

Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC)
Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2020

Opening

The quarterly meeting of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC) was called to order at 1:01 p.m. on March 11, 2021 by Anna Gai.

Voting Members Present:

Representing	Appointed Official	Represented by
Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention	Anna Gai, Chair	
1. Florida Association of School Psychologists	Dr. Gene Cash	
2. Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention	Jackie Rosen	
3. Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition	<i>Jane Bennett</i>	Steve Roggenbaum
4. American Foundation of Suicide Prevention	Tara Sullivan Larsen	
5. AARP Florida	Dorene Barker	
6. Florida Behavioral Health Association	Ute Gazioch	
7. Florida Counseling Association	Dr. Carly Paro	
8. NAMI Florida	Cindy Foster	
9. Florida Medical Association	Dr. Ryan Hall	
10. Florida Osteopathic Medical Association	Dr. Ramsey Pevsner	
11. Florida Psychological Association	Dr. Carolyn Stimel	Dr. David Kirk
12. Veterans Florida	<i>Joe Marino</i>	Jeremy Sinnemaki
13. Florida Association of Managing Entities	Natalie Kelly	
14. State Surgeon General (DOH)	<i>Dr. Scott Rivkees</i>	Shay Chapman
15. Secretary of Health Care Administration	<i>Simone Marsteller</i>	Dr. Timothy Buehner
16. Secretary of Juvenile Justice	<i>Josefina Tamayo</i>	Dr. Tracy Shelby
17. Commissioner of Florida Department of Law Enforcement	<i>Rick Swearingen</i>	Matthew Walsh
18. Executive Director of Department of Veterans Affairs	<i>James Hartsell</i>	Al Carter/ Roy Clark

Note: Italicized names indicate absence with delegate attendance.

Voting Members Absent

Representing	Appointed Official	Represented by
1. Florida Sheriffs Association	Matt Dunagan	Allie Pass
2. Florida School Board Association	Karen Brill	
3. National Council for Suicide Prevention	Dr. Dan Reidenberg	
4. Florida Psychiatric Society	Dr. Daniel Castellanos	
5. Secretary of Elder Affairs	Richard Prudom	Gretta Jones
6. Commissioner of Education	Richard Corcoran	Martha Rodriguez/Jesus Aviles
7. Executive Director of Department of Economic Opportunity	Dane Eagle	Derrick Elias
8. Secretary of Corrections	Mark Inch	Dr. Dean Aufderheide
9. Governor's Appointee	Donna Schulz	
10. Governor's Appointee	Secretary Shevaun Harris	Shivana Gentry

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve minutes as provided: Steve Roggenbaum

Seconded: Al Carter

Suicide Prevention Efforts Updates

Suicide Death Provisional Data Overview

During the last meeting there was a question about the age groups and whether a shift was seen in the age group with the higher rate between 2018 and 2019, particularly with older adults. Nationally, data is broken down into 45 – 64 age group. However, within Florida, the age grouping is slightly different, with a 55 – 64 age group had the highest number of suicide deaths in 2018, similar to the 2019 data provided. In other words, we did not see a shift within Florida based on our age groupings from 2018 and 2019 and we are unable to compare the smaller variance age groupings to national data. Overall, the provisional data indicates 2,806 lives were lost to suicide in 2020. In general, the main take away is that we are not seeing significant increases in our suicide death counts. Some important notes to be made about this data: it is provisional and is subject to change. We also have our age groupings as slightly different than the national data and what will eventually be provided in the violent death report. There is a large variance in 18 – 49 compared to 50 – 64, therefore, direct comparisons across groups cannot be made. Also, these are death counts and not rates. The final rates calculated which may or may not demonstrate changes from previous years.

Alan Mai, Epidemiologist with the Florida Department of Health provided an overview of how to obtain provisional data from Florida Health CHARTS.

9-8-8 Planning Grant Update

The Florida Department of Children and Families was awarded \$335,000 from Vibrant Emotional Health to prepare a state plan in the transition from the 10-digit National Suicide Lifeline Number to 988, scheduled to occur July 2022. As a part of this grant, we will be exploring ways to increase Florida's in-state answer rate for Lifeline calls. From the last quarter of 2020, Florida's in-state answer rate was 78%. The goal will be to increase this to 90% in the future. The main activities of the grant will be conducted by the 988-planning coalition. Florida Department of Children and Families is currently waiting to finalize the grant contract and budget authority. The Florida Department of Children and Families will be hiring three positions to run the grant during the period.

Logic Models Update

Rhonda Jackson, Chair of the Planning and Evaluation committee, provided the Council with an update on the Logic Models to guide the planning and evaluation of the 2020 – 2023 Florida Suicide Prevention Interagency Action Plan.

Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council Special Populations Committee Update

The Special Populations Committee has been meeting every three weeks. The main initiative of the committee is the development of materials to be shared through various media platforms across the SPCC. The committee has created a timeline for 2021 to focus on a specific special population during each month. By focusing on a different special population each month and disseminating similar materials we hope to reach more Floridians. For example, we know that not everyone may follow DCF social media, so having the FSPC newsletter, Department of Elder Affairs, Florida Counseling Association, and so on post the same materials we can reach more variety and more broadly.

