

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

**Date & Time:** May 21, 2025      8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89796541408?pwd=OGpPRVArcDhTS1MzWml3YUhaZHV3dz09>

**Subcommittee Voting Members:** Co-Chair Ishawn Ealy, Gordon Clay, Jamie Gunter, Justin Potts, Mila Rodriguez-Adair

**Subcommittee Non-Voting Members:** Angie Elstone, Beth Wigham, Nathan Shay, Nole Kennedy, Ritu Roy, Shanda Hochstetler, Shay Clarke

**Staff:** Kris Bifulco

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**Subcommittee Decision Making:** A quorum in Subcommittees, other than the Executive Subcommittee, will be 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.

**Meeting Summary:** The Schools Subcommittee meeting addressed various aspects of youth suicide prevention initiatives, including updates on existing programs, discussion of resource allocation, and strategies for supporting schools. The group reviewed and approved language changes for the YSIPP initiative, discussed the sustainability of suicide prevention plans, and explored ways to address the needs of different age groups, particularly 18-24 year olds. Throughout the meeting, the committee emphasized the importance of leveraging existing resources, maintaining program fidelity, and enhancing collaboration between different organizations to improve the effectiveness of suicide prevention efforts in schools.

**Agenda Item:** Subcommittee meeting business

**Notes:** Gordon and Justin approved the minutes from the previous month, and Kris shared a Google Doc link containing alliance and school-specific initiatives. Ishawn facilitated the meeting in Jen's absence, and Ritu clarified that the YSIPP information was included in the Google Doc shared by Kris.

**Agenda Item:** YSIPP Initiative Language Revision

**Notes:** The group discussed and approved revised language for section 2.3.4 of the YSIPP initiative, focusing on strategies for addressing Adi's Act tasks for focal student groups. The final approved language states: "The Alliance will identify and support the dissemination of successful strategies used by districts to address Adi's Act tasks for focal student groups named in the Student Success Act." The discussion included considerations around terminology, with input from several participants on how to best capture the intended meaning while maintaining clarity and conciseness.

**Agenda Item:** YSIPP Initiatives Review and Focus

**Notes:** The Schools Subcommittee reviewed existing YSIP initiatives, with Kris presenting a comprehensive chart of 190 initiatives aligned with the purple paper recommendations. The group decided to focus first on supporting existing initiatives rather than starting new ones, with Justin and Shanda emphasizing the importance of leveraging existing work and resources.

Nole shared some additional context around SSPS positions: Beginning with the 2022 school year, an additional 11.0 FTE for School Safety and Prevention

Specialist positions were added to the existing 8.0 FTE positions to establish 19 FTE total positions, allowing each Education Service District across Oregon a 1.0 SSPS. The previous 8.0 FTE were funded by ODE to support ESDs through Section 36 of the Student Success Act, which includes suicide prevention. The additional 11.0 FTE were provided through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Fund through 2024. Through combined state and GEER Funding, all 19 FTE are fully funded in the 23-25 biennium. Unless additional state funding is allocated during 2025 long session, funding for the School Safety and Prevention System will revert back to the original state funded amount as determined by the Legislative Approved Budget for the fiscal biennium.

Justin encouraged everyone to submit testimony in support of continued funding.

**Agenda Item:** Student Success Initiatives Support

**Notes:** The Schools Subcommittee discussed their role in supporting, monitoring, and advising various student success initiatives. They agreed to receive regular updates from contracted coordinators and prioritize space in committee meetings for these updates. The group also touched on the importance of communication between ODE, ESDs, and OHA, especially regarding evidence-based practices and training guidelines. While they considered revising some language in the YSEP initiatives, they ultimately decided to focus on defining their role in relation to existing initiatives rather than making major changes.

**Agenda Item:** K-12 Resource Guide Updates

**Notes:** The group discussed the "Step by Step Guide" for K-12 personnel, which was last revised in 2021 and is maintained by Lines for Life. They clarified that while the universal screening toolkit and indicated intervention toolkit are separate documents, all resources should be included in Shay's Resource Library. Justin emphasized the guide's importance as a starting template for schools to meet Adi's Act requirements, particularly for districts with thin plans. The group agreed to maintain and update the resource, ensuring it remains relevant and aligned with school needs.

**Agenda Item:** Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy Review

**Notes:** The group discussed updates and sustainability of suicide prevention plans, with Ritu emphasizing the need for metrics and tools to assess plan effectiveness. Miranda highlighted the impact of budget cuts on school counselors and social workers, prompting a need for continuity in resource sharing and training. Kris suggested shifting focus to brainstorming recommendations for the Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative (YSIPP) to address current challenges, while Gordon raised concerns about post-high school suicide rates and the need to prepare students for independence. The group agreed to review the purple paper initiatives and consider additional YSIPP proposals for the June Quarterly Meeting.

**Agenda Item:** Youth Programs and Training Initiatives

**Notes:** The group discussed initiatives targeting 18-24 year olds, with Shanda confirming there are multiple programs in the YSIPP document that can be filtered by age group. Gordon noted that some initiatives were previously dropped due to funding and capacity constraints. The committee agreed to invite Nick Jensen to present findings from his retrospective fatality analysis work, which will have significant implications for young adults, in the next school year. Justin suggested focusing on communication guidelines and staff training programs that are most efficient for school use, particularly given current budget constraints and limited training days.

**Agenda Item:** Training and Suicide Prevention Initiatives

**Notes:** The group discussed training recommendations and initiatives, focusing on maintaining program fidelity while being responsive to changing needs and resources. They agreed that no new initiatives were needed, but highlighted the subcommittee's role in monitoring, advising, and supporting schools for suicide prevention. The conversation ended with a reminder about the upcoming Sources Showcase event on Thursday and a discussion of the Jed Foundation's High School strategic plan as a resource.

**Agenda Item:** Subcommittee Aligns on YSIPP Goals

**Notes:** The Schools Subcommittee discussed their recent revision of initiatives and alignment with YSIP goals, noting improved clarity and connection to

purpose. They agreed to implement regular 5-minute updates from ODE and OHA at subcommittee meetings to enhance collaboration and sense of shared purpose. The group explored potential ways to address the needs of 18-24 year olds, considering either a quarterly combined meeting with transitions and workforce subcommittees or the creation of a dedicated subcommittee, though staffing constraints at AOCMHP may delay this. They decided to develop a work plan to track progress on YSIPP initiatives and prioritize presenters for future meetings, while also planning to review the quarterly meeting outcomes and share updates with those who couldn't attend.

**Action Item Priorities:**

1. Kris to submit the revised language for 2.3.3.4 initiative for full vote at the June Quarterly Meeting.
2. Kris to create a work plan draft for the Schools Subcommittee to review at the next meeting.
3. Kris to prepare a summary of this meeting's discussion and proposed agenda for the next meeting, to be sent out to subcommittee members for feedback.
4. Kris to add ODE and OHA updates as a standing agenda item for future meetings.
5. Schools Subcommittee to prioritize presenters from Justin's list and other relevant sources for future meetings.
6. Kris to explore the possibility of scheduling quarterly joint meetings with other relevant subcommittees (e.g., Transitions, Workforce) to address cross-cutting issues like the 18-24 age group.