

Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide  
Workforce Subcommittee Meeting Minutes & Action Planning

**Date & Time:** June 6, 2025 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82896016786>

**Subcommittee Voting Members in Attendance:** Angela Perry, Don Erickson, Gordon Clay, Jill Baker, Stephanie Willard

**Subcommittee Non-Voting Members in Attendance:** Linda Hockman, Steve Schneider, Suzie Stadelman

**Staff:** Jenn Fraga

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**Subcommittee Decision Making:** A quorum is defined as three voting members of the Alliance, and must include a Subcommittee Chair or Co-chair. Decisions will be made by majority vote of the total number of members on that Subcommittee that are present. Any member may submit motions for vote to the Subcommittee and at quarterly meetings.

**Quick recap**

The meeting began with team members sharing personal updates and relationship building efforts. The group then focused on workforce initiatives and policy updates, including a workforce report showing improved compliance rates and plans for medication safety materials. The team concluded by discussing ongoing studies, policy papers, and future meeting schedules, while addressing concerns about veteran mental health services and the need for systemic changes in healthcare.

**Agenda Item: Veterans**

**Notes:** Steve shared insights from a recent VA SAMHSA innovations conference focused on reducing veteran suicide, highlighting Oregon's postvention model and concerns about the administration's approach to veteran issues. He expressed frustration about the lack of in-depth discussions on the complex factors contributing to suicide, particularly the relationship between antidepressants and increased suicidality, and emphasized the need for better education and support during medication changes.

Steve discussed the challenges faced by veterans, highlighting the disconnect between their military experiences and the societal expectations placed on them post-service. He emphasized the high rates of military sexual trauma (MST) and its impact on mental health, comparing the number of MST cases to combat casualties. Steve questioned the lack of attention given to MST and expressed concern about the current state of VA facilities, which he believes are not trauma-informed environments for veterans seeking help.

Steve shared his concerns about the lack of discussion on marginalized communities' struggles and the overwhelming nature of ongoing societal issues. Stephanie echoed these sentiments, highlighting the need for systemic changes in mental health care and expressing frustration with the current state of affairs. The group agreed to continue discussions on these topics and to consider next steps, with Jenn suggesting that it falls under workforce initiatives.

**Action:** Jenn: Create updated initiative document incorporating cultural considerations and veterans/agriculture additions, and send to committee members for review by mid-June

**Agenda Item:** Workforce Paper

**Notes:** The group discussed distributing recommendations to various Oregon Health Authority (OHA) staff, including Jill and Meghan's teams. They agreed to track where the recommendations are sent, with Jenn taking the lead on distribution. Jill presented a preview of the workforce report, noting that required boards have surpassed 80% compliance for the first time. The group also discussed the need for more detailed training information, but acknowledged that getting comprehensive data from providers has been challenging.

The group discussed updates to a policy paper titled "A Path Forward," agreeing to incorporate cultural infusion considerations and expand evaluation efforts in future iterations of the report. The new cover page and removal of a quote was approved by the group. They decided to restructure the paper's recommendations and track progress annually rather than writing a new version by 2026.

**Action:** Angela: Share Governor's office contact information with Jenn for distributing the workforce recommendations

Jenn: Send final workforce recommendations to OHA staff and track distribution list

**Agenda Item:** Review Continued Initiative Recommendations

**Notes:** Updates to existing initiatives. 3.1.1.5 The Alliance will continue to monitor implementation of HB 2315 (2021) by reviewing OHA's annual report. The Alliance will submit recommendations regarding implementation of this legislation, including recommendations around expanded evaluation efforts.

3.3.1.9 The Alliance will distribute a policy paper outlining pathways to equip physical health providers with training in suicide risk screening, assessment, treatment, and management. The paper will be used to educate legislators, community groups, and other stakeholders and will serve as the basis for recommendations to OHA.

**Action:** Send out updates to the Subcommittee to confirm recommended language.

**Agenda Item:** Review Start Initiative Recommendations

**Notes:** The group discussed a potential initiative for providing physical paperwork to patients receiving medication, similar to hospital discharge materials, to help explain medication effects and safety planning. Angela shared updates about an ongoing AFSP/Johns Hopkins study examining the value of updating safety plans, which includes a 5-year study with 12 lived experience experts from diverse backgrounds, including veterans, and will involve 15 meetings per year to review data and findings. Jenn agreed to share information about the study with the Transitions of Care Committee, highlighting the potential for greater collaboration between Alliance subcommittees.

Gordon suggested adding agriculture and veterans to the initiatives list.

**Action:** Jenn will draft language for a possible initiative and will send it to the Subcommittee for review.

**Agenda Item:** Finalize what is to be sent to Jill

**Notes:** Jenn will make edits to initiatives and send them to the Subcommittee for final review before sending them to Jill.

**Action:** Send recommendations to Subcommittee members by mid-June.

**Action Item Priorities:**

Workforce Committee: Review updated initiatives document when received from Jenn before it goes to Jill at the end of June

Jenn: Forward culturally infused curricular framework paper to Jill

REMINDER: No Subcommittee meeting in July 2025. We will reconvene August 1, 2025.