

Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC)

Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2020

Opening

The quarterly meeting of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC) was called to order at 1:02 p.m. on March 19, 2020 by Rodney Moore. Dr. Sofia Castro took roll call.

Present

Rodney Moore	Rhonda Jackson
Dr. Sofia Castro	Al Carter
Jane Bennett	Dr. Carly Paro
Tara Sullivan Larsen	Roy Clark
Josefine Tamayo on behalf of Dr. Tracy Shelby	Dr. Martha Mason on behalf of Executive Director Barber Palmer
Bryan Mingle	Lina Castellanos
Dr. David Wheeler	Laurie Blades
Dr. Timothy Buehner	Dr. Gene Cash
Steve Roggenbaum	

Absent

Larry Dixon	Gretta Jones
Jackie Rosen	Sally Cunningham
Karen Brill	Dr. Dean Aufderheide
Dr. Dan Reidenberg	Cindy Foster
Seth Montgomery	Donna Schulz
Derrick Elias	

Approval of Minutes

Al Carter motioned to approve the minutes of the December SPCC meeting. Josefine Tamayo second the motion. The minutes of the December SPCC meeting were approved.

SPCC Member vote of the new structure and adding the Governor's Challenge group under the new structure

SPCC Structure

The SPCC structure was emailed to all members to review prior to the meeting. Members were asked to submit their votes via email to approve the new structure and add the Governor's Challenge as a fifth committee.

Governor's Challenge

Governor Ron DeSantis accepted the Governor's Challenge on December of 2019 and appointed Executive Director Danny Burgess as team leader. The Governor's Challenge focuses on suicide prevention among service members, veterans, and their families through collaboration, best practices, and policies. The collaboration includes the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHSA) which provides technical assistance to the team and to

other states. The team will develop and implement a strategic action plan to prevent suicide among SMVF using a comprehensive public health approach. The team will collaborate from the state level to the community level. The team will develop lessons learned and share with all entities. A pre-site visit has been completed with SAMHSA in January and team members attended a policy conference academy in Washing D.C in February. There will be a Special Populations Committee meeting, a policy academy, and a follow-up meeting. The draft Action Plan includes:

- Priority 1: Identify service members, veterans, and their families and screen for suicide risk
- Priority 2: Promote connectedness and improve care transitions
- Priority 3: Lethal means safety and safety planning
- Priority 4: Taking a comprehensive approach to suicide prevention for service members, veterans, and their families

Nominations of Committee Chairpersons

The following individuals were nominated for committee chairpersons:

- Rhonda Jackson for the Planning and Evaluation Committee
- Rhonda Jackson for the Data Collection and Analysis Committee
- Margie Menzel for the Communications Committee
- Armando Harwood for the Special Populations/Risk Reduction Committee

SPCC Member vote for Chair Committees

Members were asked to submit their votes via email to approve the nominees.

Suicide Prevention Efforts Updates

Department of Health

The Florida Violent Death Reporting System (FLVDRS) is housed in the Department of Health's (DOH) Public Health Research Section. FLVDRS is a collaborative effort with the Violence and Injury Prevention Program, Bureau of Vital Statistics, and Bureau of Emergency Medical Oversight. To date, death certificate data from vital statistics for cases from January through December 2019 have been imported into the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Violent Death Reporting System, which is the main database, and 461 records have been partially abstracted from medical examiner or law enforcement reports. Planning and activities are underway to expand Year two data collection efforts beyond the 13 counties of focus in Year one.

The DOH's Violence and Injury Prevention Section has identified the top candidate for the Suicide Prevention coordinator and is in the process for hiring. The Coordinator will be introduced to the Council as soon as hiring is complete. The Violence and Injury Prevention Section has also completed the review for Mental Health Coordinator position applications and interviews will take place as soon as possible. The Department has committed \$100,000 to support suicide prevention activities including capacity building in targeted county health departments, and for a public awareness campaign.

Department of Veterans Affairs

In addition to the Governor's Challenge, another priority of the Department of Veterans Affairs is the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation. The Department of Veterans Affairs runs six veteran nursing homes and one domiciliary.

