

The Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide

Policy Agenda for the 2021 Legislative Session

Introduction:

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) separates their policy and advocacy into areas in which they will lead, collaborate and explore. During the March 2020 quarterly meeting, the Alliance membership reviewed this approach and found it to be a helpful way to guide future policy and advocacy work. The table below is based on:

Lead – issues on which Alliance will play a leadership role – developing the policy position, marshaling support, and generating advocacy activity

Collaborate – issues on which Alliance will work as part of a coalition or group, providing active support to achieve these important policy objectives

Explore – issues that are rising in importance and require further exploration or policy research and analysis, but have not yet become Alliance policy proposals

Legislative Policy - Lead

Amend current legislation on youth suicide to expand the age range from 10 to 24, to include all school age children (5-24). (Executive Committee to take the lead.)

Require behavioral health workforce to receive continuing education on suicide prevention, intervention, and management. (Workforce Committee to take the lead.)

Legislative Policy - Collaborate

Legislative concept requiring medical examiners to report youth suicide deaths to local mental health authorities including specific reporting timelines. (OHA – lead; Data and Evaluation Committee collaborate.)

Legislative Policy - Explore

Explore collaborations and priorities for protecting behavioral health budgets for essential services for children, youth and young adults. (Executive Committee to take the lead.)

Explore legislative concept asking Oregon Health Authority to develop a suicide prevention and intervention plan for adults that incorporates clear connections with the YSIPP. (Executive Committee to take the lead on.)