



Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide Bylaws

Background on the Alliance

Suicide, a major public health issue nationally, is the second most common cause of death for youth and young adults up to age to 24 in Oregon.

In 2014, the Oregon State Legislature mandated development of a 5-year plan to address Oregon’s high rate of suicide among individuals aged 10 through 24. The Oregon Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan (YSIPP) was signed by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and submitted to the Legislature in January 2016. The YSIPP calls for the creation of the Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide to develop a public policy agenda for suicide intervention and prevention across agencies, systems, and communities.

In 2019 Oregon’s legislature passed SB 707 which put the Alliance in statute as the Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Advisory Committee, amending ORS 418.731 and 418.733. The Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide (Alliance) is serving in this role.

In 2021, Oregon’s legislature passed SB 563 making the YSIPP cover ages 5 through 24 for more upstream prevention work.

Purpose and Responsibilities

The Alliance is charged with overseeing implementation of the YSIPP and evaluating outcomes related to suicide prevention in Oregon. The purpose of the Alliance is to serve as an advisory to the OHA with a goal of reducing youth suicides in the state of Oregon. Alliance members are appointed by the OHA to develop a public policy agenda for suicide prevention, intervention, and postvention across agencies, systems, and communities. The Alliance seeks to:

- Promote a sense of **hope** and highlight recovery and resilience,
- Make it safe to ask for **help** and making sure that help is available at the right time.
- Engage individuals and communities in the **healing** process after an attempt or suicide.

Responsibilities of the Alliance Include:

- Advise the OHA on the development and administration of strategies to address suicide intervention and prevention for children, youth and young adults through 24 years of age.
- Recommend potential members to OHA for appointment to the Alliance
- Promote a coordinated approach with the State for youth suicide prevention.
- Develop a plan to foster and sustain statewide policy development and leadership in suicide prevention.



- The Alliance consults with the Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Coordinator on updates to the YSIPP under ORS418 733.
- Develop a policy agenda for suicide prevention that identifies state policy priorities and communicate the agenda to state and local policymakers.

Alliance Structure and Membership

Members will be appointed by the Director of OHA. Members serve at the discretion of OHA’s director and can only be removed by resignation or by the director. Membership will at a minimum align with the SB707 requirements and include a minimum of four youth and young adults age 24 or younger.

Any current member of the Alliance may recommend an individual for membership to the executive committee. The executive committee will submit recommendations to the director of OHA. Candidates must be confirmed and appointed by OHA’s director.

Membership is for a period of three years and is renewable every three years. At the end of each term members may be reappointed. The Executive Committee will vet and recommend members to the director of OHA. Members intending to resign shall submit a letter of resignation to the Chair, with a copy to the Alliance Staff and to the OHA Youth Suicide Prevention Coordinator.

The Alliance places a high value on ensuring that its statewide work connects with efforts in local communities and recognizes the important role of Regional and County Suicide Prevention Coalitions play in that work. When considering membership recruitment, the Executive is encouraged to work towards regional representation of the coalitions.

Alliance staff will track membership attendance and terms and notify OHA and the executive committee of terms coming to an end.

Affiliates are individuals interested in participating in Alliance committees, quarterly meetings or other Alliance activities and who have not been appointed as a member by the director of OHA. Affiliates may provide feedback and help in development of policy but are not voting members.

A current member of the Alliance may nominate an individual for membership to the executive committee for consideration. The recommendation may be submitted either in writing or verbally to the executive committee for consideration. The executive committee will vet and recommend a nomination to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Youth Suicide Coordinator who will forward to the director of OHA. Per the Alliance Bylaws, members will be appointed by the Director of OHA, serve at the discretion of OHA’s director and can only be removed by resignation or by the director. See Attachment 1, Alliance Bylaws

As indicated by SB 707, the members of the advisory committee should reflect the cultural, linguistic, geographic and economic diversity of Oregon and must include but need not be limited to:

- Individuals who have survived suicide attempts;
- Individuals who have lost friends or family members to suicide;

- Individuals who have not attained 21 years of age;
- Representatives of state agencies, including but not limited to the Department of Human Services, the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Education, who provide services to individuals who have not attained 21 years of age;
- Representatives of Oregon Indian tribes;
- Representatives of colleges and universities;
- Medical and behavioral treatment providers;
- Representatives of hospitals and health systems;
- Representatives of coordinated care organizations and private insurers;
- Suicide prevention specialists; and
- Representatives of members of the military and their families.

Alliance members must:

- Be familiar with the Oregon Youth Suicide Intervention and Prevention Plan and the responsibilities it designates for the Alliance.
- Learn about and share best practices in suicide, suicide prevention, intervention, treatment, and postvention.
- Communicate the needs and concerns of their constituencies to the Alliance.
- Communicate issues under consideration by the Alliance to their constituencies to obtain feedback.
- Be open to including youth voice and supporting meaningful youth involvement.
- Maintain a statewide perspective for what will work in Oregon.
- Serve on committees or work groups as appropriate.
- Support Alliance public policy agenda and other initiatives, and advocate for them as appropriate.
- Attend quarterly meetings, preferably in person.
- Participate in decision-making with timely responses and by voting in person, by email or by phone.
- Maintain a perspective on what is in the best interest of the Alliance and make this perspective a priority in matters relevant to the Alliance.