Agency for Persons with Disabilities

The Agency for Persons with Disabilities continue to educate and develop screening protocols in the disability centers and reach out to the community such as group homes and individuals on the wait list by providing information about risk factors. The Agency is working on developing a staff online training regarding suicide prevention efforts, resources, risk factors, and warning signs. The training will be required for every employee as part of their yearly continuing in-service training. The Agency is also working on providing mentorship opportunities.

Guardian ad Litem

Guardian ad Litem added goals to the Suicide Prevention Interagency Action Plan. Staff and volunteers are required to watch and participate in a webinar available online in the *I am For the Child* academy website that can be accessible by anyone. Guardian ad Litem is also working on updating its program standards by the end of 2020.

Department of Children and Families

The timeline for development and review of the draft 2020-2023 Florida Suicide Prevention Interagency Action Plan (Action Plan) has been updated and it is on time. The Action Plan is currently under the review of Dr. Joiner, a researcher from Florida State University. He is scheduled to provide feedback by the end of March. The SPCC is scheduled to review the Action plan after the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (SAMH) reviews it in April. It will be a quick turnaround. Members of the Planning Committee were able to provide feedback already. The action items from state agencies will be finalized after SAMH reviews the Action Plan. Dr. Castro will email everyone individually to finalize each action items towards the middle or end of April.

Lutheran Services Florida

Lutheran Services of Florida is operating a warm line for individuals whose anxiety is elevated during COVID-19. Lutheran continues to provide treatment level assistance to providers using the Zero Suicide model. Lutheran is working with Florida LINC (Linking Individuals Needing care) on a SAMHSA grant to work with individuals 25 years and older.

Department of Education

The Department of Education's priority right now is to address the mental health needs of their students and families. Since 2018, mental health has been a priority and suicide prevention is a subset. The Legislature has allocated resources to each school district to expand mental health services provided through school systems and access resources in the community. This year, the Department of Education updated the suicide prevention awareness and training materials for Kindergarten to 12th grade instructional personnel. The Department of Education in collaboration with the Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention and other suicide prevention experts identified suicide risk assessment instruments

that school-based mental health providers can use to assess level of risk, help inform intervention, and assist where involuntary examination is needed. The Department of Education has a suicide prevention webpage that is located at the Office of Safe Schools. The website includes information on the suicide awareness and prevention training that the Department of Education approved as well as information on Suicide Prevention Certified schools. The Department of Education is also working on rule development for s. 1012.583, F.S. – *Continuing education and in-service training for youth suicide awareness and prevention*. The rule development workshop is scheduled for late this month but due to COVID-19, it might get rescheduled. Senate Bill 7012 included language that required the two-hour suicide prevention training for instructional personnel, but the language was removed from the bill last week. The Department of Education has sponsored suicide prevention trainings for school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists, and other license mental health providers working in schools.

The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition

The Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition has sponsored the Annual Suicide Prevention Conference for the past five years. This event has been supported by the Department of Children and Families for three years and the Florida Sheriff's Association for two years by providing meeting space in Tallahassee. This year, the Conference was the largest and the most attended compared to previous years. This Conference took place prior to the Government responding to COVID-19.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention held State Day at the Capitol on February 27, prior to COVID-19, and about 50 individuals attended. The event included a press conference on the top floor of the Capitol as well as discussions for some bills to support mental health service members and their families. Some of the scheduled events of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention have been postponed following recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This includes an ASIST training (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) that was scheduled for Manatee County.

The Florida Associations of School Psychologists

Many of the leaders of the Florida Association of School Psychologists are on a conference call to determine effective ways to provide mental health services to students and families while the schools are closed due to COVID-19. At any given time 20% of students have a diagnosable mental health disorders and 80% of students do not get help or treatment outside of the schools.

Other Discussions

Florida Statute

The Department of Children and Families is going to check whether SPCC follows Florida statute regarding the SPCC co-chairs.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. by Rodney Moore.

Minutes submitted by: Dr. Sofia Castro