



# NASW

National Association of Social Workers / Connecticut Chapter

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## **Recommendations on Addressing Children's Mental in CT**

1. Involve direct service clinical social workers in discussions on and solutions to the mental health crisis.
2. Address both the immediate and long-term issues.
3. Have school social workers, school psychologists and school counselors employed in each school. Work toward the NASW recommended ratio of 1 school social worker per every 250 school children.
4. Expand SBHCs that includes behavioral health services in both distressed and non-distressed municipalities
5. Expand School Based Mental Health Clinics for those schools that cannot afford or lack sufficient space for a full-service SBHC.
6. Loan forgiveness for behavioral health professionals in practice fields experiencing shortages of personnel and/or serving communities of greatest need. Social workers must be included as an eligible profession.
7. Reduce tuition costs for behavioral health degrees.
8. Significantly improve salaries and provider reimbursement rates.
9. Hold private insurers accountable for provider relation problems.
10. Develop support services for behavioral health providers.
11. Expand integrated health care for pediatric services through the employ of clinical social workers.
12. Establish Medicaid provider status to LMSWs in established independent practices.

Approved by the NASW/CT Board of Directors, November 15, 2021.