Stipends:

The Alliance values participation of youth and young adults, family members and persons with lived experience. Stipends and reimbursement may be provided to individuals not otherwise receiving compensation for time and expenses. Reimbursement under this subsection are subject to the provisions of ORS 292.210 to 292.288

Alliance Chair and Committees

To be eligible for nomination as the Alliance Chair or Vice-Chair a member shall have served on a committee prior to their nomination.

The Alliance Chair will lead meetings, and in their absence, the Vice-Chair may take the lead. The Chair and Vice-Chair terms will be for a period of two years. The Vice-Chair position is intended to support the chair and prepare the individual for serving as Alliance Chair in the future. The Alliance Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected by Alliance members at the quarterly meeting held in June. Chair and Vice-Chair may serve two consecutive terms. At the end of two terms, the Chair must be transitions and can be nominated for appointment after a period of two years.

The work of the Alliance is moved forward through committees. Committees are determined at the June quarterly meeting by the full Alliance. Chairs of these standing committees will serve on the Executive Committee. Ad hoc work groups will be commissioned by the Executive Committee for a specific scope and purpose.

Committees will establish annual goals and action steps each year in the spring. Each committee will meet at least quarterly to assess progress towards the annual goals. Each committee will have a committee chair tasked with facilitating the committee meetings and ensuring goals are met and deliverables are completed.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will meet prior to each quarterly meeting of the full Alliance. Additional meetings will be held as needed.

The Executive Committee shall:

- meet to develop and review full Alliance quarterly meeting agendas,
- review and approve recommendations or proposals from each of the committees,
- recommend to the Alliance new or updated policies and procedures,
- review and make recommendations on other items to come before the Alliance,
- make decisions between meetings on behalf of the Alliance membership,
- make recommendations to OHA on new Alliance members, and
- prioritize special projects, especially those focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion and groups that are at disproportionate risk of suicide.

Executive Committee Membership:

- Alliance Chair
- Alliance Vice-chair
- Standing committee chairs
- OHA/Health Systems Division Representative (non-voting)

- OHA Public Health Representative (non-voting)
- Two persons identifying as having direct lived experience of intrusive suicidal thoughts, urges and/or behaviors (including suicidal attempts).
- A person with lived experience identifying as a bereavement loss survivor (i.e. family member of a person who attempted or dies by suicide)
- Two young adult representatives, who may be supported at executive committee meetings by a non-voting adult ally.
- Up to two at-large members
- A healthcare provider
- A person representing schools (K-12) or colleges and universities

Committee Chair Determination

Committee members will recommend a chair or co-chairs. If the committee uses a co-chair structure, only one of the co-chairs shall serve on the Executive Committee. Committee chairs will report to the Executive Committee regarding committee activities and recommendations, and work with the Executive Committee to review, revise and adopt these recommendations. Committees will submit quarterly progress reports to the full Alliance.

Decision Making

Elections

- Committee chairs shall be elected for a period of one year at the committee meeting immediately preceding the June Alliance meeting. Committee chairs, excluding the Executive Committee chair, shall be elected by majority vote of the committee.
- The Alliance Chair and Vice-Chair shall be nominated and voted upon at the June meeting of the Alliance. Nominations may come from any member and may be for any member, including self-nomination. Members of the Alliance must be present in person or by phone to vote and each member may cast one vote per position.

Committee & Advisory Group Meetings

- All Committee meetings will follow Oregon’s Public Meeting Law, ORS 192.610 – 192.690.
- Advisory Group meetings do not follow Oregon’s Public Meeting Law, ORS 192.610 – 192.690. These groups are population specific and serve as an advisory group to the full Alliance and to Committee work as needed.
- Meetings of the full Alliance will be held quarterly. Special meetings via conference calls will be scheduled as needed. A designee may be delegated by an Alliance member to represent the

member by attending and voting at a quarterly meeting. Members will notify the Staff of the Alliance and the chairperson in advance if they are sending a designee or will miss a meeting.

Voting

- Each appointed member, with the exception of members who are OHA staff, is entitled to one vote on any matter referred to the full membership. Votes will require a quorum.
- A quorum will be 50% plus one of those present who are Alliance appointed members. Decisions will be made by majority vote of the quorum.
- If a motion is made at an Alliance meeting, all members present, as well as those who are in attendance via phone, will participate in the vote. Committee chairs or any member may submit motions for vote to the Executive Committee and at quarterly meetings.

Time Sensitive Matters

- Time sensitive matters are those in which a decision is needed before the next scheduled quarterly meeting. When time allows, feedback will be gathered via email from Alliance members and the Executive Committee will discuss. No less than three business days will be allowed between when an issue is raised and voting. Voting will occur in a teleconference call. Voting records shall be contained in Executive Committee minutes and will be shared with Alliance members via email and at quarterly meetings. Any member of the Alliance may propose a time-sensitive matter for a vote by submitting a request to the Alliance staff who will be responsible for bringing the matter to the Executive Committee.
- The Executive Committee is authorized to vote on policy recommendations and take action between quarterly meetings on behalf of the full Alliance as needed. The Executive Committee will only vote to support proposals that align with the Alliance-approved legislative agenda, are specifically mentioned in the YSIPP, or otherwise have been approved by the Alliance membership. If an issue arises other than those in the approved legislative agenda, specifically mentioned in the YSIPP, or have been approved by the Alliance membership, it will be brought to the Executive Committee and the full Alliance will be informed by email and any decisions will be documented in the minutes.