

Alliance to Prevent Suicide Meeting Notes

10-9-2018

Welcome, Introductions

Attending: Lorene Moore, Del Quest, Jeremy Wells, Gary McConahay, Chelsea Holcomb, Cheryl Ramirez, David Westbrook, Ann Kirkwood, Tanya Pritt, Peggy Holstedt, Kristi Nix, Doug Gouge, Stephanie Willard, Laura Curtis, Jean Lasater, Rene' Smith Sumpter, Julie Scholz, Laura Rose Misaras, Juanita Aniceto, Sandy Bumpus, Emily Morrissey, Tree Burton, Emily Moser, Julie Magers, Sarah Paige, Jammie Gardner, Meghan Crane, Chiaharu Blatt, Kirk Wolfe, Deborah Martin, John Seeley, Ryan Price, Christabelle Dragoo, Kimberlee Jones, Danielle Myers, Jeanne McCarty, Larry Sullivan, Chiharu Blatt

Basic Rights Oregon

Laura Curtis, NW Public Affairs Staff representing Basic Rights Oregon, provided background on the LGBTQ advocacy organization and gave an overview of the legislative concept to establish standard suicide prevention policies in schools (legislative concept draft provided in meeting packet).

Cheryl Ramirez, AOCMHP Director, added that a group of Alliance members, Basic Rights Oregon, and School Safety Task Force leadership met to share their suicide prevention advocacy strategies and agreed to align efforts through a one-pager stating common principles and legislative priorities for suicide prevention policy and funding.

Legislative Update

David Westbrook, Chief Operations Officer, Lines for Life, and Annette Marcus gave an update on the Alliance's legislative priorities:

- SB 48 – A group of Alliance members met with Representative Keny-Guyer and Senator Gelser to add in more requirements for providers to be trained in suicide prevention and risk assessment. The decision was to focus on mental health providers, with exceptions for those providers who have already obtained CEUs in acceptable suicide prevention programs. It was suggested that standards should be set higher – more like 6-8 hours required, like Washington State. It was also noted that pediatricians are on board and it may be easier to engage new physicians during medical school and when they first enter the field. Another comment was that CCO metrics drive action and it is important to ensure there are suicide prevention-related metrics required to be measured by CCOs.
- Alliance in statute – I didn't hear an update on this one?
- SB 561 – Postvention requirements will be expanded beyond CMHPs to include schools. The main concern has been sharing protected information (FERPA). OHA does not ask for names or other individual identifiers; only aggregate information is reported.
- Adult Suicide Prevention Plan – OHA has submitted an LC to Representative Keny-Guyer to consider sponsoring.
- OHA POP on suicide prevention and children's mental health services – The Alliance plans to support this POP and OHA encouraged Alliance members to advocate individually to legislators to prioritize this funding as well. Part of the funding is to fully staff the suicide lifeline at Lines

for Life, whose call volume has increased from 700 to 15,000 a year in the last seven years and for the national line to 25,000 calls per year. Since 2011 texting has been added, which comprises 50% of all communication to the lifeline. POP advocacy should include a one pager and stories.

Bylaws

Annette reviewed proposed bylaws changes as recommended by the Executive Committee and asked for feedback. Feedback is summarized below and will be reviewed by the Executive Committee before submitting revised bylaws for approval in January.

- Bylaws should be clear on specific authority and scope of Alliance work—concern regarding the word oversight in the by-laws. Does this correctly describe the Alliance relationship to YSIPP? – Julie Magers
- Add details regarding how an attempt and a loss survivor are selected for the Executive Committee-David Westbrook
- Make sure that family and youth voice are a real part of Alliance functioning-Sandy Bumpus
- Take a look at the categories outlined in the bylaws, clarify how many of each category. Emily Morrisey
- Endorsement Discussion—many of the organizations who are members of the Alliance (OSBA, ODE, OHA for example) can not endorse specific products/trainings and therefore couldn't in their role with the Alliance. (Peggy Holstedt)
- Clarify Alliance role in developing next YSIPP. (Annette Marcus)

Elections of new officers

Gary McConahay, Chair, made a motion to elect David Westbrook as Chair and Galli Murray as Vice Chair. He asked for any discussion or additional motions. As there were none, members voted and the motion passed unanimously. Terms will begin immediately following this Alliance meeting.

Reflections on YSIPP Progress and Challenges

Ann Kirkwood, Suicide intervention and Prevention Coordinator, talked about the background of the YSIPP and the status of suicide prevention in Oregon four years ago. She praised the work of Alliance members on the planning process, the Alliance's growth, and the bylaws, noting how the organization had matured as evidenced by the revised bylaws. Ann encouraged Alliance members to prioritize based on their vision for the Alliance five years from now and to pursue bold initiatives to move us to the next level. She stressed that it is important to emphasize evaluation to show progress on decreasing effects of risk factors and on increasing focus on prevention. The next plan should include priorities pertaining to people with intellectual/developmental disabilities, serious mental illness, and military/veteran and their families. Ann said the POP is her vision of where we need to go over the next two years.

Alliance members expressed their appreciation for Ann's hard work and tenacity over the last four years and presented her with special notes, a certificate of appreciation and a crystal bowl to show their gratitude for Ann's contributions in establishing a firm foundation for suicide prevention in Oregon.

Communication Plan – Outreach/Awareness Committee Report

Annette and Christabelle Dragoo, University of Oregon intern, provided an overview of the Alliance's Communication plan and a preview of the Alliance website. (see PPT presentation for details)

Other Committee Reports

Evaluation and Data

John Seeley, Chair, shared the following highlights:

- The Suicide Prevention Lab, which is providing the Evaluation staff, has now grown to 8 students.
- One major objective is to assess network improvement to identify all suicide prevention coalition members across the state.
- The group is evaluating the roll out of Connect across the state and have found follow through of trainers to be a problem. The staff, with consultation from the Evaluation and Data committee, will work on identifying interventions to decrease attrition of trainers.
- Evaluation for Sources of Strength is just beginning and will be through the Schools committee.
- Other activities include: Evaluating DHS suicide prevention trainings; looking at various data sets (Essence); grant writing opportunities to fund more efforts; and producing an annual report by the end of the month.

Schools

Kimberlee Jones, Chair, reported on the Schools committee activities:

- Collecting data on school implementation of suicide prevention activities – have list of 350 schools that want help
- Connecting schools to resources
- MHFA is promoted at COSA (Maria Pos, Oregon MHFA Coordinator, provided a training and overview last week)
- Willamette ESD is piloting a Lines for Life suicide prevention manual
- Sources of Strength training was provided to 11 school districts with 24 trainees – deciding how to distribute the remaining funds through a rubric to identify need/capacity of schools

Continuity of Care

Julie Magers presented for Galli Murray on the following activities:

- Drafting brochures for families in hospital settings (from initial ED transition legislation)
- Hospital Association is redoing guidelines for patients and providers
- HB 2023 was not consistently implemented – looking at barriers to report to House Healthcare
- Listening session with Benton County stakeholders on pre/post suicides – U of O will look at performance improvement for YSIPP and Alliance; need to communicate/establish presence and relevance through a media campaign; and focus more on evaluation.

Workforce

Don Erickson presented for Deborah Martin on the following activities:

- 8500 DHS staff are not trained in suicide prevention – agency is sponsoring ASSIST and Safe Talk overviews to garner interest in these trainings
- Working with U of O on metrics
- One of greatest causes of burnout and turnover among staff is not being adequately prepared when encountering suicidal and other crisis situations.

Gary McConahay adjourned to meeting at 12:05. Alliance members expressed their gratitude for Gary's service as the Alliance's first chair.