

# MINUTES

## Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC)

*Date | time* 6/20/2019 1:00 PM | *Meeting called to order by* Sofia Castro

---

### In Attendance

---

**Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention, Department of Children and Families (DCF):** Sofia Castro; **Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition;** Jane Bennett; **Governor Appointee:** Stephen Roggenbaum; **Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention & Broward Behavioral Health Network:** Jackie Rosen; **American Foundation of Suicide Prevention:** Tara Sullivan; **Florida AARP,** Larry Dixon; **Department of Health:** Rhonda Jackson; **Department of Elder Affairs:** Gretta Jones; **Agency for Health Care Administration:** Jack Plagge; **Department of Corrections,** Katy Fabian; **Florida Department of Law Enforcement:** Seth Montgomery; **Department of Education:** David Wheeler; **Florida Association of School Psychologists:** Gene Cash; **SAMH Norwest Region:** NaKeisha Phillips; **SAMH Northeast Region:** Paul Kellam; **SAMH Southern Region:** Karen Annunziato & Conchita Lundblad; **Big Bend Community Based Care:** Sophia Whaley; **Central Florida Behavioral Health Network:** Larry Allen; **Lutheran Services Florida:** Elizabeth Nettles

---

### Absent

---

**Florida Sheriffs Association:** Matt Dunagan; **The Suicide Prevention Action Network USA;** **Florida School Board Association:** Karen Brill; **National Council for Suicide Prevention:** Dan Reidenberg; **Florida Council for Community Mental Health:** Kim Gryglewicz; **Department of Juvenile Justice;** Tracy Shelby; **Department of Economic Opportunity:** Michael Golen; **Florida Counseling Association:** Carly Parlo; **NAMI Florida:** Cindy Foster; **Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association,** Nataria Screen; **the Department of Veterans' Affairs:** Al Carter; **SAMH Central Region:** Jill Krohn; **SAMH Suncoast Region:** Kyle Teague; **SAMH Southeast Region:** Suzette Fleishmann; **Central Florida Cares Health System;** **Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network;** **South Florida Behavioral Health Network**

---

### Approval of Meeting Minutes

---

March 20, 2019, meeting minutes were distributed via email prior to this meeting. Stephen Roggenbaum made a motion to approve the minutes with a suggested change; Gene Cash seconded it. SPCC approved the minutes with a correction.

---

### Updates

---

#### Grants

#### **Florida Linking Individuals Needing Care (FL LINC) and Florida Implementation of the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention (FINS)**

Sofia Castro shared that Lindsay Brown was unable to participate in the meeting due to FL LINC completing their Zero Suicide technical assistance visits with behavioral health providers all over the state as part of their FL LINC carryover funds.

Sofia Castro asked if there were no objections that SPCC can discuss National Suicide Prevention Week (NSPW) which starts September 8, 2019 and lasts until September 14, 2019, National Suicide Prevention

Month, and World Suicide Prevention Day which is September 10, 2019 during this portion of the meeting. She asked SPCC members to email her planned events for this week, month, and day to add to the Department of Children and Families' (DCF) website calendar and to the Annual Report. Sofia shared that she will email SPCC members the NSPW campaign once it becomes public.

- Stephen Roggenbaum shared that the American Association of Suicidology has the 2018 materials for NSPW posted on their website and that SPCC members can use 2018 materials while they wait for 2019 materials.
  - Sofia Castro added that she will gather the 2019 materials and will email them to SPCC members. Another awareness to use is the National Weekend of Prayer for Faith, Hope, & Life. Sofia read the following: "In recognition of World Suicide Prevention Day (9/10), during the second weekend of September, the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention (Action Alliance) invites faith communities across the nation to pray for those whose lives have been touched by suicide. Save the date for this coming year and join us for National Weekend of Prayer for Faith, Hope, & Life." "We encourage involvement this coming September as well as all year round by utilizing other [Faith.Hope.Life. campaign resources](#) aimed at helping faith communities across our nation play an active role in preventing suicide such as":
    - [How to respond to a member who may be at risk for suicide](#)
    - [Worship and spiritual resources](#)
    - [Communications aids such as flyers, bulletin inserts, posters, and other graphical art](#)
    - [Other resources](#)
    - [Prayer Guide](#)
- Sofia Castro shared that she included this information to the DCF website calendar and that last year, SPCC members drafted an article that focused on faith-based communities and suicide prevention, but it did not get published. Sofia would like to try to get it published for 2019.
  - Stephen Roggenbaum shared that the resources in the article are not updated and suggested that they be updated and redrafted.
    - Sofia Castro will update the article and email it to SPCC members for review.
- Stephen Roggenbaum suggested that SPCC members draft letters to the editor or post them on twitter to disseminate information far in advance and be able to post in local communities highlighting NSPW.
- Jackie Rosen shared that her community experienced a death by suicide of a local prominent news anchor and the station is putting on suicide prevention information next week on a daily basis. Jackie will inform the station about NSPW.
  - Stephen Roggenbaum highlighted the safe messaging guidelines:  
<http://suicidepreventionmessaging.org/>
    - Sofia Castro will email the link to Jackie.

