

Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC)

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2020

Opening

The quarterly meeting of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC) was called to order at 1:01 p.m. on June 18, 2020 by Dr. Sofia Castro. Dr. Castro took roll call.

Present

Dr. Sofia Castro, Chair	Gretta Jones
Dr. Dean Aufderheide and Dr. Jim Friedle	Dr. Carly Parlo
Lindsey Brown on behalf of Sally Cunningham	Shay Chapman
Donna Schulz	Dr. Timothy Buehner
Jane Bennett	Heather Allman
Al Carter/ Roy Clark	Dr. David Kirk
Secretary Chad Poppell	Brian Mingle
Rodney Moore	Armando Harwood
Matt Dunagan	
Dr. Tracy Shelby	
Dr. Gene Cash	

Absent

Jackie Rosen	Seth Montgomery
Tara Sullivan Larsen	Cindy Foster
Dr. David Wheeler	Derrick Elias
Larry Dixon	
Karen Brill	
Dr. Dan Reidenberg	

Approval of Minutes

Al Carter motioned to approve the minutes of the March SPCC meeting. Dr. Gene Cash second the motion. The minutes of the March SPCC meeting were approved.

Suicide Prevention Efforts Updates

The Planning and Evaluation Committee

Florida Suicide Prevention Action Plan (Rhonda Jackson): The Suicide Prevention Interagency Action Committee completed final comments on the Florida Suicide Prevention Action Plan. The Plan is being finalized by the Department of Children and Families. The Interagency Action Committee will transition from the Planning Committee into the Planning and Evaluation committee. The first meeting as the Planning and Evaluation Committee was on June 4, 2020 and featured Dr. Kim Gryglewicz from the University of Central Florida. With the help of Dr. Gryglewicz, the committee will create logic models using the Action Plan goals to verify strategies, activities, resources, and other inputs align with proposed outcomes and are measured by indicators. This logic model activity will continue once the Action Plan is finalized and approved. Logic models will be shared with the council once they are completed.

Annual Report of the SPCC (Dr. Sofia Castro): Every year, the SPCC provides recommendations that are added to the Annual Report. Recommendations for last year's report included: expand efforts for Veterans and their families; focus on suicide prevention at the local level; add the Florida Violent Death Reporting System (FLVDRS) to statutes; and expand implementation of evidence-based practice.

Discussion question, "What recommendations do we want to make this year?"

Dr. Sofia Castro: In previous years, discussion included deciding whether to continue previous recommendations, add or change to new recommendations, or encourage discussion of current suicide prevention topics that may be adopted within Florida. Previous recommendations are included in previous Annual reports. Dr. Sofia Castro provided information on how to access Annual Reports and emailed current members a copy of the report. Heather Allman provided more in-depth overview of previous recommendations. Dr. Sofia Castro proposed keeping the recommendation of expand implementation of evidence-based practice and Jane Bennett and Heather Allman supported keeping this recommendation. Dr. Gene Cash recommended developing a database of mental health providers in the state who would be willing to offer pro bono or sliding scale services to individuals affected by the Coronavirus Disease – 2019 (COVID-19). This information is currently available through 2-1-1 and could be gathered from DCF funded managing entities. Other high-risk populations that may be at risk following COVID-19 identified in discussion include survivors of domestic abuse. Heather Allman provided general overview of new funding opportunities related to COVID-19. Grant funding include support for managing entities with highest numbers of COVID-19 to help fund those who are uninsured within those counties. Applied for second grant for crisis counseling program which will be implemented through network of 2-1-1 providers which will provide COVID-19 related resources for behavioral health. This program will increase the number of staff at crisis lines in order to allow for higher call volume. Recommendation included focus on post-COVID-19 concerns, and more specifically, to focus on post-COVID-19 planning and as it pertains to suicide prevention, including new use of technology for families and health care providers. Dr. Sofia Castro will compile discussion and draft recommendations.

Question from Jane Bennett about availability of county-level suicide death data. County level data is suppressed if 5 or less of population dies by suicide to protect anonymity of family members, however, deaths are still counted in aggregate data. Florida Health Charts is available to examine county-level data and long-term plan is to have a dashboard with suicide-related data more available for stakeholders.

Data Collection and Analysis Committee (Rhonda Jackson)

In 2018, suicide in Florida rose from 10th to 8th leading cause of death. Nearly half of counties across Florida are rural areas, with unique challenges. In 2018, more than 3,500 Floridians died by suicide at a rate of 15.2 per 100,000 population, an increase of 24% since 1999. The Florida suicide rate is approximately 7% higher than the national rate. Florida has the third highest number of suicides in 2018 based on the CDC report. According to FL Health Charts data dashboard, among males over the age of 60, suicides were primarily by white non-Hispanic 49.8 followed by white Hispanic 33.9 and then African Americans 7.9. COVID-19 is likely to play a factor in suicide rate due to social isolation. Data found here:

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

Provisional 2020 data and known to date there have been 1,194 deaths by suicides among Florida residents. Department of Health will continue to support the workgroup to compile data. Working on

mental health profile that will be included in Florida Health Charts and continuing with implementation of FLVDRS. Death certificate data from vital statistics for cases up through February 2020 has been imported into the National Violent Death Reporting System and 688 records have been partially abstracted from medical examiner or law enforcement reports. Activities are continuing to expand beyond the current 13 counties.

The committee is working in tangent with the governor and Children's Youth Cabinet Information Technology workgroup who is identifying uniform definitions for agencies to adopt in surveillance and data collection related in suicide or self-directed violence. The workgroup has split into committees and has started to work with agencies to implement these processes. Looking forward, there is consideration in expansion of the workgroup to become the state epidemiological outcomes workgroup.

Communications Committee (DaMonica Smith)

First meeting of the Communications Committee occurred the week of June 8 - 12. Moving forward the committee will create a plan focused on suicide prevention communications. The committee will explore options on expanding to include other communication professionals from agencies represented on the SPCC.

Special Populations/Risk Reduction Committee (Armando Harwood)

Working on scheduling their first meeting and hope to have it occur within the next month. Reminder from Dr. Castro to email her or chair of Committee if interested in sitting on a committee.

Governor's Challenge Committee (Al Carter)

Governor Ron DeSantis accepted the Governor's Challenge in December of 2019 and appointed Executive Director Danny Burgess as team leader. A pre-site visit has been completed with SAMHSA in January 2020 and team members attended a policy conference academy in Washington D.C. in February 2020. Follow-up meetings occurred in May with Action Plan priorities including:

- 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

Executive Director Danny Burgess resigned and Deputy Director Major General Retired James Hartsell will serve as team leader until a new executive director is announced. Sub-groups meet every two weeks with hope to complete Action Plan by July of 2021. Teams will take COVID-19 impacts into account as action plan items move forward. Seven new states across the U.S. have taken on the Governor's Challenge, and two additional cities within Florida took on the challenge as well. The committee plans to work with these cities to push action plan forward.

Other Discussions

Donna Schulz requested inclusion of focus on decreasing suicide deaths among law enforcement personnel moving forward. Al Carter recommended including law enforcement within Special

Populations/Risk Reduction Committee. Dr. Castro confirmed this population is included under the Special Populations/Risk Reduction Committee.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting by Rodney Moore and seconded by Al Carter. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Anna Gai