The topic of Suicide is very serious and many people avoid talking about it because they feel it won’t happen to their child or a member of their family. According to JAMA Pediatrics, the number of kids attempting suicide has doubled since 2007 and kids are being hospitalized for suicidal thoughts or attempts at an alarming rate.

It is important to understand that those who take their life are suffering the effects of a mental illness at the time of their death and are in a great deal of emotional pain. This pain impairs thinking, and it leads a person to erroneously believe that suicide is the only way out.

Child & Family Guidance clinicians have been hard at work in educating clients by assessing and implementing protective factors to keep children and adolescents safe. Clinicians have attended training on the Columbia Suicide protocol and other webinars related to suicide prevention.

Our own Dr. Margo Fugate, MD was instrumental in bringing Dr. Kelly Posner, Professor of Psychiatry in the Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University and Founder and Director of The Columbia Lighthouse Project, to deliver her presentation Reducing Suicide, Redirecting Scarce Resources and Protecting Against Liability in General Medicine with The Columbia Protocol: A Vital Sign Check for Imminent Suicide Risk to our Grand Rounds.

I ask parents/guardians that you if suspect that your child is at risk for suicide, please have them assessed at the nearest emergency room, call 911 or bring them to our Child & Family Guidance clinic for an appointment. Our intake number is (203)503-3055 at the Columbus Care site and for the Dixwell care site (203)503-3457.

Please continue to partner with us in improving the lives of the children and adolescents we serve.

Respectfully yours,

Sandra L. Gibson
MS,MSW,LCSW
Program Director
Marilyn Williams, LCSW is our featured clinician this quarter. Marilyn is a graduate of New York University with a master's degree in Social work. Marilyn is a bilingual clinician who has extensive training and certifications in the field of social work. She is credentialed in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), which is an evidenced-based practice that addresses trauma related disorders. In addition to one of her colleagues, she represents CS-HHC Child Guidance at the City of New Haven Youth Stat meeting which convenes to reduce justice involvement and improve health and wellness outcomes of students from elementary to post-secondary education. Marilyn facilitates a therapeutic groups called “Latino X” which helps to build coping skills, embracing your culture and issues unique to Latino teens. As a bi-lingual clinician, Marilyn has helped with the disparities in communicating and delivering mental health services to the Latino population.

In her spare time Marilyn likes to spend time in nature, going on hikes with her dog, and enjoying quality time with her husband and family. When asked about providing clinical work at the Child & Family Guidance Department, Marilyn said, “I enjoy working with our children and families at CFG. I am always inspired by their resilience and I am grateful to be able to help them make strides towards social emotional wellbeing.”

**CONNECT KIDS PLANNING FOR SUMMER 2019**

Resources for Summer Kids Stuff, including:
- Summer Camps and Programs
- Summer Fun
- Summer Safety
- Summer Festivals
- Volunteering
- Summer Reading

https://tinyurl.com/ConneCTKidsKidsStuff

**BRAIN MATH RESOURCES**

www.prodigygame.com
Free math learning tool for grades 1-8