### **Florida Violent Death Reporting System (FLVDRS)**

Rhonda Jackson shared the following:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages Florida to begin calling the system the FLVDRS – Florida Violent Death Reporting System.
- There is a CDC site visit for FLVDRS scheduled for June 25th in Tallahassee. Rhonda will report outcomes at the next SPCC meeting.
- The contract with the University of South Florida (USF) to collaborate on the FLVDRS project was executed. USF has begun outreach to law enforcement agencies and hired two data abstractors who started June.
- The 13 counties that FLVDRS will collect data from first are: Miami-Dade, Duval, Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Orange, Osceola, Pasco, Nassau, Hamilton, Clay, and Columbia.

- Initial counties were chosen based on the number of violent deaths reported in the vital stats data in 2017 - Miami-Dade, Duval, Broward, Palm Beach, Hillsborough, Pinellas, Orange. The other counties - Osceola, Pasco, Nassau, Hamilton, Clay, and Columbia - are going to be included because they are in the same medical examiner (MEs) districts as the 7 larger counties.
- The Florida Enhanced State Opioid Overdose Surveillance System (ESOOS) is already collecting data from the MEs in the counties mentioned above, the Office of Public Health Research is coordinating the collection of ME related data with the ESOOS team Division of Emergency Preparedness and Community Support, Bureau of Medical Oversight for FLVDRS.
- The Department of Health has begun entering death certificate data from vital statistics into the CDC NVDRS web-based system (the main database); cases from April and May 2019 have been imported.

Stephen Roggenbaum asked when will data be available in the CDC?

- Rhonda shared that FLNVDRS is in its first year and that there could be some preliminary data. Rhonda can give a clear answer when Melissa comes back from vacation.

Sofia shared that FLVDRS will be added to the SPCC agenda to provide updates.

### **2021-2023 Florida Suicide Prevention Interagency Action Plan Committee**

Sofia Castro shared the following:

- Thank you to the following individuals who have volunteered to join the Planning Committee: Heather, Rhonda, Tara, Al, NaKeisha, Paul, Bryan, Kimberly, and David. Sofia will be emailing everyone the date for the first meeting probably be scheduled towards the end of August. Sofia asked if anyone else is interested in joining the Committee?
  - Jane Bennett asked if the Committee will be open to individuals interested in suicide prevention who are not SPCC members.
    - Sofia shared that an individual who can represent the community can join the committee.
    - Jane may have two individuals who might be interested who are active members of the Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition.
    - Sofia Castro added that the individuals can either represent the Coalition or the community.
    - Jane added that they would be representing the community because the individuals do not hold positions with the Coalition other than membership.
- Stephen Roggenbaum asked if there is an avenue for community members to provide feedback to the Plan?
  - Sofia Castro shared that SPCC members are provided an opportunity to provide feedback and that if SPCC members ask someone from their community to review the draft of the Plan, that the feedback would still be from an SPCC member.
  - Stephen Roggenbaum added that he recalls DCF eliciting community feedback. He asked if this is something that can be done with the Plan.
  - David Wheeler added that statute mandates for SPCC to create the Plan.
  - Sofia agreed and added that community members can join SPCC by applying to be appointed by the Governor. She added that because of the time frame, the Plan will not be open to the public for feedback.
- Stephen Roggenbaum reminded SPCC members to start thinking about a plan for dissemination. He asked for committee members to consider writing a dissemination effort.

### **Review/edit Response to 10 Stakeholder recommendations/support**

Sofia Castro shared the following:

- SPCC members reviewed the 10 items that stakeholders would like assistance with during the last meeting. Sofia created a list of ways that the stakeholders can receive assistance. Sofia asked SPCC members to provide feedback to the list.
- **Item 1: Information on updated evidence-based tools**
  - Sofia Castro shared that the list of evidence-based programs from SAMHSA was taken down and that DCF added a training section on their website.
  - Jackie Rosen shared that she could not find a list of evidence-based suicide prevention programs.
    - Stephen Roggenbaum added that there are a few programs. One of the caveats is to know what the outcomes are. Examples of program to reduce suicide include Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Suicide Prevention (CBT), and there are others that have strong evidence-based for interventions. Gatekeeper training has support in that they increase suicide knowledge and self-reported desire to intervene. Evidence means to adhere to implementing the training with complete fidelity. Stephen also added that evidence-based practices are not cheap.
    - Jackie added that her organization is looking into using the CBT.
  - NaKeisha Phillips added that she just got trained on the Hope Suicide Training for Crime Victims through the Education Development Center. She is offering the training as she is the only one trained in Florida.
    - David Wheeler suggested that this training can be added to item 8 that focuses on training.
    - NaKeisha stated that she will send the information of the training to Sofia to send it to everyone.
  - David Wheeler added that Project Aware developed a guidance document that focuses on selecting an evidence-based program. The document is currently in draft form, but he believes the guidance will be available at the end of the summer.
- **Item 2: Assistance with building additional community supports**
  - Sofia Castro shared that she added the Suicide Prevention Resource Center resources to build community support to this item.
  - Stephen Roggenbaum shared that there are two examples of communities that address youth suicide; Palo Alto, California and Fairfax, Virginia. Palo Alto's Plan provides a more comprehensive strategy and Fairfax's is driven by an analysis of a 3-year period of youth by suicide. These two examples of plans can give people an idea on how communities came together. The original plan is 8 years old but still available on the internet.
  - Jackie Rosen shared that as a result of Parkland in Broward, and two recent suicides, the Children Services Council, United Way, the Behavioral Health Coalition, and different local community organizations such as FISP (Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention) have collaborated. She shared that Broward Behavioral Health is going to do a suicide autopsy along with the American Association of Suicidology. The objective will be to find specific reasons that triggered an increase in deaths by suicide.
    - Jackie Rosen will be attending a meeting about the autopsy.
      - Jackie will inform Sofia about the meeting.
  - David Wheeler suggested that examples should come from Florida communities.
  - Paul Kellam shared that Flagler County has a plan. Paul will reach out to Flagler County.
- **Item 3: Work Group that would help carry out the Plan**
  - Sofia Castro read the following: the SPCC can create subcommittees that meet monthly via phone that will focus on the regional level (the SAMH Regional Office and the Managing

Entities as well as SPCC members and herself) to help carry out the new Florida Suicide Prevention Plan.

- David Wheeler suggested the creation of a full-time staff at the Managing Entity level can assist with carrying out the new Plan and coordinate regional meetings and suicide prevention efforts.
- Sofia agreed and asked if the meetings could be changed to quarterly. Sofia asked what SAMH Regional Offices and Managing Entities thought of the workgroup quarterly meetings.
  - Paul Kellam shared that the workgroups can be beneficial.
  - NaKeisha Phillips stated that it is a task her region can do.
  - Sofia Castro added that a pilot for the 2021-2025 Florida Suicide. Prevention Plan can be facilitating workgroups to focus on local plans in the future.
- **Item 4: A checklist of toolkits and guides to decrease time staff spend looking for information**
  - Sofia Castro shared that DCF added a professional section to the suicide prevention website that has a list of resources.
    - Jackie asked if the resources are listed by area and suggested the resources be represented by Florida area.
    - Sofia Castro added that the Florida Suicide Prevention coalition has resources listed by county but it was difficult to find resources on their website:  
<https://floridasuicideprevention.org/>
      - Stephen Roggenbaum shared that the Coalition has a webmaster based on the west coast and for anyone who has difficulties to email him or Jane Bennett. They will then address it with the webmaster.
      - Sofia Castro stated that resources on the DCF website are separated by resources for schools, physicians, and faith-based. It would be ideal to have a map of the state for individuals who visit the website to click on the county and see the resources available for each county as Jackie suggested.
- **Item 5: Assistance in finding a standardized evaluation form and screening assessments to identify at-risk individuals**
  - Sofia Castro shared that she found the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale can be used in various places such as practitioners, schools, law enforcement, coaches, firefighters, and first responders. Sofia will add the information on the rating scales suggested by the Department of Education.
- **Item 6: Assistance with suicide prevention data**
  - Sofia shared that she uses the Florida Vital Statistics Annual Reports to gather data. She also uses Florida Charts. When someone needs data, they can contact Sofia and she will gather the information for them.
  - Jane Bennett asked if death by suicide below a certain number are not reported by county and they are reported as zero.
    - Sofia Castro stated that Florida Charts and the CDC allows you to look at the numbers but there is a disclaimer that tells you if they are below a certain number not to display it.
    - David Wheeler suggested a map to show the deaths by suicide per location and asked if the Department of Health can do that.
      - Sofia Castro shared that Florida Charts is created by the Department of Health and captures a map, but individuals must navigate the charts to get to the map.

