



2013 Annual Report of the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council

Prepared Pursuant to s. 14.20195, F.S.

**Florida Department of Children and Families
Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health**

Submitted: January 1, 2014

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I. Purpose

Section 14.20195(c), F.S., requires the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council to “prepare an annual report and present it to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives by January 1, 2008, and each year thereafter.” The report must identify from the Statewide Plan for Suicide Prevention:

- The status of existing and planned initiatives; and,
- Any recommendations arising from initiatives.

II. Status of Existing and Planned Initiatives

In fiscal year 2012-2013, the Department, in partnership with the Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association (FADAA) provided the following training events to a broad audience, including clinicians, educators, students, and the community.

<u>Training Event</u>	<u>Learning Objectives</u>	<u>Target Audience</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Locations</u>	<u>Number of Participants</u>
Creating Suicide Safety in Schools Workshop	Participants learn a process by which schools can review existing suicide prevention and intervention readiness, compare programs to evidence-based best practices, develop comprehensive and integrated suicide prevention and response plans. They also learn about resources to enhance school health and safety.	Mental health and prevention agencies, coalitions and school representatives who are interested in preventing youth suicide.	4/29/13 and 5/6/13	Jacksonville and Orlando	81
Question, Persuade, Refer Gatekeeper Training and Suicide Prevention for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Youth Workshop	Participants learn about the epidemiology of suicide, current statistics, myths and misconceptions, warning signs and the three target gatekeeper skills. They will also be able discuss the risk and protective factors for suicidal behavior specifically in LGBT youth and describe strategies to reduce suicidal behavior among LGBT youth.	Mental health and prevention agencies, coalitions and school representatives who are interested in preventing youth suicide.	6/19/13, 6/26/13, and 6/27/13	Tampa, Gainesville, and Pensacola	79
Substance Use and Abuse and the Risk of Suicide (Webinar)	Participants learn about the relationship between substance abuse and suicide risk and understand at least one strategy formulating suicide risk. They will also learn how to identify risk factors for suicidal behavior among substance abusing populations.	Clinicians, clinical supervisors and program managers in substance abuse, mental health, prevention agencies and community coalitions.	2/26/13	Online	307

III. Recommendations from Council Members

The following recommendations for future action have been submitted by the individual council members identified below. These do not represent the views of the Department, nor the entire council at the time of writing.

Jackie Rosen (Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention):

- Pass Legislation requiring primary physicians and pediatricians get Continuing Education Units regarding how to screen patients for mental health issues.
- Pass Legislation requiring every patient of a primary physician to fill out at time of initial visit a mental health information form that contains a suicidality scale and family mental health information.
- Initiate a requirement that primary physicians and pediatricians are provided annually a list of proper referral sources and requirements for mental health care throughout the state.
- Fund a statewide resource list of all mental health facilities and resources to be distributed to physicians, hospitals, organizations and facilities that provide health services to the public throughout the state.
- Reinstate the educational initiative to educate teachers about how to recognize and relate to a student who shows signs of mental health issues and about the sources of help available for students who are depressed or suicidal.
- Fund the website HelpPromoteHope.com.
- Reduce stigma through a campaign explaining the researched biological causes of mental health issues.
- Provide local and web trainings stressing risks, protective factors, and intervention skills for teachers, students, physicians, parents, religious leaders, employees and the general public that are available at no or nominal cost to participants. There should be a reasonable amount of remuneration funding for the organization providing the training.

Stephen Roggenbaum (University of South Florida):

- Increase awareness of suicide as a public health issue.
- Promote awareness of protective factors and promote efforts to strengthen them.
- Promote the use of evidence-based practices.
- Establish a website to serve as a resource for educating, raising awareness, and sharing and storing documents for the Suicide Prevention Coordinating Council and Statewide Office of Suicide Prevention.

Anika Foster (FADAA):

- Increase awareness of suicide by supporting a social marketing campaign and educational activities.

IV. 2011-15 Goals for Suicide Prevention

The following goals were identified in 2010, and published in 2011. This was prior to the passage of Legislation that transferred the Office and Council to the Department.

GOAL 1: Promote awareness that suicide is a preventable public health problem.

- OBJECTIVE: Provide education and disseminate information about the sources of help available for persons who are depressed or suicidal.

GOAL 2: Reduce the stigma associated with being a consumer of mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention services.