The committee decided April materials would focus on coping strategies and resources for suicide loss survivors. Although members of the Special Populations Committee plan to disseminate these materials throughout their organization's social media platforms, the Committee is hoping this will be an SPCC-wide initiative. This is a call to action to assist with the dissemination of materials produced throughout the year. The goal will be for all SPCC organizations to disseminate materials monthly related to suicide prevention.

First Responders Suicide Deterrence Task Force

The purpose of the task force is to make recommendations on how to reduce the incidence of suicide and attempted suicide among employed or retired first responders in the state. Task Force members include various first responders including law enforcement, Fire Rescue and EMS. The Taskforce has identified gaps in services for first responders and is now working toward actionable steps that will mirror the focus areas of the Florida Suicide Prevention Interagency Action Plan and corresponding logic model.

Florida Suicide Prevention Interagency Action Plan Updates

Florida Department of Health

Action Item 1.1.6 By June 2021, develop a suicide prevention webpage that links to national and state resources, and other Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council agency prevention related information.

Status: Completed.

Action Item 1.2.4 By June 2021, provide a toolkit including suicide prevention education and resources to local departments of health in each of the 67 counties.

Status: In Progress. The toolkit is being developed by ISF Consultants and will be approved by Community Health Promotion Council and Communications Department. The training will be developed and recorded.

Action Item 1.4.2: By December 2020, complete phase one of accessible county level suicide and mental health data through implementation of a mental health-suicide profile on Florida Health CHARTS-Community Health Assessment Resource Tool Set.

Status: Completed.

Action Item 1.4.3: By September 2021, provide preliminary suicide related findings of data collected by the Florida Violent Death Reporting System (FL-VDRS) to the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council (SPCC).

Status: In Progress. Presently, data is being received from 25 counties. The Data Use Agreement was finalized in February with Children's Medical Services to allow FLVDRS to assess Child Abuse Death Review data which will be integrated into the FL-VDRS. The Department of Health is seeking Law Enforcement Liaison to hire for law enforcement outreach efforts. Additionally, the deadline for the first data closeout for Florida's data collection efforts for 2019 is June 30, 2021.

Action Item 1.4.4: By June 2021, provide findings from the Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER).

Status: In Progress. Door to door surveys have been conducted by epidemiology teams in counties affected by Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Irma. The CASPER are created via journal articles which will be submitted to the Journal of Public Health Practice and Emergency Management. Once this is finalized, a representative will share the findings and implications with the Council.

Action Item 2.1.5: By December 2021, introduce Preventing Suicide: A technical Package of Policy, Programs, and Practice to partners and key stakeholders through the State Health Improvement Plan.

Status: In Progress. At this time, the Department of Health is working to introduce this package to a number of partners including: the Governor's Challenge, partners through the State Health Improvement Plan as well as the Community Health Improvement Plan Introduced on Suicide Prevention webpage, Department of Health.

Action Item 2.3.1: By June 2021, increase the status of Zero Suicide implementation among state agencies to strengthen the public health approach to suicide prevention and intervention from zero to 60 percent.

Status: On Track. A Zero Suicide Workplace Survey tool is being evaluated by the SPCC Planning and Evaluation Committee.

Florida Guardian Ad Litem

Action Item 2.2.5: Starting January 2021, 100% of new volunteers will complete suicide prevention training as part of their required pre-service training. By March 31, 2021, update program policies to address best practices in advocating for children who are at high-risk of suicide.

Status: Complete. Suicide Prevention training is a mandatory part of pre-service training in order effective January 2021. To ensure adherence to this requirement, data is run quarterly to ensure that certified individuals have completed the training. Guardian ad Litem is currently updating a leadership guidance memo that addresses identifying suicide warning signs in youth, elevating to appropriate staff and best practices on advocating for youth.

Action Item 4.2.2: By March 31, 2021, establish a formal policy for providing support to Guardian ad Litem staff and volunteers after a critical incident such as a child fatality.

Status: In progress. An internal workgroup was developed and extended the critical incident to include a close colleague who died by suicide. The workgroup is working to develop a formal policy to support staff and volunteers after the death of a child or a coworker.

Other discussions

The September 9th meeting will be reserved for a meeting with leadership. The goal will be to have executive leadership in attendance to orient them to activities and efforts throughout the year. This will be a time to showcase progress and initiatives of the 2020 – 2023 interagency action plan. The Statewide Office for Suicide Prevention will be working with the first Lady's office to officially invite her and hopefully have her in attendance.

Quarterly Challenge: Help Spread the Facts

Anna Gai challenged all committee members to help spread the facts, that asking and talking about suicide may reduce, rather than increase suicidal ideation. Committee members were encouraged to continue to destigmatize suicide-related thoughts and behaviors, use destigmatized language, and encourage conversations and help seeking around suicide.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting by Steve Roggenbaum and seconded by Jackie Rosen. The meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by: Amanda Regis