- Stephen Roggenbaum shared that there is a map that color codes the rates. It would benefit individuals to have Sofia’s name as a resource because she will be able to guide individuals who want the data.
- **Item 7: Basic education for individuals who have a serious mental illness and may be at risk for suicide**
  - Sofia Castro shared that the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention (SOSP) will do some research to try to find a pamphlet. If a pamphlet is not found, the SOSP will try to create one.
  - David Wheeler suggested to collaborate with the First Lady Casey DeSantis’ initiative Hope for Healing.
  - Steven Roggenbaum stated that there are mental health pamphlets on the SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services) store, NAMI, and Mental Health America. They are moving to electronic form pamphlets.
  - David Wheeler asked who the audience of the pamphlet will be.
  - Jackie Rosen stated that high risks populations include first responders. There is a need to reach out to them. She shared that she created a power point presentation about first responders and will email it to Sofia.
    - Jane Bennet shared that she will see where Colorado is with their first responders’ initiative. She will get information to Stephen to forward to Jackie.
    - Stephen shared that the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention has a lot of resources for first responders.
- **Item 8: Training for staff and presentations about suicide prevention**
  - Sofia Castro mentioned that DCF website has a calendar of events.
- **Item 9: The creation of a full-time staff at the Managing Entity level to implement the Zero Suicide initiative**
  - Sofia Castro shared that DCF submitted a grant initiative idea to have 7 regional suicide prevention specialists. This proposal idea can also be added to the recommendation section of the Annual Report.
- **Item 10: The State of Florida’s participation of the National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS)**
  - Sofia shared that the Department of Health (DOH) received a grant to implement NVDRS. DOH will provide an update of FLVDR to SPCC during the SPCC quarterly meetings.

---

## New Focus

---

### Recommendations that can be included in the Annual Report

Sofia Castro shared that every year SPCC makes recommendations to add to the Annual Report as mandated in 14.20195 F.S. Last year SPCC recommended the following:

- **Expand the Capacity of the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention.**
  - Stephen Roggenbaum suggested that SPCC asks for \$250,000 or more to expand the SOSP. He shared that some states have different pots of money allocated for their offices and for their efforts. He shared that some state offices have lower deaths by suicide, but they still have funds. He suggested for legislation to fund 7 suicide prevention specialists to cover the entire state of Florida.
  - Tara Sullivan added that she will look more into funds and report back.
- **Support and become involved with the National Violent Death Reporting System.**
  - Sofia Castro shared that this recommendation is met. She suggested it be replaced for another recommendation.
- **Fund School Suicide Prevention Training.**

- SPCC members chose to replace this recommendation. Sofia stated that SPCC will keep this one as an alternative.
- Jane Bennett stated that suicide survivors/bereaved are at higher risk. She asked what resources are available for postvention? Some individuals are less likely to seek therapy and assistance afterward a death by suicide. She asked what funds are available for postvention?
  - Jackie Rosen added that there are support groups for postvention and to maybe provide information about postvention.
  - Sofia Castro suggested that postvention be added to the next quarterly meeting agenda.

### Annual Report

- Sofia Castro shared that she emailed the 2019 Suicide Prevention Activities to collect the suicide prevention related activities from January 2019 until June 2019. She emailed it to the SAMH Regional Offices who forwarded the email to the Managing Entities who then forwarded it to the providers. She also emailed it SPCC members. She asked that SPCC members email their activity sheets by July 3, 2019.
- Sofia Castro also shared the anticipated schedule of the Annual Report:
  - September 9-September 21: The report will be reviewed by Heather, the Program Information Supervisor.
  - September 26-October 12: The report will be reviewed by Ute, the SAMH Director.
  - October 15-19: The report will be reviewed by SPCC members.
  - October 26: The report will be sent for executive routing which means it will go to the Office of Legislative Affairs, then to the Deputy Secretary, and then to the Office of the Secretary.

---

### Announcements

---

No announcements.

---

### Public Comment

---

No public comments during the meeting.

---

### Next Meeting

---

December 12, 2019 from 1pm-3pm.. **Meeting call number: toll free number 1-888-585-9008 or a U.S.A number 1 (657) 220-3242 Conference room #: 922-120-615.** Local SPCC members are encouraged to attend the meeting at The Department of Children and Families on 1317 Winewood Blvd Tallahassee Florida 32399.

## Addendum

1. Florida Charts disclaimer: "Use caution when interpreting rates and ratios based on small numbers of events. Rates and ratios are considered unstable if they are based on fewer than 5 cases or if the denominator (population at risk) is fewer than 20. An erratic trend line illustrates this instability."

Source:

<http://www.flhealthcharts.com/charts/DataViewer/DeathViewer/DeathViewer.aspx?indNumber=0116>

2. Recommendation that were added to the Annual Report:

- **Expand Efforts for Veterans and Their Families**
- **Focus on Suicide Prevention at the Local Level**
- **Add Florida Violent Death Reporting System to Statute**
- **Expand Implementation of Evidence-Based Practices**

3. Update on listing resources using a map of Florida; Sofia spoke with DCF webmasters who said that it is possible to create a map. Sofia is also exploring the idea of having a link to the Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition in lieu of the map.

4. Example of a map on Florida Charts:

