

Oregon Alliance to Prevent Suicide
Lethal Means Safety Subcommittee Meeting Agenda & Action Planning

Date & Time: June 11, 2025 * 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM

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

Subcommittee Voting Members: Co-Chair Pam Pearce, Catherine Bennett, Donna-Marie Drucker, Gordon Clay, Jill Baker

Subcommittee Non-Voting Members: Daniell Zeigler, Steven Schneider

Staff: Jenn Fraga

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.

Main Objective of Meeting: Discuss YSIPP 2026-2030 initiative recommendations and begin updating subcommittee workplan.

The meeting focused on cultural infusion initiatives related to lethal means and safe storage programs, with discussions on ensuring culturally and linguistically appropriate communications materials and messaging strategies. The group reviewed various initiatives for a 5-year plan, including advancing equity beyond firearms and medication, normalizing dialogue about safe storage practices, and building collaborative partnerships with diverse community leaders. The team discussed ongoing initiatives for safe storage of firearms, medications, and mind-altering substances, while also addressing concerns about youth access to firearms and the need for culturally appropriate communication strategies.

Agenda Item: Cultural Initiatives for Suicide Prevention

Notes:

Jenn welcomed attendees to the meeting and noted that Jill would present on cultural infusion initiatives related to lethal means and safe storage programs. Jill outlined these initiatives, which include suicide rapid response programs, OCALM training, and safe storage devices distributed through various organizations. She emphasized the importance of these programs as part of a broader strategy within the YSSIP framework and invited feedback from the group.

The group discussed ensuring that lethal means reduction media and communications materials are culturally and linguistically appropriate, including using culturally congruent values, engaging trusted messengers, and addressing community-specific barriers. Jenn asked if this applied to hospital materials, which Jill clarified should fall under this umbrella, though it was initially misclassified. Gordon inquired about media and communications efforts, which Jill explained are broader initiatives beyond the alliance's scope, including promotional materials and messaging strategies. Steve emphasized the importance of being culturally aware in messaging to connect with diverse audiences.

Jill and Steve discussed the implications of gender and cultural components in lethal means, particularly firearms, and the need to tailor communication to diverse groups. They emphasized the importance of partnerships with cultural brokers to ensure safe storage and lethal means reduction efforts reach diverse

communities effectively. Jenn highlighted the need to explore recommendations for reducing hanging and suffocation risks, while Gordon noted that in Australia, while gun-related suicides decreased, hanging became the primary method, suggesting a need to address this issue.

Gordon shared his concerns about youth, particularly boys, and guns, noting that discussions often focus on adults and data shows 26% of boys who die by firearm gain access through safe storage. He highlighted that in four years of traveling and speaking with rural people, he never met a man who bought a gun for household protection, despite many owning firearms. Steve agreed with Gordon's point and emphasized the need for messaging that highlights the significant risk of firearm injuries and deaths coming from within the household, suggesting the importance of culturally appropriate communication on this issue.

The subcommittee discussed their ongoing initiatives, including safe storage for firearms, medications, and drugs, as well as identifying needs and resources in culturally specific communities.

The team discussed several initiatives, focusing on updating their work plan and developing recommendations for safe storage of firearms, medications, and mind-altering substances. They agreed to update the work plan to reflect current efforts and to research existing programs in Oregon, which Donna-Marie explained are scattered across counties with varying levels of robustness. Pam emphasized the need to assess whether such programs exist before making recommendations, suggesting that the initiative might involve advocating for the creation of an infrastructure to support these initiatives. Gordon questioned the scope of the project.

The group discussed various firearm safety programs, including the "Be Smart for Kids" program and local initiatives in Oregon. Donna-Marie explained that the Oregon Firearms Coalition has recently acquired the domain "Oregon Armory" and is developing a website to host information on safe firearm storage and access, following a model from New Orleans. They plan to launch the website after the legislative session ends, aiming to provide resources for different community needs, such as lockboxes, FFLs, and disassembly instructions for firearms.

The group discussed supporting Donna-Marie's work in suicide prevention and firearm safety, with a focus on creating a neutral website providing county-

specific resources and factual information about gun laws. Pam suggested exploring funding opportunities through the Opioid Settlement Fund for sheriff's departments to support firearm storage programs and mapping initiatives.

The group discussed three initiatives related to fentanyl storage and education programs.