- OBJECTIVE: Increase awareness of risk and protective factors and intervention skills should a crisis arise.
- OBJECTIVE: Transform public attitudes to view mental health and substance use disorders as physical illnesses that respond to specific treatments, and address environmental factors such as discrimination and limited understanding of living with mental illness.
- OBJECTIVE: Foster workplace changes that strengthen social support among workers.
- OBJECTIVE: Improve media reporting and entertainment portrayals of suicidal behavior, mental illness and substance abuse.

GOAL 3: Create collaborations and networks that support common goals in suicide prevention.

- OBJECTIVE: Strengthen suicide prevention efforts and ensure coordination between state agencies.
- OBJECTIVE: Develop, advance and sustain community-based coalitions.
- OBJECTIVE: Integrate suicide prevention activities into policies and initiatives of the broader prevention field.

GOAL 4: Develop and implement evidence-based suicide prevention, intervention and postvention programs.

- OBJECTIVE: Implement suicide prevention programs in organizations and institutions that serve individuals and families.
- OBJECTIVE: Implement training that teaches recognition of at-risk behavior and intervention skills.

GOAL 5: Develop and promote clinical and professional practices for delivery of effective treatment.

- OBJECTIVE: Develop comprehensive systems of care that utilize evidence-based practices to screen for and help those at risk.
- OBJECTIVE: Design and implement multi-disciplinary protocols for all those who respond to individuals in crisis.
- OBJECTIVE: Increase cultural competence of service providers and promote culturally diverse services.
- OBJECTIVE: Increase continuity of care for at-risk individuals through sustainable service linkages at the local, regional and state levels with all relevant providers.

GOAL 6: Improve community access to mental health and substance abuse services.

- OBJECTIVE: Integrate mental health and suicide prevention into health and social services outreach programs for at-risk populations.
- OBJECTIVE: Implement aftercare treatment programs for discharged individuals exhibiting suicidal behavior and those with on-going mental health needs.
- OBJECTIVE: Link employees with substance abuse and mental health services.

GOAL 7: Reduce access to lethal means and methods of self-harm.

- OBJECTIVE: Increase the safe storage of gun, alcohol, pharmaceuticals, poisons and other lethal means.
- OBJECTIVE: Increase the use of official assessments of the presence of lethal means in the home and educate about actions that can reduce associated risks.
- OBJECTIVE: Support the discovery and implementation of new means restrictions technologies.

GOAL 8: Support suicide prevention research and improve surveillance systems.

- OBJECTIVE: Increase and expand research on suicide and suicide prevention, including program evaluation.
- OBJECTIVE: Improve, expand and standardize suicide surveillance systems and methods of data collection.

In fiscal year 2013-2014, the goals will be revisited, to align them with both the operational capacity of the council and the Department. Since 2010, when these goals were developed there have been a wide array of changes to health care in both Florida and the country. The Department has outsourced the management of community substance abuse and mental health contracts, managed care is being implemented in Medicaid, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been implemented by the federal government. To reflect changes such as this, the goals will be updated.

The revised goals will be created to be specific, measurable, achievable, results-focused, and time-bound.

V. Council Members or Designees

At the time of writing, the following people are either members or designees of the council:

<u>Organizational Seat</u>	<u>Name of Member or Designee</u>
Office of Suicide Prevention and Designee for the Department of Children and Families	Laurie Blades
Florida Association of School Psychologists	Gene Cash
Florida Sheriffs Association	Donald Eslinger
Suicide Prevention Action Network USA	Frank Buonauro
Florida Initiative of Suicide Prevention	Jackie Rosen
Florida Suicide Prevention Coalition	Marlene Jehs
American Foundation of Suicide Prevention	Lorie Simmons
Florida School Board Association	Jeanne Dozier
National Council for Suicide Prevention	Dan Reidenberg
State chapter of AARP	Dee Miller
Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association	Anika Foster
Florida Council for Community Mental Health	Wayne Dreggors
Florida Counseling Association	Debbie Greer
NAMI Florida	Judith Evans
Secretary of Elder Affairs	Michele Mule
State Surgeon General	Lisa Vanderwerf-Hourigan
Commissioner of Education	Pam Stewart
Secretary of the Agency for Health Care Administration	Elizabeth Dudek
Secretary of Juvenile Justice	Gayla Sumner
Secretary of Corrections	Dean Aufderheide
Florida Department of Law Enforcement	Seth Montgomery
Department of Veterans Affairs	Joe Marino
Department of Education	David Wheeler
Governor's Appointee	Stephen Roggenbaum
Governor's Appointee	Donna Shulz
Governor's Appointee	John Popson
Governor's Appointee	Thomas Maney

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