going well and set goals as a department to make systematic changes moving into the next school year. We are excited to continue working on the goals set by each building and see the impact on student mental health and achievement!”

New London, CT school district leader

For more information about how Connecticut and CHDI are using SHAPE, please contact **Rebekah Behan**, Project Coordinator, Child Health & Development Institute of CT, Inc. behan@uchc.edu